



Minnesota Department of Human Services Child Care Regulation Modernization Projects

Licensing Standards Revision Process

Stakeholder Session - April 2024

MN Team

Katherine DiBenedetto – Family child care (FCC) regulation modernization lead

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Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Project Overview
- NARA Process
- Outcomes
- Next Steps



NARA Team

Caroline Louissaint – Lead Project Manager

Alisa Hendrickson – Work Products, Policies and Procedures

Kathryn Schmidt – Work Products, Policies and Procedures

Ron Melusky – Data Collection and Analysis, Pilot

Ed Slavinsky – Implementation, Project Evaluation

Ronnie Higgins – Pre and Post-Pilot Training

Lloyd Bullard – Standards Project Manager

Donna Sabo – Pre and Post-Pilot Training – Primary Standards Writer

Sonya Stevens – Focus Groups and Stakeholder Meetings

Vickie Flynn – Standards Consultant

Hester Paul – Standards Consultant

Jessica Price – Standards Consultant

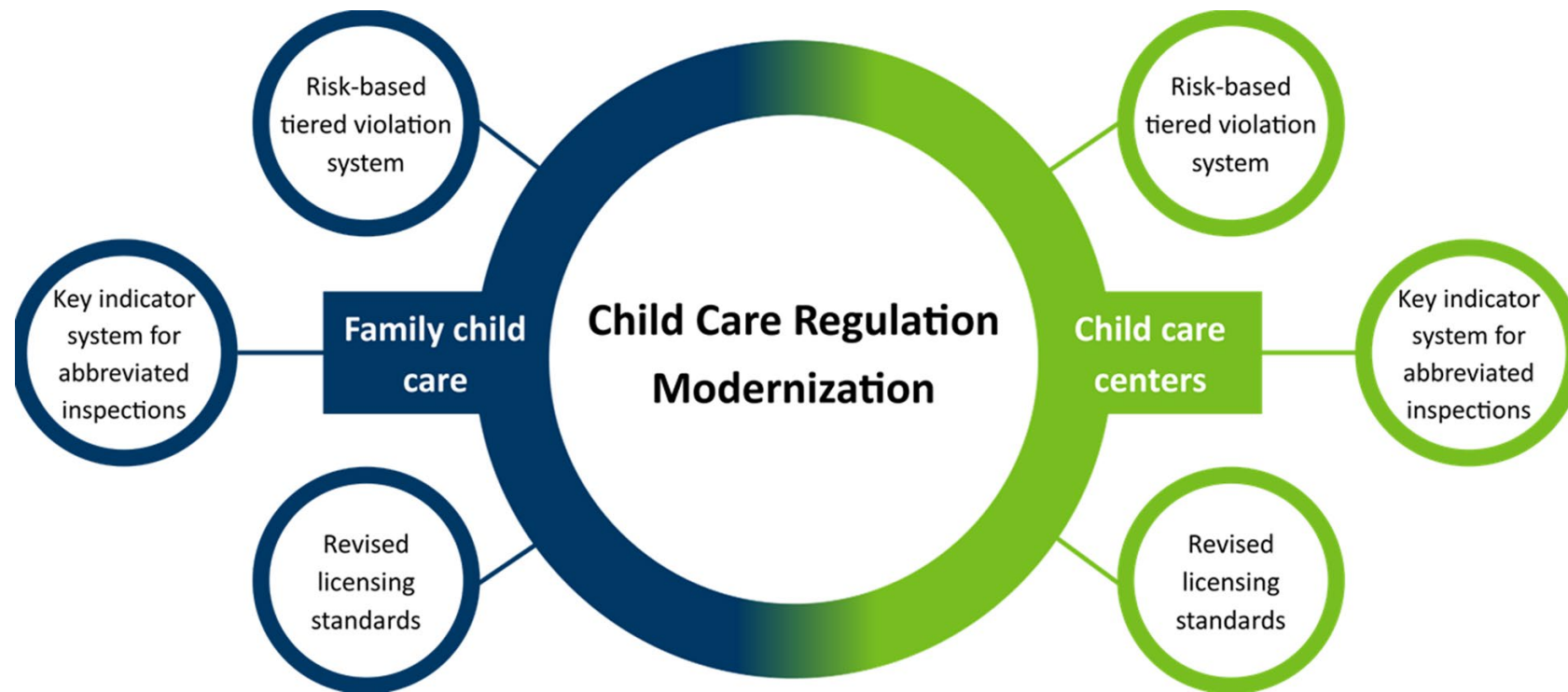


Project Overview



Child Care Regulation Modernization Projects

In 2021, the Minnesota Legislature passed legislation and allocated federal funding to **support regulation modernization projects** for both licensed family child care and child care centers.



Purpose of Revised Licensing Standards

- ✓ Response to public comment or event
 - ✓ Strengthen protections in a specific area
 - ✓ Response to new research findings
 - ✓ Revision or simplification of language
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- The current outdated standards were mainly written in the 1980s.
 - Child care licensing is currently governed by multiple MN Chapters which lacks alignment.



National Association for Regulatory Administration

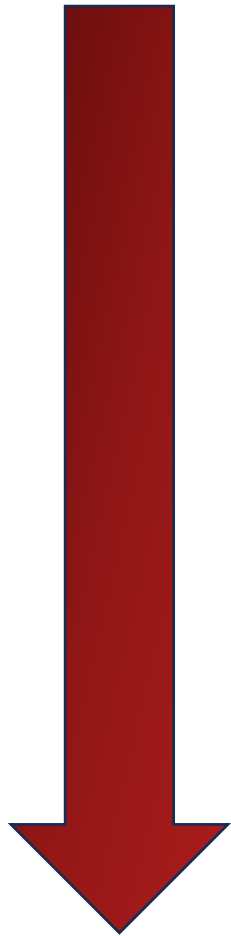
- NARA is an international non-profit professional association founded in 1976 representing all human care licensing
- NARA's professional services and educational curricula have been used by dozens of states and Canadian provinces for program-specific research, training, and customized technical assistance.
- NARA collaborates with states and Canadian provinces around professional development, regulation revisions, updated policy and procedures, monitoring modernization and consultation on best practices.



NARA's Method



Revised standards process



1. Background/Literature Review (NARA)
 2. Initial Stakeholder Survey (Stakeholders, DHS)
 3. Draft of Revised Standards (NARA)
 4. Targeted Engagement With Subject Matter Expert (Stakeholders, DHS)
 - 5. Public Draft of Revised Standards**
- Next Steps
6. Public Engagement and Feedback
 7. Revised Draft



Information Gathering



Background

Five Essential Components of the Research Phase of Rulemaking

- Literature Review – Best Practices
- Review of existing policy and practice
- Review licensing rules of other states/provinces
- Review accreditation standards
- Conduct impact studies and/or surveys



Literature Review



Statistical & Demographic Documents



Research Studies



Evaluation Reports



Articles & White Papers



Existing Policies and Procedures



DHS experience in applying existing rules.



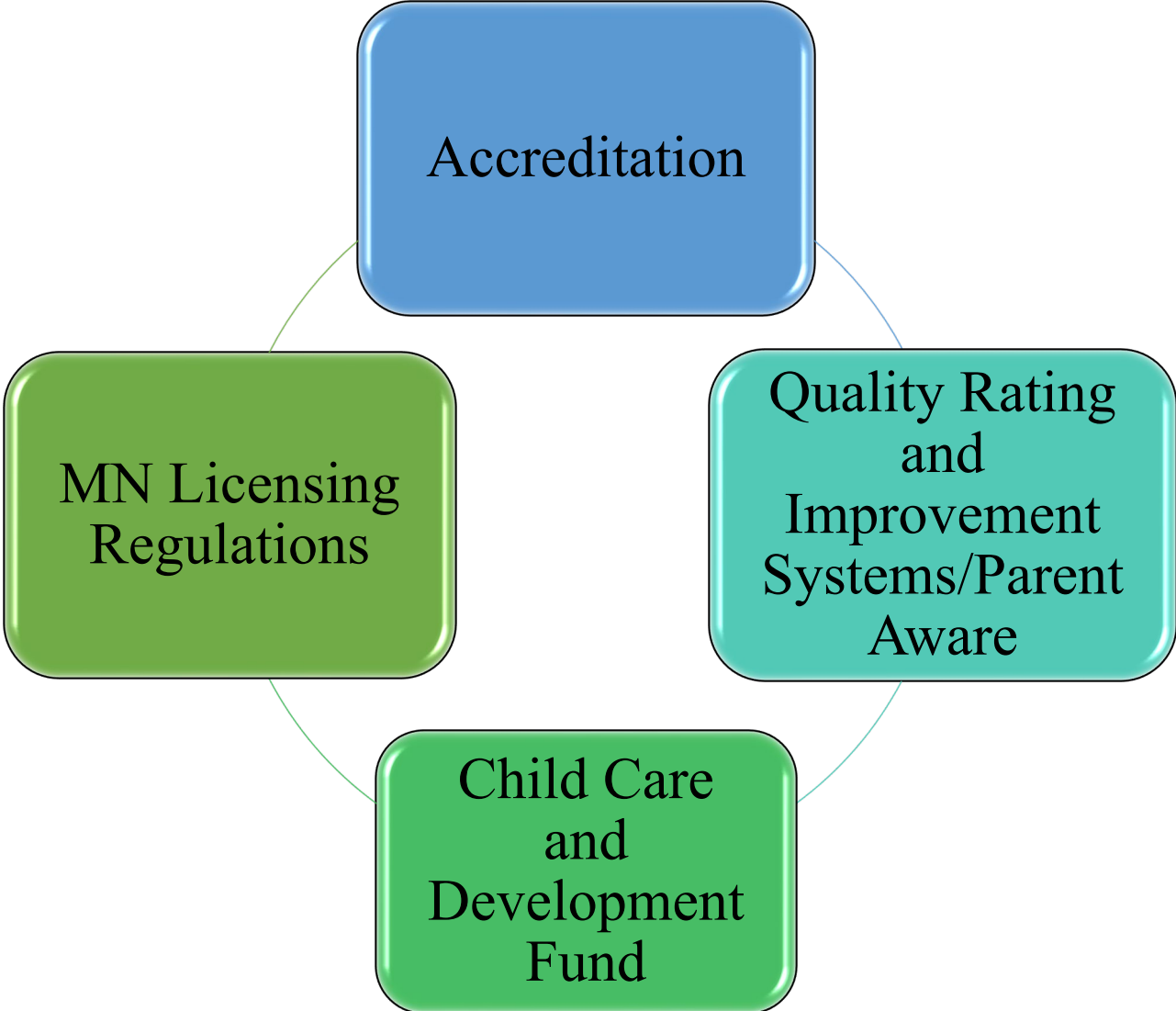
Review of the agency documents and decisions.



Other States/Provinces



Other MN Standards and Frameworks



Stakeholder Input

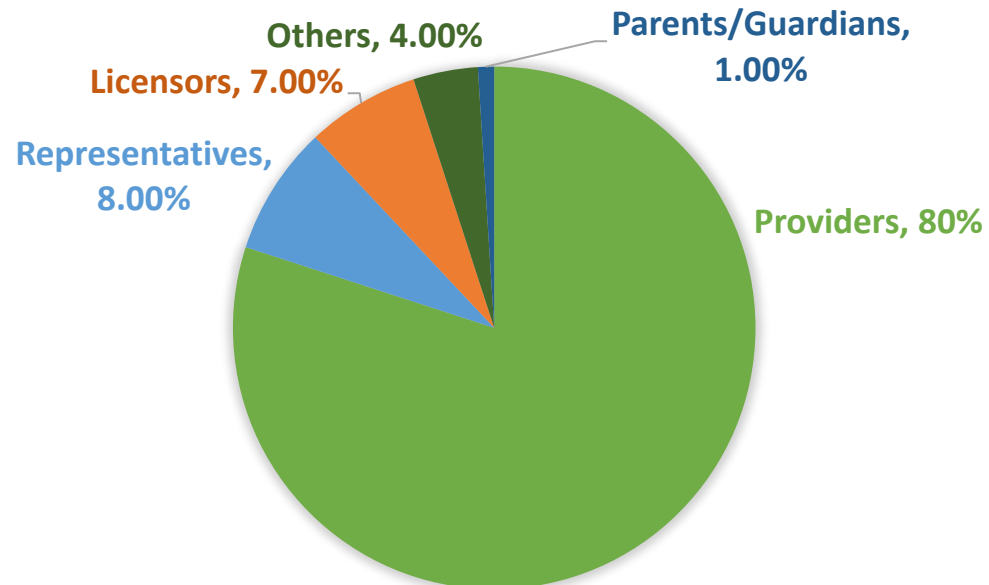
1. Survey Guide to Licensing Standards
2. DHS hosted input sessions with subject matter experts. They included:
 - a. The Family Child Care Training Advisory Committee
 - b. CCC staff qualifications workgroup
 - c. Listening sessions with providers who serve children with disabilities
 - d. Center for inclusive child care
 - e. State agencies including MN Department of Health (MDH), DHS Disability Services Division, State Fire Marshal and more
3. This work is continuing...



Stakeholder Input - Survey

“Survey to Guide Revised Licensing Standards”

- Administered via email in October 2022.
- To gather information and feedback on regulations which stakeholders feel need to be updated, changed, or eliminated.
- 1,271 respondents completed this questionnaire:



Drafting Revised Licensing Standards

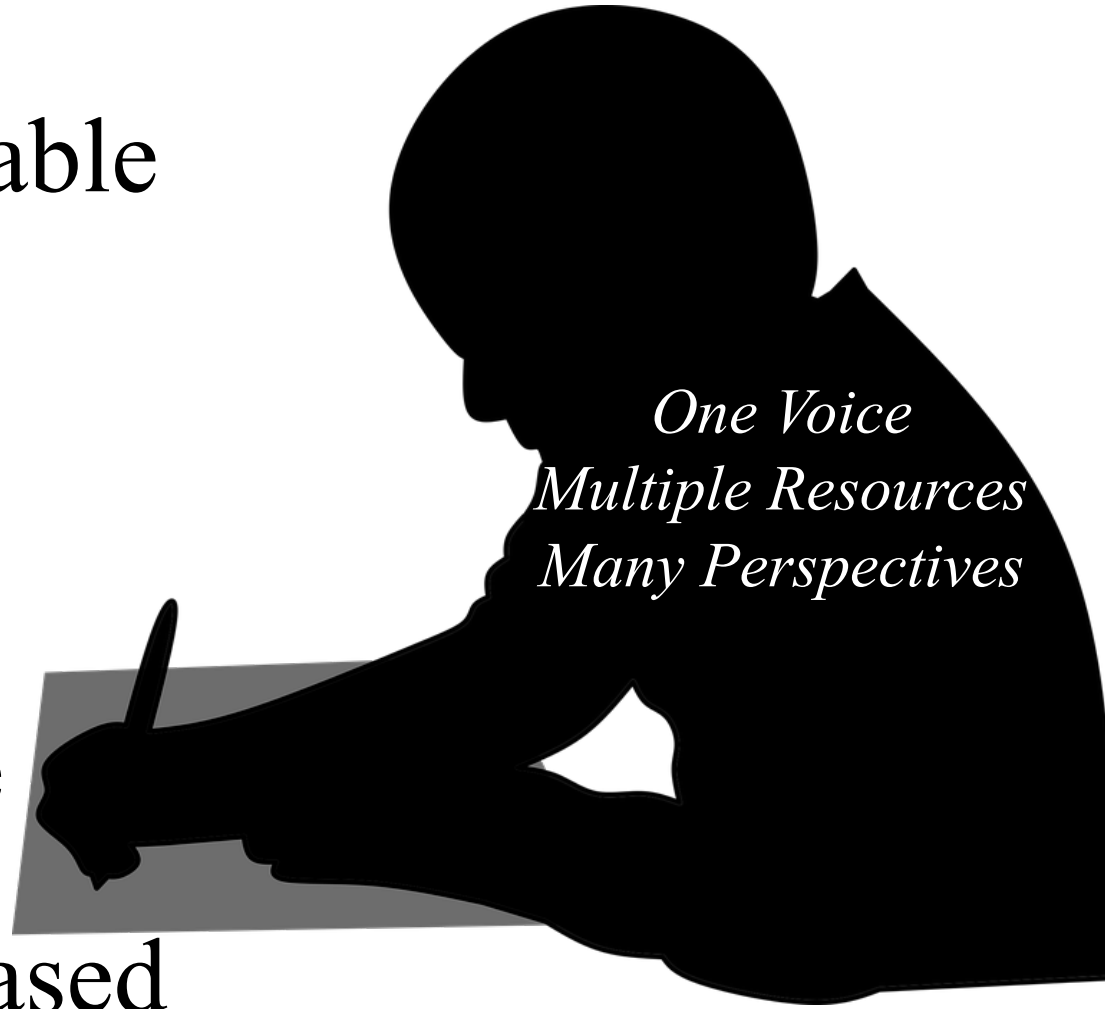
Understandable

Reasonable

Clear

Enforceable

Research Based



Outcomes



Notable Changes for FCC and CCC

➤ Alignment:

- Existing rules and statutes were consolidated to make them easier for providers to find.
- Standards not moved were referenced - ex. Crib Safety Standards as these standards apply to other license types, in addition to child care.

➤ Updated:

- Standards regarding cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting.
- Behavior Guidance
- Children with disabilities or alternative accommodations
- Health policies



Notable Changes for FCC and CCC (Continued)

➤ Added:

- Environmental Health Standards (in collaboration with subject matter experts)
- Technology use



Behavior Guidance

Creates alignment and clarity by having relevant components in one section:

- Methods of promoting positive behavior
- Prohibited actions
- Persistent unacceptable behavior
- Separation from the group



Sanitation & Health (FCC and CCC)

Creates alignment and clarity by moving relevant components in one section:

Creates clarity by adding prescriptive language:

- Eliminates guesswork
- Create oversight consistency
- Reduced risk to children

Relocated components found in other sections:

- Diaper Changing Procedures



Environmental Health (FCC and CCC)

New chapter components including :

- Facility
- Radon Testing

Creates alignment by moving relevant components in one section:

- Water Supply (moved)



Highlights: Child care centers

Staff Qualifications

- Updates definition of “Education” to expanded list
- Creates new progression of education and experience
- Requires new Child Care Basics training for all staff

Equipment & Supplies

- Allows more flexibility in materials being stored or put out in the program
- Removes outdated materials from the list

Sick Children

- Updates exclusion lists
- Clarifies guidelines on when children can return after an illness



Highlights: Family Child Care

Training Requirements

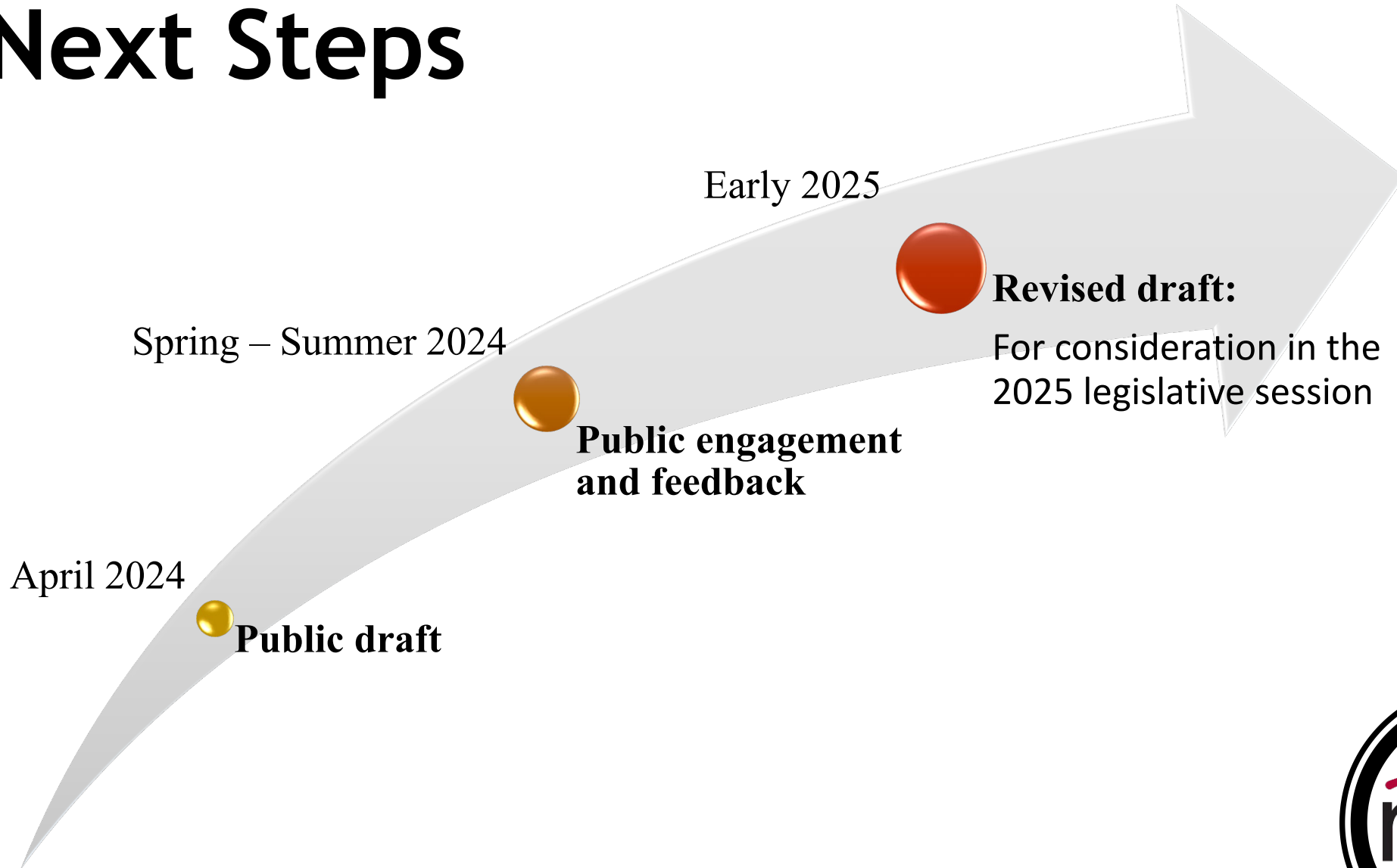
- Organized in a way that provides clear training requirements for each type of caregiver in a family child care program

Children with special health care needs or disabilities

- Increased information gathered from the parent to be more inclusive of the child's needs
 - Individual child care plans
 - Allergies



Next Steps



Draft Language will be posted on the Child Care Regulation Modernization webpage



Thank You!

From NARA and DHS Teams

Reach out with any questions to:
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