

Appendix A

Suggested Resources for the Task Force Duties

During the September 19, 2019, Task Force meeting, ACET asked Task Force members to identify suggested resources or background information needed to consider for each of the 8 Task Force duties. What follows is a compilation of suggestions, as they appeared.

Duty #1: Identify difficulties that providers face regarding licensing and inspection, including specific licensing requirements that have led to the closure of family child care programs, by reviewing previous survey results and conducting follow-up surveys, if necessary.

- *Compile any info gathered*
- *Create standard survey for past/present to be sent in all counties*
- *Where possible, provide information from surveys disaggregated by geography, race/ethnicity, length of time in business, and other factors for consideration*
- *A better understanding of the past surveys, methodology, sampling, data analysis, and who 'owned' the process*
- *Use past surveys (MACCP, Wilder) + Think Small*
- *Use new surveys*
- *Conduct "exit interviews" of providers leaving (or who have left)*
- *Look @ past hearings and legislations*

Duty #2: Propose regulatory reforms to improve licensing efficiency, including discussion of criteria that would qualify a provider for an abbreviated licensing review based on statistically significant key indicators that predict full compliance with all applicable rules and statutes, and discussion of the development of a risk-based, data-driven, tiered violation system with corresponding enforcement mechanisms that are appropriate to the risk presented by a violation.

- *Prior task force recommendations*
- *Previous legislations w/bipartisan support*
- *Examples from other states of tiered systems*
- *List of previous task force ideas*
- *Review other states 3 tier (or other) which DHS has presented previously*
- *\$\$\$*
- *Look @ past legislation*

Duty #3: Review existing variance authority delegated to counties and recommend changes, if needed.

- *Experiences from providers*
- *Info from licensors about # of variance requests, # of spots needed*
- *Review current complaints about variances and better understand how to remove those bottlenecks that impede growth for the providers. Is a mirage possible?*

- *Discussion of liability put on counties who do approve variances & why this leads to counties not giving them*
- *What are variances + how did they come about? What are their strengths and limitations?*
- *Move variances to DHS so liability lands on DHS like all other aspects of our licensing*
- *Review, compile variance standards currently being utilized in some counties and not in other counties*

Duty #4: Recommend business development and technical assistance resources to promote provider recruitment and retention, including the potential need for mentors, a family child care provider network, or shared services.

- *Summaries of FCF and MIF work*
- *Findings from the Workforce Compensation Group (NGA) and B-8 Workgroup*
- *Shared services overview*
- *Examples of state and private (for profit) FCC networks*
- *Support/challenge counties/commissioners to take ownership of economic development*
- *Retention incentives - current and options for additional*

Duty #5: Develop recommendations for alternative child care delivery systems that could be more financially viable in smaller communities with unmet child care capacity needs in greater Minnesota, which could include new licensure models for large group family child care or small capacity child care centers.

- *ND family group care model*
- *Build out financial models*
- *Examples of other license options in other states*
- *Current license structures + limitations*
- *What can we learn from other states with a rural childcare shortage?*
- *How do we understand the possibilities related to structures?*
- *Research/review alternatives system for licensing quality providers in/out of U.S.*
- *Look at more one-on-one modeling of providing services*
- *Survey providers who have quit about their reasons. Would alternative systems have helped?*
- *Clarify “family child care” vs. center*
- *Feedback brainstorm of current communities*

Duty #6: Review Parent Aware program participation and identify obstacles and suggested improvements.

- *Overview of current standards + timeline for revisions*
- *Scan of existing options (50+) for curriculum that meets standards and where there are gaps*
- *Gather feedback re: improvements AND efficiency*
- *Look at past surveys, conduct new ones*

- *Statistics about participation, requirements, standards across all settings*
- *Costs = info about the total costs*
- *Level playing field for all programs*
- *Resources for less expensive training*
- *Comprehensive meaning of “quality care + improvement” for ALL children + families*
- *Culture recognition of FCC in PA language*
- *Education or broad application of standards*
- *“Curriculum” doesn’t mean ABC but rather DAP Ed*

Duty #7: Review how trainings for licensed family child care providers are offered, provided, coordinated, and approved, and make a recommendation on the establishment of a family child care continuing education training committee, to advise on compliance with federal and state training requirements.

- *Overview of existing training options - free, low cost, online, face to face, etc.*
- *Contact/work w/DHS + develop to open up “approved” trainings*
- *Compile and streamline the fragmented system*
- *Have Develop/MNCPD be responsive to MN to just national platform*
- *Use video, etc. opportunities for training*
- *How can we leverage technology?*
- *How can we engage community partners to help remove barriers?*

Duty #8: Consider methods to improve access to and understanding of the rules and statutes governing family child care providers.

- *Information/update on what’s currently underway*
- *Communicate w/Licensors on what is already in place*
- *Nice that DHS sends out emails, but maybe have us “all together” (somehow) for questions*
- ** Are we as a state utilizing more technology base platforms to relay these rules to allow more room for providers to digest in their comfort zone at their/own time?*
- *Training co-developed with DHS, licensors, and providers to create clarity - clear language, use new materials as jumping off point*
- *Website w/everything (rules + statutes) in 1 place*