

Suggested Changes to the Family Child Care Task Force Survey Proposed by DHS

- Someone besides DHS NEEDS to conduct the survey. They are NOT impartial and most of the reasons providers list for closing will involve DHS. We know this because MACCP conducted a survey of 6,700 family child care providers and 33% of them completed the survey within a week. What about having a volunteer subcommittee from the Task Force administer the survey?
- We need to see the individual answers as a summary of answers wouldn't give us the complete picture. It would be helpful to see a corresponding number next to everything Participant 1 said, Participant 2 said, etc. Then we can tell if there is a trend in an area, someone is being honest, someone isn't taking it seriously, etc. Otherwise, the statistics won't be reliable. Survey Monkey and other survey platforms easily offer this option.
- Regarding the issue of public data from the surveys, Hollee had asked about just having summary results and not individual data for the public. Would the summary of responses satisfy the public data requirement?
- Question 1: All the small groups said that the survey should cover at least three years, but two groups preferred five years. We won't receive enough responses otherwise. We have lost 37 actively licensed providers in the last three months alone. The majority of reasons providers have left have been the same over the last 8 years.
- Question 2: We discussed the need to remain anonymous, so having such specific regions of the state listed versus "Twin Cities Metro, Northern MN, Southern MN, Central MN"
- Question 5: we should not ask their age! It will pinpoint the provider and isn't very relevant.
- Question 6 should be eliminated. We shouldn't ask where they provided care because so few family child care providers operate in a place that isn't their home, so it would prevent their anonymity. The survey needs to only be sent to family child care providers, those operating in a home and not in a church or school.

- Question 7: there should be an "other" space where they can list something else. In the October meeting, a few of us criticized the proposed survey, asking for the financial questions to be moved down the list since some powers portray the loss as stemming from income issues...but we know that's rarely the reason. None of us came into this field thinking we were going to make lots of money. We do this because we love caring for children.
- Question 8 should be Question 7 and vice versa. Providers will spend more time on the first set of questions and the current Question 8 choices are the main reasons providers are leaving.
- Question 7, 8, 10, 12, and 14 have too many choices that could discourage people from completing the survey. Some options could be combined. Perhaps limiting the number of options and adding the "other" option with a text field would be better.
- Why do questions 10, 12, and 14 have the extra open-ended space but questions 7 and 8 do not?
- Question 12 should list "Finding high quality trainings" as well as "being limited to taking specific DHS ones" should be included as options.
- To ensure valid results, the order of choices within questions 7-12 should change randomly for each respondent.