



NARA Stakeholder Engagement Abbreviated Inspection Survey Final Report

Town & Country Drive Suite 119, #121 Fredericksburg, VA 22405888-674-7052

www.naralicensing.org

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CONSUMER PROTECTION THROUGH PREVENTION

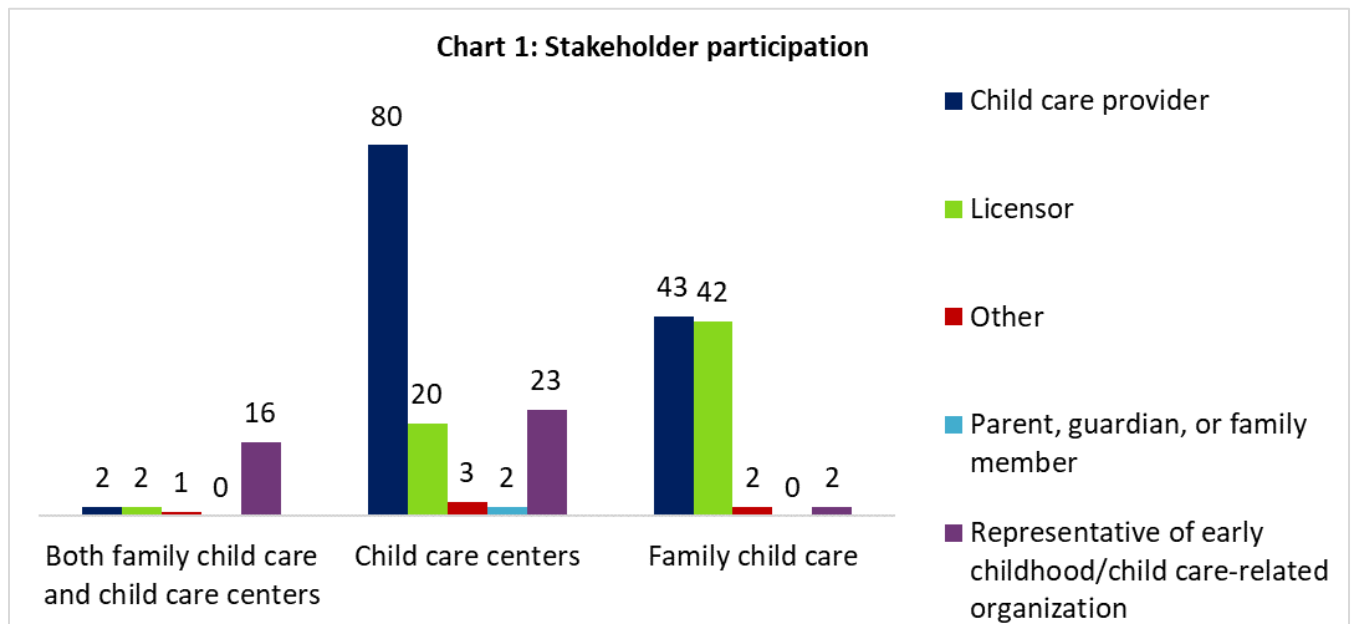
Abbreviated Inspections Survey Executive Summary

Eligibility criteria are the areas of criteria that must be met by the provider to be eligible for an abbreviated inspection. The child care field is a human services field and perfection is rare. Therefore, high levels of compliance do not mean items are never out of compliance. In fact, it's common that violations are found even at the most highly compliant settings and therefore it is important to consider the eligibility criteria to be used for abbreviated inspection carefully.

Five stakeholder engagement sessions were held in the fall of 2022; four sessions were provided for community stakeholders including providers, county licensors, parents/guardian/family members, and early childhood representatives, and one session was provided for DHS licensing staff. Information regarding a key indicator licensing system and abbreviated inspections was provided, and participants were given the chance to ask questions. At the end of each session, participants were offered a brief survey to share their feedback on what Minnesota should consider for the eligibility criteria for abbreviated inspections. NARA staff identified the top criterion based on the two pre-selected questions. This document is a high-level summary.

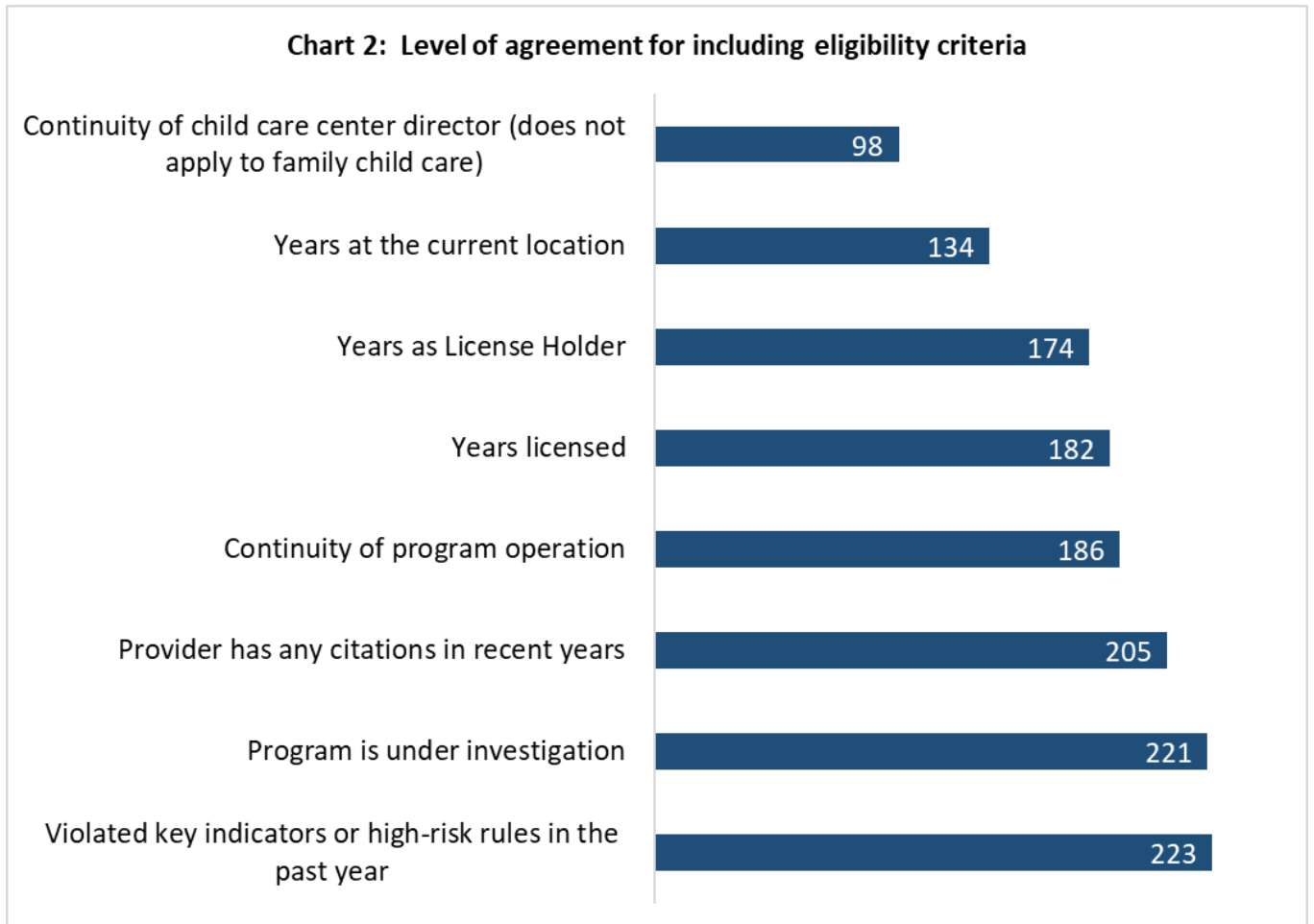
Participation

A total of 238 surveys were submitted after the stakeholder sessions. Providers, parents/guardians/family members, licensors, and representatives from professional child care-related organizations were represented between both child care centers and family child care. Child care center providers represented almost twice as many as those from family child care and family child care licensors represented nearly twice the number of licensors working with child care centers. Overall, 128 responses represented child care centers and 89 responses represented family child care. A small number of responses were from individuals who identified as representing both family child care and child care centers.

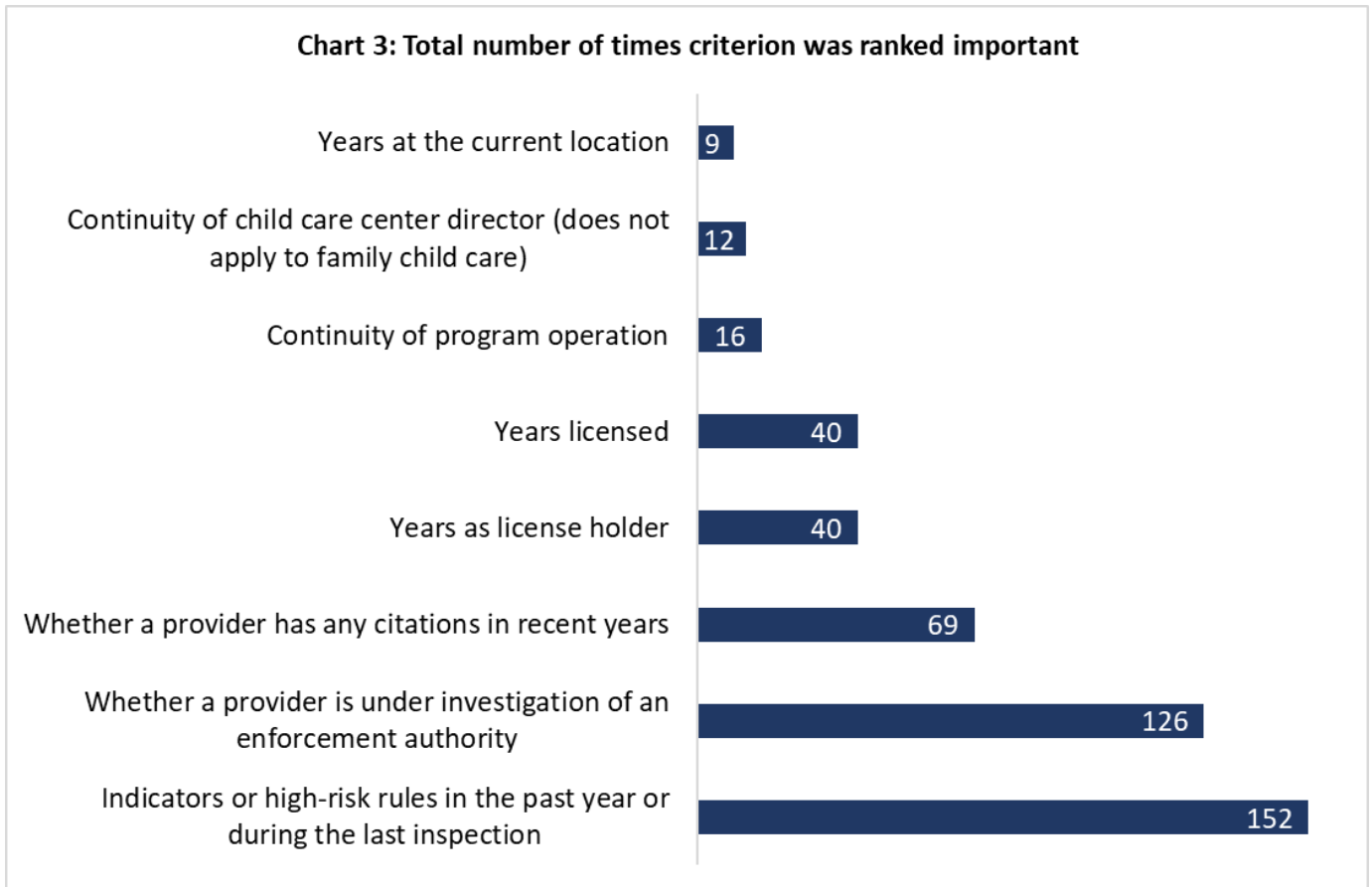


Survey Results

Questions six and seven of the survey included multiple part questions and participants were asked to provide feedback using a ranking system. For example, in question six, participants were asked to consider each eligibility criteria for abbreviated inspections and rate it on a scale strongly disagree to strongly agree. Chart 2 shows the total agreement levels for each criterion.



For question seven, participants were asked to select the five most important categories and list them in order of importance. Chart 3 shows the total number of times criterion was ranked important.



Discussion

There are two clear abbreviated inspection criteria found to be important to all respondents: Non-compliance with “Indicators or high-risk rules in the past year or during the last inspection” and “whether a provider is under investigation of an enforcement authority”. Additionally, there are two criteria that were ranked low: “continuity of program operations” and “years at the current location”.

It is possible to consider each of the remaining four categories on an individual basis given the provider type (child care center or family child care). The first two; “years as license holder” and “years licensed” are very similar. “Years licensed” refers to how long the program has been in operation and applies to both family child care and child care centers while “years as a license holder” refers to how long a program has been under a single ownership and applies more broadly to child care centers. It should be noted that many stakeholders found these two categories confusing and may not have ranked them accurately. Each of these rated in the middle range of responses and could be considered based on program type: For example,

“years licensed” may only apply to family child care while “years as a license holder” may only apply to child care centers.

“Whether a provider has any citations in recent years” is closely related to the top selection of non-compliance with “Indicators or high-risk rules in the past year or during the last inspection”. Because of the similarity and the fact that non-compliance with “Indicators or high-risk rules in the past year or during the last inspection” makes it a stronger option for the abbreviated inspection design. The final criterion to be considered is “continuity of child care center director” and only applies to child care centers which ranked low among center licensors and providers.

Through this engagement process, there were findings on several criteria that ranked high for providers, licensors, and other stakeholders and some that ranked very low. Likewise, some criteria ranked higher for those that work with child care centers while others ranked higher for family child care. The information identified through this process will help the Department of Human Services and NARA find the eligibility criteria that is clear, understandable, data driven, and aligns with stakeholder input.