

## **Access and Quality of Preschool and Childcare Subgroup** *December 8 Meeting Notes*

### **Welcome**

Selena Mayo, the Chair of the Workgroup, welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves. The following workgroup members were in attendance:

Selena Mayo, Total Action for Progress (Head Start and Early Head Start provider)  
Bill Ermatinger, Huntington Ingalls/ Chamber of Commerce  
Senator Frank Ruff  
Phyllis Mondak, Special Education, Dept of Education  
Angelica Light, Elevate Early Education  
Barbara Newlin, Division of Childcare and Early Childhood, Dept of Social Services  
Toni Cacace-Beshears, VA Association for Early Childhood Education  
Josie Webster, VA Council for Private Education  
Sharon Veatch, Child Care Aware  
Alex London-Gross, Virginia Alliance of YMCAs  
Karen Lange, Regional Military Child Care Liaison, Child Care Aware  
Karen Gallagher, Child Development Center for Learning and Research, Virginia Tech  
September Jonas, Knowledge Universe

### **Virginia (VSQI) Briefing**

Kathy Glazer, of the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, provided an overview of quality rating systems as a promising practice throughout the country that benefits to families, communities and states in a variety of ways. Her presentation is online here:

Zelda Boyd, Virginia Department of Social Services, then addressed the recent changes in Virginia's rating system. Her presentation is online here:

[http://www.ltgov.virginia.gov/docs/120814\\_Access\\_VSQIPresentation.pdf](http://www.ltgov.virginia.gov/docs/120814_Access_VSQIPresentation.pdf)

As is an overview she shared of the standards:

[http://www.ltgov.virginia.gov/docs/120814\\_Access\\_VSQIOverview.pdf](http://www.ltgov.virginia.gov/docs/120814_Access_VSQIOverview.pdf)

Concerns were also raised about the DOD reimbursements for off-base care based on QRIS ratings, and Karen noted that they are starting to look beyond that but changes would require legislative action.

### **Current Child Care Licensing Standards and Concerns**

Jack Frazier, Department of Social Services, provided the group with a comprehensive overview of how the state regulates and licenses the wide variety of child care facilities and homes in the Commonwealth. His presentation and materials are online here:

[http://www.ltgov.virginia.gov/docs/120814\\_Access\\_LicensingRegsPPT.pdf](http://www.ltgov.virginia.gov/docs/120814_Access_LicensingRegsPPT.pdf)

[http://www.ltgov.virginia.gov/docs/120814\\_Access\\_ChildCareOverview.pdf](http://www.ltgov.virginia.gov/docs/120814_Access_ChildCareOverview.pdf)

A request was made that at future meetings the group hear about model regulatory structures in other states.

### **Discussion of Survey Results and Subgroup Priorities**

The group then spent time looking at the results (online here:

[http://www.ltgov.virginia.gov/docs/120814\\_Access\\_SurveyResults.pdf](http://www.ltgov.virginia.gov/docs/120814_Access_SurveyResults.pdf)) from the online survey that was circulated among group members prior to the meeting.

A great deal of the conversation focused on the “Swiss cheese” model of licensing that exists, and recognition that given the recent tragic deaths in unregulated homes, the General Assembly will likely take on some of these issues.

Discussion included recognition that any action the state takes to tighten licensing may drive other providers underground and that the tension is quite real. The goal for DSS is to bring as many providers into some form of registration without imposing such undue cost burdens that parents can no longer afford such settings.

Amy Atkinson, Director of the Virginia Commission on Youth, shared a draft letter with the group (online here: [http://www.ltgov.virginia.gov/docs/120814\\_VCOYLetter.pdf](http://www.ltgov.virginia.gov/docs/120814_VCOYLetter.pdf)) which bears a request from the Commission that the Council look at regulations around child care.

There was also discussion of the role of the interagency group the COY requested the Board of Education create in partnership with VECF, DSS, DOE and other stakeholders. The goal of that workgroup is to develop a competency-based professional development framework to inform the requirements and guidelines for pre-service education, in-service education, and training for early learning practitioners in all of Virginia’s early learning settings. Barb Newlin serves on that group and agreed to be a liaison between the two groups so that efforts are not duplicated.

After much discussion the group agreed on a shared vision that work will be focused on: that every child in the Commonwealth will have access to quality programs, which will be measured by their basic health (reduced deaths) and their PALS scores in kindergarten.