

MEETING MINUTES FORM

GROUP MEETING:

Regulations and
Standards Committee

MEETING DATE: September 23, 2003**Members Present:**

Beth Hall, Pat Gracey, Mary Chipps, Jennifer Trippett, James Reddick, Melanie Clark, Mary Quick, Becky Gooch, Brandy Byrnside

KEY POINTS DISCUSSED

Review of committee charges and set dates for next meetings

Transportation issues related to day care center licensing and transporting pre-school children. Sticking points: requirement to meet child staff ratio; requirement for qualified staff on board (paid staff); seat belts/CSRS; transportation log; service personnel may oppose any proposal which would place a non-service personnel on a bus; keeping the bus scheduled time. WV Pre-K funding reimbursement for transportation for all children enrolled or just those transported? Revisit making transportation mandatory. Need to get report from Transportation committee. Need input from rep of education.

KEY DECISIONS MADE

Meetings will be 10/27/03, 11/10/03, and 1/12/04. Suggestion was made and committee approved to shorten meetings to 2:30.

The intent of regulation is to have safe transport, safe supervision of children during transport and accountability for the child being transported. Committee proposes a variance be requested that would permit trained adults to be on buses to supervise children ages 3-5 in keeping with the ratios of children ages 3-5. These persons could also have the responsibility for maintaining the transportation log. Possible use of already existing service personnel, but this would require additional work hours. Collaboration with head start and child care centers to provide the "bus monitor" could be explored. Committee agreed that the driver will not count in the ratio. Recommend the training for the bus monitor consist of knowing day care center regulations pertaining to transportation and head start standards as found in section 1310.7.f.2. An approved CSRS would need to be in place for 3-4 year olds.

MEETING MINUTES FORM

Quality levels, tiered reimbursement, and rated licenses. Will use to also meet the charge of providing parents with tools to evaluate child care programs.

Committee reviewed existing materials from other states and the 2001 CCDF Planning Group document. A rated license cannot be implemented without changes to the day care center regulations (see NCCIC Overview of Tiered Strategies, November 2002). The committee will first develop a system that will identify quality gradations for day care centers and then use the same approach for family care. The bar for quality has been raised in WV and many centers will need time to come into compliance with new regulations. In developing the system the committee will attach recommendations for incentives so that it can be launched when money is available. The system will be voluntary. Centers will have to maintain a regular license for a period of two years before applying to the system. R&R's will use as a tool to educate parents with the understanding that the system is voluntary. The highest level will include NAEYC accreditation or comparable components. The committee is strongly leaning toward ITERS/ECERS evaluations in determining where a center falls in the system. The committee will review information provided today and continue work on this during the next meeting.

Items for next meeting.

Completion of our portion of the 0-5 systems chart. Review and approval of transportation recommendation to the Council. Continue work on quality levels.