

**Lau, Jennifer**

**From:** thomaswinds [thomaswinds@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 27, 2006 11:50 PM  
**To:** jlau@state.pa.us  
**Subject:** Day Care Centers/ PA 3270 #14-506

RECEIVED  
 2006 JUN 30 PM 4:11  
 INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
 REVIEW COMMISSION

As the parent of an autistic child, and as a teacher, I have several questions with regard to this (See below the quoted section):

<http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol36/36-22/979.html>

>> Facilities will incur added costs in preparing a program plan for each child twice a year. The current regulations in Chapter 3300 requires that each child with special needs must have a program plan that is reviewed every 3 months and rewritten annually. The proposed amendment regarding program plan requires that each child must have a program plan developed at initial attendance and the plan must be reviewed every 6 months. The Department estimates that on average, an initial program plan may take 1 hour to develop and that each review may take 1/2 hour. The Department does not have data on the average annual number of new enrollments at a facility. The child care center director, group child day care home primary staff person or FDCH operator is responsible for program plan reviews. The Department estimates the average costs of preparing program plan reviews to be as follows: child care center--\$832; group child day care home--\$199.68; and FDCH--\$99.84.

#### Paperwork Requirements

Sections 3270.119, 3280.119 and 3290.118 will result in increased paperwork. The plan must be developed at the time of initial attendance and updated every 6 months. The program plan must include documented observation of the child's development. The Department will develop tools to assist the provider in completing the program plan and observation.<<

I would like to know the following:

1) In essence, you are expecting babysitters to write or implement IEPs for these children. How is a daycare provider qualified to develop a program plan for or to evaluate a special needs child?

These people are BABYSITTERS. They are not certified teachers, most of the ones I know do not have education degrees. Most of the state licensed day care workers I know are one person in a private home. They are not a school with a staff. They barely have high school diplomas, let alone any qualifications to determine anything developmental about special needs children!!!

DuPont's developmental pediatric program did not even know what was the matter with my son. It took 10 years for me to get a diagnosis for him because the school was too incompetent and their ERs were not appropriate; the IU didn't even know what was wrong with him. The teachers in the schools and in early intervention programs barely know how to write appropriate programs for children with autism. I know, I've spent 10 years fighting them.

How can you expect a BABYSITTER to monitor or evaluate their development? I don't care if they are required to have a high school diploma/GED plus 9 credits or not - you need a hell of a lot more education than THAT to know what to do with special needs children. I don't WANT someone who knows virtually NOTHING evaluating my kid and passing that info on to the school district, making MY battle WORSE. Because that is what will happen to a lot of parents and children. And YES, it's a BATTLE, thanks to No Child Left Behind.

2) How do you expect the teachers' unions to allow babysitters to write a developmental program without the babysitters being certified?? I refuse to send my son to anything without certified teachers working with him. They CAN'T implement his IEP because they have no clue how to do it. And you would expect BABYSITTERS to know this???

3) How will the private daycare provider be educated to write a program? 9 credits is NOT going to cut it. Degreed teachers with years of experience still can't do it. Oh, and will you be paying for it, or will they have to pass the costs on to the parents??

4) How will the daycare provider be educated on the developmental aspects of all the various special needs? How will they learn to identify all the various aspects and evaluate whether or not the child is developing? There are a lot of developmental disorders out there for them to learn about. I don't expect that they will understand most of them without intense study.

5) Will the DPW cover the costs of E&O insurance (errors & omissions) for the providers? Who will be doing that? How much coverage will

6/28/2006

they have?

6) Will you be sending people via Childfind into the day cares to identify these children? If not, why not? Will the day care worker be blamed if they are mislabeled? Or incorrectly "programmed" because of a mislabeling?

7) How will you justify allowing a babysitter to develop this "program" alone? Would it not be smarter to have a team of people including teachers, school district personnel, early intervention, DPW and others, including the day care worker?

You are opening a HUGE can of worms with this. I think you are opening the DPW, the State, and the private day care workers up to a lot of lawsuits as well. And you will probably lose a lot of the private workers from actually \*being\* licensed day cares, because no one wants to be sued and this is just a big welcome mat for the lawyers.

I am not sure who thought up this fiasco, but you can tell them this - I sure as hell would not want a babysitter with a lot less education than \*I\* have making up or evaluating any kind of developmental program for MY child. And I most certainly would NOT hesitate to sue the state AND the DPW if something that such a state-licensed day care worker said made it difficult for me to work with the school district in getting services.

Lynn Thomas

Parkesburg, PA

**RECEIVED**

**JUN 27 2006**

**OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT**