

JUL 27 2006



Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children

Joan L. Benso, President and CEO

Michael J. Breslin, Chair of the Board

20 North Market Square, Suite 300, Harrisburg, PA 17101-1632

July 27, 2006

Mr. Robert Frein, Director
Bureau of Subsidized Child Care Services
Office of Child Development
Room 521
Health & Welfare Building
P.O. Box 521
Harrisburg, PA 17105

RE: Reference Regulation No. 14-505

Dear Bob,

On behalf of Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (PPC), please accept our comments on the proposed changes to the subsidized child care regulations, 55 PA. Code Ch. 168. We commend the Department for its efforts to establish consistent child care policies within the Office of Income Maintenance (OIM) and the Office of Child Development (OCD) that meet the needs of all families receiving subsidized child care and improve child care services to families receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and families receiving food stamps who are eligible for subsidized child care. We welcome the opportunity to provide additional input and comment

PPC has long advocated for changes in the system that would remove unnecessary administrative barriers that prevent families from entering or staying in the system and to make it easier for low-income families and parents who were or are receiving TANF to can get help paying for and finding child care through Child Care Works.

We note and support the Department's changes:

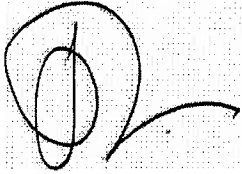
- Incorporating of eligibility requirements for families receiving General Assistance (GA) and Food Stamp child care and the eligibility requirement for families receiving TANF child care.
- For establishing consistent child care polices within OIM and the OCD that best meet the needs of families receiving subsidized child care.
- Simplifying verification requirements to make it easier for families to apply and qualify for subsidized child care.
- Clarifying process, procedures, and expectations of parents participating in the subsidized child care system.
- Requiring providers participating receiving subsidized child care funds to participate in vendor payment.

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- Providing Resource and Referral Services through the CCIS using the capabilities of CCMIS, more specialized parent counseling, and more access to information on how to choose quality child care.

PPC believes that the proposed changes in the regulations moves Pennsylvania ahead in creating a seamless system that will serve all families receiving subsidized child care building on the respective strengths of the CAO and the CCIS systems. PPC appreciates the opportunity to provide input and comment on this process at this time. We hope these comments are helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joan L. Benso', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Joan L. Benso
President and CEO