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Amanda Dorris
Bureau of Certification Services
Office of Child Development and Early Learning
Department of Public Welfare
333 Market Street, 6th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

Dear Ms. Dorris:

Northeastern Child Care Services operates child day care centers which have either Star 3 or Start 4 ratings. The number of hours required for staff are already being followed and exceeded in our centers. I am fully supportive of these training requirements.

I also fully support that training be provided by PQAS trainers and that the training includes the specified components.

In the past, child care staff could fulfill the minimum number of training hours by taking classes that were duplicative and in many instances were not compatible with the knowledge and skill level of the individual being trained. I support the requirement for new directors' orientation within 15 days of the first day of work.

We do often experience difficulty in obtaining the necessary training hours because of rural facility locations, frequent cancellations and trainers who don't have the necessary skill level in a particular area. My hope is that because of the new demand, there will be improvements in access to the best trainers at optimal times and locations.

Our agency also sponsors the Child and Adult Care Food Program. In so doing, our staff monitor the meals being served in many family and group homes. Most of these family homes are never inspected or visited by a DPW person. Many do not understand the minimum health and safety regulations. Requiring training hours before they open a home and requiring annual training hours to exceed what is now required would be a positive step and will be an improvement.

In sum, I believe that these changes in the regulations will lead to improved quality of care and are not burdensome.

Sincerely,
Judith Graziano
President
Northeastern Child Care Services