

Dorris, Amanda K. (PW)

2854

14-519-22

**From:** Vicky Dougherty [vicky@hdtvrepair.tv]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 16, 2010 11:42 AM  
**To:** Dorris, Amanda K. (PW)  
**Cc:** Lau, Jennifer R.  
**Subject:** Proposed Regulation Amendments/ No. 14-519

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As a parent of a child who was fatally injured in a family run daycare home, I would like to voice my support for the proposed amendments to the current child care regulations, specifically Regulation No. 14-519.

A five year phase-in period of increased training requirements is reasonable. There are several other states, including Maryland and North Carolina which require much more training before even opening a day care facility, and ongoing annually.

These amendments are a big step in Pennsylvania catching up to the accepted "best practices" in the child care profession.

Also, child deaths are sixteen more times likely in a private family run daycare facility. All children need to be protected, no matter what the setting, so it is critical that family run facilities are included in this mandate for increased training.

Daycare is not the same as "babysitting". Family day care homes receive supplemental payments from DPW Childcare Works program and should be subject to the same high standards as other child care facilities who receive these supplemental payments.

Documentation of staff professional development needs to be maintained on site so that it is available to any state or Stars program inspectors.

The new amendments call for an annual development plan for each childcare staff person. This is critical, as it won't get done if it isn't planned for. Either procrastination or other priorities will take precedence. Anyone with any management experience also knows that investing in your staff is mandatory for improving the performance of any operation. The mandated orientation process should continue as well. Owners and/or personnel should know exactly what is entailed in the child care profession. I would add a requirement that all equipment such as cribs and highchairs, etc. be examined for safety and recalls and a checklist be submitted to DPW (with application requirements) BEFORE a facility could be certified or licensed for operation.

Pennsylvania should be commended for the strides it has taken in recent years to protect our children. These amendments will enable DPW to continue this mission that they are charged with. I personally will not be satisfied until resources are made available for every day care facility including family run homes are inspected prior to certification and at least annually thereafter. I have always felt my son might still be alive if there were more oversight by the state. Regulations are only effective if there is oversight to ensure compliance. Another concern is I do not see any real consequences for non-compliance spelled out.

Thank You for the opportunity to comment.

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