

From: Leo & Ruth [lgbrown111@comcast.net]  
Sent: Saturday, July 24, 2010 5:44 PM  
To: Dorris, Amanda K. (PW)  
Subject: Regulation No. 14-519

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Dear Amanda Dorris,

I would like to comment on Regulation No. 14-519. I do not support the changes to increase the hours required unless some additions or exceptions are added.

I have an Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education and have 31 years experience in family and group home care. My husband also has been my second caregiver for the last 28 years. We both have taken classes every year any where from the 6 hours to 20 plus hours a year. I was one of the founders of the PA Family Day Care Providers back in the early 80's. We are both at a loss to find classes we didn't already take or ones that are challenging to our level of education. We agree that providers need to have continuing education. But some source of more challenging education without having us forced to go back for a higher college degree or have to participate in the Keystone Stars. There should be some choice of how much education you need to take or a cap on how much for "long timers". Experience counts!!

My Dentist does not have to take as much continuing education as we do.

What I love about Family and Group Day care is that we are a diverse group of providers that you just don't find in a center atmosphere. The families have a large choice to find a provider that suits their need for their family. It sure seems the trend the last 15 years is to push family and group provides out of the choices.

On another line, state inspectors need to have more experience in exactly what a family and group home have to deal with on a daily basis. They are the ones who need experience in a day care atmosphere, or at least have life experience with their own children. I have seen many inspectors with their own agenda's over the last 30 years. Some are excellent and others are not used to children but textbook experiences. I didn't have children when I started a day care home but we adopted 7 girls over the past years and if you had told me then I was a text book caregiver I would not have understood. Now I do, it is a huge difference. I would welcome the opportunity to help find a solution to either of these issues. I have always felt if you are not part of the solution you are part of the problem.

Thank you for your time in considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Ruth E. Brown  
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