

Dorris, Amanda K. (PW)

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14-519-37

From: Stephanie Thomas [sthomasstars@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2010 6:23 PM
To: Dorris, Amanda K. (PW)
Subject: Comments- Regulation No. 14-519

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Comments- Regulation No. 14-519

I am in support of the increase of professional development hours for childcare providers. The correlation between training and quality childcare is considerable. This increase will have a significant impact of the level of care in the state of PA.

However, our current system and funding for professional development is not adequate to support this increase. The amount of professional development in the state needs to increase extensively. It also needs to be more available and accessible to all parts of the state including the rural areas. Distance and online education needs to be increased and the level of quality needs to be increased in both distance learning and face-to-face workshops. Currently, the majority of the distance learning is at the introductory level (C1). More online webinars need to be developed with the experienced provider in mind. Many sites already in the STARS program are running out of professional development workshops to attend. There also needs to be more offerings of professional development series that would provide mastery level (C3) learning through multiple workshops to providers. These series could be great opportunities for staff to get in depth training without taking college or graduate level credits. If the state is able to support this new proposed regulation in these ways, I feel that this regulation will be very beneficial to the field of early childhood education and the children of PA.

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