

#3216

Graeff, Melissa

14-542-47

From: Jubilee Daycare - Preschool <jubileedcps@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 12, 2018 10:14 AM
To: irrc@irrc.state.pa.us
Subject: Childcare State Regs
Attachments: stateregprop18.docx

Please see attached State regulation responses...
Thank you!

Jess Huntsberger
Jubilee Daycare/Preschool
724-253-4032
A Ministry of Clarks Mills United Methodist Church

RECEIVED
IRRC
2018 NOV 16 P 12:30

November 6, 2018
 Submitted via
 irrc@irrc.state.pa.us
 Tamula Ferguson
 Bureau of Certification Services
 Office of Child Development and Early Learning Department of Human Services
 333 Market Street, 6th Floor
 Harrisburg, PA 17105

Re: IRRC Number 3216; Department of Human Services changes to 55 Pa. Code Chapter 20; 55 Pa. Code Chapter 3041; 55 Pa. Code Chapter 3270; 55 Pa. Code Chapter 3280; 55 Pa. Code Chapter 3290

Dear Ms. Ferguson

On behalf of Jubilee Daycare/Preschool:

Please accept our comments on the proposed changes to the child care facility regulations referenced above. We welcome the opportunity to provide input and comment.

Our organization has been at this location in the basement of a smaller church since 2006 and has served many families in rural northwestern PA. The number of children served averages about 45 and 52 families a year. The daycare facility serves infants through school agers Monday – Friday 6am-6pm. The enrollment numbers have fluctuated over the years, but it seems most classes have a wait list now and we are in need of quality staff. As with many small businesses in the area, we struggle with money for maintaining quality staff. However, we continue to employ caring staff and maintain state and STARS standards to the best of our ability as we continue to improve our outreach.

We understand that many of the proposed changes are the result of the Reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG). These are mandatory changes that Pennsylvania must make in order to come into compliance with the CCDBG.

CCDBG Related Changes

Chapters 3270.11 (g); 3280.11 (h); 3290.11 (k)

Annual Unannounced Inspections

All annual inspections will be unannounced for certified child care providers

•Jubilee states this will cause some staff stress upon initial implementation but agree that safety guidelines should be first and foremost of every part of the daily program.

Chapter 3290.11

Certification of Family Child Care Homes (FCCH)

Prior to this proposed changes, PA's family child care homes were registered, not certified And could operate for years, without a visit from certification staff.

•Jubilee thinks this is fair that all child care facilities no matter the capacity should be evaluated but know that this will take time to implement. In the process, have been concerned about local homes closing and people scrambling to place their children or not find a replacement.

Chapters 3270.11 (c); 3280.11(c); 3290.11 (i). Announced Pre Certification Inspection
An announced on-site inspection will be conducted at all locations seeking to operate a child care program before the issuance of an initial certificate of compliance.

•Jubilee supports this idea.

Chapters

3270.31 9 (f);3280.31 (f); 3290.11 (b); 3290.31 (g)

Pre Certification in Ten Health& Safety Areas Training is required only once and must be completed within 90 days after their date of hire.

•Jubilee supports this and hopes it will be a part of new staff orientation.

Chapters

3270.27;3280.26(a)(b); 3290.24 (a)-(g)

Emergency Plan:

Providers must conduct an annual practice drill of the emergency plan. The plan must include specific provisions for the evacuation of infants, toddlers and children who have disabilities or chronic medical needs. Plans must be filed with the municipality and the county. In addition, it is our understanding the 2 CCDBG regulations require procedures for a lockdown although this is not noted in the changes proposed by the Department of Human Services.

*Jubilee supports changes made to the regulations reflecting mandatory requirements of CCDBG and recommends the Department add the additional CCDBG requirement that all emergency plans provide procedures for a lockdown. Jubilee has procedures for a lockdown and do practice however; trainings for staff who are unfamiliar or uncomfortable with this subject is hard to find at a decent price. Jubilee believes we can easily discuss to ensure that steps are understood by all involved parties without children being bused elsewhere for an evacuation. It would take many hours of prior planning, funding, and strategy to execute an actual evacuation drill of a child care facility.

Without CCDBG

funding, Pennsylvania efforts to assist low income working families
and build the quality of its child care programs would be significantly curtailed.

Department of Human Services proposed changes

Chapters 3270; 3280; 3290

Replacement of the words “day care” with “child care” throughout the body of the regulations.

***Jubilee supports removing the term “day” and replacing it with the word “child” when referring the setting in which the care for children occurs as per Act 201592.**

Chapters 3270.31 (e); 3280.31 (e); 3290.31 (f)

Increased Annual Professional Development

Annual professional development requirements would increase from 6 hours per year to 12 hours per year.

****Jubilee does not oppose the increase in professional development hours but agrees with PACCA’s notes that, “DHS has underestimated the cost to providers to comply with the increase in training hours. We do appreciate DHS’s attempt to provide a fiscal note, however the fiscal note calculates the cost for training at a flat hourly rate. As required by Federal Labor and Industry rule, legal entities must pay employees for time attending training. If the time worked and the time in training exceeds 40 hours, employees must be paid one and one half time. If the employer, allows the employee to attend training during work hours, no additional cost for that employee is incurred. However, this may require an employer to engage a substitute which would in effect have the employer paying double - time for the coverage straight time for the employee in training and straight time for the substitute.”***

Jubilee does not receive STARS grant funding for trainings any longer as it has in the past so funding professional development is of utmost importance. Professional development beyond the initial health and safety should be localized and what the individual or organization needs not mandated by an entity (STARS). ie#1 My preschool teachers took a training in math which they needed and wanted according to their professional development plan and recently have been developing the math aspect of our Preschool since this training. This math training does not count under any STARS requirements since it is not under their specific “point guide” but Jubilee had to pay for this and willingly does so since it benefits the children directly. Requiring staff to take subjects they are not interested in to meet “points” instead of personal goals will prove to be under-productive. ie#2 Jubilee staff has expressed interest in Autism awareness and RAD (reactive attachment disorder) while these trainings may count for DHS requirements, we understand not for STARS points. Therefore, Jubilee cannot appease these interests of the staff that would directly benefit Jubilee since we are busy trying to satisfy STARS “required” trainings for points.

Chapters 3270.11; 3280.11; 3290.11

Chapter 3270.4; 3280.4; 3290.4.

Definition of the Volunteer: DHS proposes amending the definition of volunteer to include children 14 years of age or older, but under 16 years of age, enrolled in a Child Care and Support Services Management Program.

***Jubilee is uncertain of this regulation because: Current child care certification regulations define children as those birth to age 16 year of age. We believe that supervising children not enrolled in the program, but acting as volunteers can be a burden to educators who already have a responsibility to maintain the supervision of children in their care Jubilee also wonders about the additional liability issues this may cause with costs to programs unforeseen. Jubilee would love to welcome younger volunteers as some valuable 14 year olds may provide much needed**

help to staff but the ratios would be confusing as we would not know to count the child under staff or child.

Chapters 3270.131 (a); 3280.131 (a); 3290.131 (a) Health Information: DHS is proposing to shorten the timeframe to submit an initial health report for a children from 60 to 30 days.

*Jubilee states this requirement may be unreasonable when the availability of health services are inconsistent across the commonwealth. Appointment wait times and transportation issues in our area does not always allow for the parent/guardians to obtain all required forms with the quick 30 days. HIPPA laws also permits health forms from being faxed over so pickup time should be considered within this timeframe. Jubilee urges DHS to withdraw this change and revert to the 60 day provision.

Jubilee appreciates the opportunity to comment on the regulations and thanks you for your time and attention to the future, the children of our community!