

Licensing and Inspection of Child Welfare Providers

September 8, 2014

Committee Members

1. I think they need to research about database technology.
2. The rules need to be more age appropriate. Rules that apply to 3 year olds can't apply to teenagers.
3. Centralized warehousing.
4. We should take into account a different category for institutions like WinShape Homes.
5. A licensee wanting to appeal an administrative ruling should make the appeal, first, to the director, or commissioner (depending on agency) for a hearing, and then, if dissatisfied, there would be a right to have a de novo hearing by an ALJ, under the code. Then, either party dissatisfied with the ALJ's decision can appeal under a writ of cert to the Superior Court having jurisdiction.
6. There needs to be more accurate public reporting of the quality of services rather than just citations. I suggest modifying GA SCORE or creating a different a grading system for each agency inspecting child care providers ("Providers"). Each agency (e.g. RCC, OPM, DJJ, DPH) would translate each item for inspection/accountability/reporting into a grade ranging from A (100-90); B (89-80); C (79-70) weight the score according to policy priorities such as child safety and welfare, fiscal stability, facilities, liabilities, insurance, citations/reports, etc. Then the score would be totaled for that agency and posted on a public score card. An on-line reader would be able to click on the agency score to see the entire score/inspection report for that agency. The score card would have a total. (The individual agency scores could be weighted.)
7. Inspection reports would need to be completed within 30 days of inspection and transmitted to Provider. Provider would have 15 days to file for refutation. Refutation needs to be done quickly, within 30 days of filing and decided 15 days thereafter. After refutation decision made, score is posted. Provider has 30 days to file a petition for a hearing before an ALJ pursuant to APA. If petition for hearing is filed, score is flagged as being under appeal and until a final determination.
8. The frequency of licensing inspection (RCC) and contract inspection (OPM) could be done on a sliding scale depending on the Providers' two consecutive-year score. For example, if the Provider has an A average, RCC and OPM inspections go to a two year cycle. If the Provider has a B average, the Provider would have annual, but alternating inspections from RCC and OPM. If the Provider has a C, both RCC and OPM inspect annually, and if average score is not a B after one year's inspection cycle, the license is suspended/revoked and contract terminated.
9. Annual inspections by OPM or RCC should be scheduled. DHP inspection should remain unscheduled. DFCS and DJJ inspections should remain unscheduled for OPM Providers and RCC should conduct unscheduled inspections of non-contract Providers. Look to create master scheduling system and require agencies to conduct inspections jointly on the same day so as to minimize interruptions.

10. Centralize database in which every agency regulating Providers must input inspection results for the agencies to see. Information collected should feed into prediction analytic software that analysis data entered at the field level for potential red-flag issues that require re-inspection, intervention, or child removal. Alerts should be automatically sent to field agent as well as supervisor and require the field agent to react and record that reaction in the system within reasonable time frames.
11. Tax incentives to encourage private donors to "sponsor" children at the AWO, MWO, PSWO level and/or CSEC children under Providers' care who contract with OPM or DJJ. Could the state offer a dollar for dollar income tax credit with cap of \$2 million dollars total tax credits?
12. Is there any advantage to having a central contracting agency that handles both licensing and contracting on behalf of DFACS and DJJ?