Connecting to family child care
to reach families with Head Start and Early Head Start

NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL CONFERENCE
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Today’s discussion:

- Family child care is essential
- Quality in Family Child Care
- Head Start Performance Standards – your experience
- Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships
- Teaming up for families

Mary Beth Testa, Policy Consultant, NAFCC

Ellaine Miller, NAFCC Accreditation Council
NAFCC
The National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) is *the* professional association dedicated specifically to promoting high-quality early childhood experiences in the unique environment of family child care programs.

NAFCC represents 5,700 professional family child care providers:

- across all 50 states and the District of Columbia
- affiliate organizations & associations
Family child care is an essential piece of the puzzle

Family child care is a critical component of early care and education

We’re part of the solution to challenges

We are ready to serve

And yet the supply is declining and providers are struggling
Our story – by the numbers

- 11 million children younger than age 5 are in child care
- 1.4 million children receive CCDBG assistance – a 16-year low
  - From 2006 to 2014, nearly 364,000 fewer children received CCDBG-funded child care.
- Price of child care is high and families are struggling
  - Low wage jobs; nontraditional hours; choices
- Quality costs, and quality varies (and most is mediocre or poor)
- NSECE: 118,000 “listed” caregivers and 919,000 “unlisted” caregivers
- NCCQI/NARA: 134,920, down 13% since 2008
- Only 10 states license family child care providers caring for 1+ children
  - 40 states with some other threshold – huge population of lic. exempt care – they are the ece workforce too, and families are counting on them
What does building the supply mean for families?

- Meeting the needs of rural families
- Meeting the needs of families seeking infant care
- Meeting the needs of families that work nontraditional hours or ever-changing shifts
- Cultural and linguistic competence
- Increasing parent choice among high-quality options for children infants thru school age

Moving the field forward
Quality in Family Child Care

- NAFCC Accreditation
- State Systems
- Identifying quality, lifting quality
What is accreditation?

• “the process of bringing into credit or favor, or giving credentials to”
• “to certify that something meets certain standards”

NAFCC Accreditation is an indicator that family child care offers safe, inviting spaces and warm, nurturing care complete with educational activities designed to meet the needs and interests of all children while promoting individual development.
NAFCC accreditation

✓ The only nationally recognized accreditation system designed specifically for family child care providers.
✓ Accepted in many state QRIS efforts
✓ Currently working with 3,000 accredited or in process of accreditation

Elements of NAFCC accreditation:

- Comprehensive set of standards, usually developed by the industry itself: Quality Standards for NAFCC Accreditation [Benchmarks]
- A self-study process during which improvements relative to the standards are made: Self-Study
- External assessment: Observation Visit
- Decision: NAFCC Accreditation Commission
Continuum of Quality

- Self-Study
- Enrollment
- Re-accreditation
- Application
- Annual Renewals
- Observation
- Decision

Continuum of Quality
Quality Standards for NAFCC Accreditation

- Relationships
- The Environment
- Developmental Learning Activities
- Safety and Health
- Professional and Business Practices
Working together to help providers improve quality

- Provider Guide to Achieving NAFCC Accreditation
- Quality Standards for NAFCC Accreditation
- NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct
- Parent Guides
- NAFCC Benchmarks to Quality
Head Start Performance Standards

1306.31: grantee may choose the family child care option

- The program option chosen must meet the needs of the children and families as indicated by the community needs assessment conducted by the grantee.

- Consider such factors as the child's age, developmental level, disabilities, health or learning problems, previous preschool experiences and family situation. Grantees must also consider parents' concerns and wishes prior to making final assignments.

1306.35 lays out the details – responsibilities of the grantee, requirements of the family child care provider
Head Start Performance Standards

Family child care is in there as a model option

The proposed revision to the Performance Standards puts the family child care model front-and-center for grantees

64% of Head Start families in 2014 included at least one working parent, and 14% of families included a parent in school or job training

Partnering with family child care is a way to meet the needs of working families while also providing a rich experience for young children

But it is isn’t happening very much:

- 1,204 slots in Head Start (0.2% of the funded slots)
- 2,282 slots in Early Head Start (2.0% of the funded slots)
What is your experience?

Table Discussion: current or past experience working with family child care
Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships

In FY2014, Congress approved $500 million for Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships

- 275 new and expansion grantees
- 600 family child care providers are partners

For FY2016, Congress approved an additional $135 million

- The FOA is expected June 2016

Action steps:

- Join us today at 11 AM in Delta Ballroom B
- Watch for the FOA
- Reach out/stay in touch
- Join us in San Diego in July for Family Child Care Institute
Partnering to Reach Families, Boost Quality and Access

- Partnering at the program level
- Connect the state associations
- Advocate for FY17 investments in CCDBG and Head Start
- Advocate together at the state level for investments and policy change
Partnering to increase access and quality

Table discussion: what can we do together on the road ahead?

At the program level – to serve families by partnering with family child care

At an advocacy level – to ensure children and families have what they need
Stay in touch!

National Association for Family Child Care
Mary Beth Testa: policy@nafcc.org
www.nafcc.org

Action Steps:
- Join us today at 11 AM in Delta Ballroom B
- Watch for the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships FOA
- State association leadership connections
- Ask questions! Share stories!
- Advocate with NHSA and NAFCC!
- Join us in San Diego in July for Family Child Care Institute