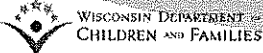


Exploring two models for monitoring license-exempt programs in Wisconsin

Anne Carmody and Jolene Ibeling
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Licensing Threshold in Wisconsin

- * License required when four or more children under age 7 years in care for less than 24 hours a day
- * Doesn't include care provided by a parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, step-parent, brother, sister, first cousin, nephew, niece, uncle or aunt of a child, by blood, marriage or legal adoption.
- * Doesn't include public or private schools.
- * Doesn't include persons coming to the child's house to provide care.

Programs eligible to receive a child care subsidy

- * Licensed programs (family child care, group child care and day camps) participating in QRIS.
- * License-exempt small family child care home providing care to 3 or fewer children under age 7 that are certified and participating in the QRIS.
- * License-exempt public school operated child care programs that have registered with DCF and are participating in the QRIS.

Certification

- * Wisconsin Statutes require each county or tribe to certify providers who care for families receiving child care subsidy, unless the provider is licensed or operated by a public school.
- * DCF contracts with local counties and tribes to administer child care certification. Counties/tribes may subcontract with another agency.
- * State promulgates administrative rules followed by certifying agencies and providers.

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State Oversight

- * **Contract Specialist:**
 - * Drafts contract requirements and amendments.
 - * Allocations, monitor budgets, reimbursement.
 - * Communicate/coordinate with counties and tribes.
- * **Program and Policy Analyst:**
 - * Develops rules and policy.
 - * Training for certifiers.
 - * Technical assistance to certifying agencies.

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State Oversight

Regional Coordinators:

- * Provide technical assistance (policy & automation).
- * Conduct certification reviews to ensure compliance with state/federal program requirements.
- * Respond to complaints by providers/parents about the services provided by certifying agencies.

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Certifying Agencies

- * Administrative Rules Specify Responsibilities of Certifying Agencies.
- * Certifying Agencies
 - * Make decision on when/whether to certify a provider
 - * Investigate complaints.
 - * Monitor providers for compliance with rules .
 - * Deny, revoke or suspend certification.
 - * Appeals of certification action handled at the county/tribal level.

Monitoring

- * Administrative rules identify requirements for providers.
- * Certification agencies monitor providers for all rules minimally (announced or unannounced visits).
 - * Upon Initial Application/Certification.
 - * Upon Relocation.
 - * At Recertification.
- * CCDBG Health and Safety Rules
 - * Subset of the certification rules.
 - * Monitored annually through unannounced visit.
- * Results of monitoring are posted to the public website.

Licensed Exempt Public School Operated Programs

- * Programs operated by public schools exempt from requirement for a license. May receive subsidy payments if participating in QRIS.
 - * Required by statute to follow licensing rules but oversight for compliance resided with the school board.
- * Programs operated by private schools are exempt from the requirement for a license. HOWEVER, they must be licensed and participate in the QRIS in order to be eligible for subsidy payments.

License-Exempt Public School Operated programs

- * Programs must participate in QRIS which makes them eligible for subsidy payments.
- * Programs must submit an application to the licensing office.
- * A Health and Safety Checklist that identifies which of the licensing rules will be monitored is shared with the program. The rules included on the checklist are a subset of the licensing rules for group child care centers including background checks, staff training, rules identified in the CCDBG and other rules identified as critical to health and safety.

Regulation Lite

- * The first visit is an announced visit conducted by the assigned licensing specialist. The licensing specialist reviews all the rules in the checklist and identifies those rules that are not in compliance.
- * Annual unannounced monitoring visit done by a DCF licensing specialist.
- * Complaints that are received in the licensing office will be investigated if they allege a violation of one of the Health and Safety rules. Otherwise, complaints will be referred to the public school for follow-up.
- * If program fails to comply with applicable rules, subsidy may be withheld. Enforcement actions available for licensed programs not available for license-exempt public schools.

Background Checks

Current Process

- * Certifying Agencies conduct background checks on:
 - Operators/Providers.
 - Household members.
 - Employees.
- * Licensing Agency conducts background checks on:
 - Licensees.
 - Household members.
 - Minor employees.
- * Licensed and License-Exempt School Operated Programs conduct background checks on:
 - Caregiver Employees.

Background Checks

Proposed Process under CCDBG

- * DCF will conduct checks for all certified, licensed and license-exempt school operated programs
- * DCF will have appeal process for individuals to appeal the determination.
 - * Licensees/Operators.
 - * Household Members.
 - * All Caregivers.

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Pros and Cons - Certification

- * Pros
 - * Doesn't add to the workload for licensing staff, background check staff, attorneys.
 - * Separate rules for certification
 - * Fewer regulations for providers caring for a small number of children
- * Cons
 - * Not the primary job for certifiers so more turn-over, higher learning curve
 - * Requires more training and technical assistance from state to insure that certification is done correctly
 - * More training required due to the turnover of certification staff

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Pros and Cons - Regulation Lite

- * Pros to DCF regulation lite for public schools
 - * Trained licensing staff
 - * Relatively small number of programs statewide so not a huge impact on caseload sizes
 - * Uses existing policies and procedures to administer
- * Cons to DCF regulation lite for public schools
 - * Only a subset of the licensing rules are monitored by licensing staff
 - * Enforcement authority is not the same as for licensed programs
 - * Confusion over what rules DCF will monitor

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Contact Information

Certification – Jolene Ibeling
jolene.ibeling@wisconsin.gov
608-422-6027

License-exempt public schools – Anne Carmody
anne.carmody@wisconsin.gov
608-422-6023

Wisconsin Child Care Regulation website
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/ccregulation>
