
**Report to
The Vermont Legislature**

**Report on a Plan for a Review of
Child Care Regulations and Processes**

In accordance with Section 86(b) of H.558
of the 2012 Legislative Session
(An Act Relating to Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Adjustment)

Submitted to: General Assembly

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Commissioner
Department for Children and Families

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Deputy Commissioner
Child Development Division

Report Date: March 13, 2012



**AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES
Department for Children and Families**

Section 86(b) of H.558 of the 2012 legislative session requires that the Commissioner of the Department for Children and Families (DCF) “. . . shall work with providers to carry out a thorough review and revision of child care regulations and processes, which shall be completed by January 2013. A plan for this initiative shall be submitted to the general assembly on or before March 13, 2012, with a report to be submitted to the general assembly on or before February 15, 2013.”

The Child Development Division (CDD) of DCF is embarking on a comprehensive revision of child care licensing regulations as directed by H.558 (page 116 of 134). CDD will engage parents, providers, and communities in meaningful dialogue and consensus building to create regulations that are child centered, family friendly, and fair to providers.

A series of community forums held throughout the state from January – April will give people an opportunity to hear about the implementation process, discuss “what matters” when it comes to child care licensing, and have questions answered by CDD Deputy Commissioner Reeva Murphy and Child Care Licensing and Financial Assistance Program Director Sheila Duranleau. These community forums are presented by CDD in partnership with local community agencies.

Currently there are five sets of child care licensing regulations in Vermont. This project involves four sets of regulations that will be streamlined into two: one for center-based programs, including programs providing non-recurring care; and one for family child care homes with two levels – certification and licensure. The current stand-alone after school age program regulations have been in review and development through a partnership between CDD and the Vermont Center for Afterschool Excellence and will be moving toward promulgation later this year.

The revision process for center and home regulations includes convening workgroups at six Vermont Interactive Television (VIT) sites across the state. The Saturday Workgroup participants will be responsible for meeting one Saturday a month with hired consultants to review research, hear presentations from content experts, and develop the new child care standards. This is a 40-hour commitment. Each VIT site has a facilitator who is responsible for working with the consultants to lead the discussions and development of the standards.

In addition, in order to obtain comprehensive input, workgroup participants have made a commitment to involve others in reviewing the new standards as they are drafted and bring the input back to the workgroup for discussion. Workgroup participation is voluntary and can be used for 40 hours professional development and we have found people who can commit to attend all or most of the ten sessions. This will ensure cohesive group formation and consistency of perspective while developing standards.

The workgroups consist of 104 people representing licensed centers, school-based programs, licensed and registered home providers, parent child centers, Head Start, Vermont Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children, and people who are interested in being part of this significant project.

The Process Management Team will review the standards created by the workgroups to make any final decisions that are necessary and ensure consistency in content and format. The team consists of 15 people representing CDD, the Department of Health, the Department of Education, the Department of Mental Health, the Vermont Child Care Military Liaison, two family child care programs and two center-based programs. This group will meet monthly after the Saturday workgroups to review the work, advise on proposed standards, and keep the process moving along effectively.

Upon completion of the new child care licensing standards (by January 2013), CDD will begin the rule promulgation process.

Information about the process and the emerging regulations will be posted online with on-going opportunities for input at <http://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd>.

**Vermont Child Care Licensing Regulation Revision Project
Child Development Division
Community Forums**

Date & Time* (date subject to change, please check CDD website)	Location	Region & Contact Person
Friday, January 5 6:30 – 8:30 PM	Green Mountain Technical Center 738 Route 15 West Hyde Park, VT	Lamoille County Kascinda Fleming, 802-888-0539 KFleming@LamoilleFamilyCenter.org
Monday, January 9 6:30 – 8:30 PM	NCSS The Family Center 130 Fisher Pond Road St. Albans, VT	Franklin-Grand Isle Danielle Lindley, 802-393-6586 Danielle.Lindley@ncssinc.org
Thursday, January 19 6:30 – 8:30 PM	Essex Alliance Church Fellowship Hall, 37 Old Stage Road Essex Jct., VT	Chittenden County Elizabeth Meyer, 802-863-3367, Ext 18 EMeyer@ChildCareResource.org
Monday, January 23 6:00 – 8:00 PM Thursday, April 5	Asa Bloomer Building 2 nd Fl. Conf. Room, Merchants Row Rutland, VT	Rutland Area Jan Krantz, 802-775-9711 Jan.Krantz@RCPC.org
Thursday, February 2 6:00 – 8:00 PM	Marlboro Graduate Center 28 Vernon Street Brattleboro, VT	Windham Region Elizabeth Raposa, 802-254-5332, Ext 311 Elizabeth@WindhamChildCare.org
Thursday, February 9 6:00 – 8:00 PM	Springfield Area PCC 6 Main Street North Springfield, VT	Springfield Region Betty Kinsman, 802-886-5242, Ext 225 BettyK@Vermontel.net
Monday, February 13 6:00 – 8:00 PM	Old First Church Barn 1 Monument Circle Bennington, VT	Bennington County Robin Stromgren, 802-447-2887 Benx6@sover.net
Monday, February 27 6:00 – 8:00 PM	The Family Place 319 US Route 55 Norwich, VT	Hartford Region Mary Nyhan, 802-649-3268, Ext 105 MaryN@The-Family-Place.org
Monday, March 5 6:00 – 8:00 PM TBD	Mary Johnson Children's Center 81 Water Street Middlebury, VT	Addison County Barbara Saunders, 802-388-2853 Barbara@MJCCVT.org
Monday, March 12 6:30 – 8:30 PM	Family Center of Washington County 383 Sherwood Drive Montpelier, VT	Washington County Lee Lauber, 802-262-3292, Ext 118 LeeL@FCWCvt.org
Monday, March 26 6:30 – 8:30 PM	North Country Career Center 209 Veterans Avenue Newport, VT	Orleans / Northeast Kingdom Jessica Poirier, 802-525-4248 JPoirier1069@gmail.com
Thursday, March 29 5:30 – 7:30 PM	VT Dept of Health Conf. Room Eastern Avenue St. Johnsbury, VT	Caledonia County Ami English, 802-673-8867 BBFCoordinator@yahoo.com

DEVELOPMENT PHASE – Timeline and Process Developed by CDD

December 2011/January 2012	Develop RFP and hire consultants
December 2011	Announcement postcard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website functional • Survey for VIT sites • Applications for facilitators
January – March 2012	Statewide tours to kick off regulation review and solicit participation and ideas
February 2012	Identify participants for all groups
January 2012	Convene initial Process Management Team meeting to begin implementation – group meets monthly thereafter
March – December 2012	VIT Saturday Workgroup sessions – explore issues and information and develop standards
February – November 2012	Additional community forums – existing forums and Legislative Day and VAEYC conference, etc.
November/December 2012	Prepare final draft proposed rules for filing

PROMULGATION PHASE – Timeline and Process Dictated by Statute

January 4, 2013	Pre-file proposed rules with ICAR
January 15-24, 2013	Prepare proposed rules for filing with Secretary of State
January 25, 2013	File proposed rules with Secretary of State
January 30 and February 7, 2013	Rules published online and in newspaper
March 7, 2013	Public Hearing
March 14, 2013	Comment period over
March 14-29, 2013	Incorporate public comment into Comment Response Document and mail to all participants
March 14-29, 2013	Prepare final proposed rules for filing with Secretary of State and LCAR
April/May 2013	Meet with LCAR – wait for LCAR action before filing adopted rules
June 2013	Prepare adopted rules for filing
June 2013	File adopted rules
June 2013	Post adopted rules on CDD website
September 2013	New regulations implemented