

Questions for witnesses for H.171

1. Academic research says that advanced degrees are very important in childcare. What has been your practical experience?

I have mixed feelings about my experience so far. I have taken three courses from CCV from a variety of topics such as curriculum, to after school care and child development for child ages 3-8. The rest of my college credits have been awarded through a Focused Portfolio meaning that I was able to learn about topics and provide proof and documentation about topics in five college level Early Education college courses. I did not necessarily learn about the topics through CCV classes it was accumulated through my past 13 years of work and study and professional development. The bottom line is you need a college degree to do just about anything and I believe it is the same with child care and early childhood education. TEACH offers me an opportunity to better myself and my earn my degree just as I could at corporation. As far as having an advanced degree I wouldn't know because I don't even have my associates degree yet. I can say that I am thankful for the opportunity that TEACH allows me- and CCV for coming up with flexible programming such as the Focused portfolio, online and accelerated courses, and continuing to offer courses in early education.

2. Do you accept families who utilize the state's childcare assistance? **Yes**
Do you cap or have a limit on the number of children from those families that your program is able to take? **No I do not.**

Would changes in H.171 that expand the Childcare Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) to lower income and middle-income families improve access to your childcare program? **Maybe. It would help families choose between me or a cheaper unregistered program.**

3. What would the impact of being paid based on enrollment versus attendance have on your program? **Being paid on enrollment would me that parents could live their lives and do what they need to do and not worry about paying for a child care spot they don't need when they don't need it and they could have the spot available when they do need it. For instance a school teacher does not need child care for school vacations or summer but I may need them to pay to hold the spot or they may loose the spot. I usually work something out with families and they will come part time and that is fine by me. Some providers may fill the spot leaving this child to find a new provider in the fall. A family with a school age child who is gone for soccer season but**

needs their spot back after soccer for child care. It would allow kids to engage in kid things and take the pressure off parents to worry about if they have a spot when they need it. Best case scenario is that the spot is consistently there for the child and family. Being paid based on attendance could potentially effect my enrollment. If CCFAP will not pay when the child is not here then I may reconsider taking the child. For a child care provider we make money based on steady enrollment. It is good business because it keeps me from having to constantly fill spots and it keeps our group intimate. I don't want people coming and going all week and I don't think it is good for the children either.

4. When you submit your program's information to the State for the market rate survey, what do you submit and how do you come up with the figure? ***I submit the top of the line rate that the CCFAP will give me based on having 4 STARS. I only have 3 STARS but those rates are more in line with what I charge. You do not get what your don't ask for. And for some reason it has helped some of my families get more assistance in the past. I am not sure why.***

5. If your program takes children ages 0-3, what does a typical day look like? ***We have a order of the day. My schedule is basic and predictable infants will typically nap and feed on their own schedule. Opened ended play is choice of what ever is available that week including some table top games and academics. the program is geared more toward preschool but can be adapted for toddlers and after school. Infants are free to rom in my program we don't have a lot of gadgets, swings, bouncy seats etc for infants as I believe best practice is floor time - roll- crawl- walk. Most of my attention is with the infants so my home child care is set up to be accessible to the other kiddos. I also have a dedicated space to my child care with the exception of meals, we play and sleep in the basement.***

7:15- kids arrive

open ended play

8:30- breakfast

babies may nap

older kids circle and activities

outside time

11:40 Lunch

naps all kids

kids play as they wake

3:35 bus arrives

snack

finish the day outside

6. What do you think about the concept of the State setting the lowest amount you would be allowed to pay an employee of your program?
 1. *If the state is going to pay then sure go ahead and set the rates.*
 2. *If the state is not going to pay then I see this as a potentially adding to the already high cost of child care. Does the state set rates for other businesses? We have a minimum wage already in place.*

7. As a provider, someone who is doing the work:
 - a) please identify one thing that the state could do to improve your interaction with them and support your business and the children; *Take over the professional development system like we had before. Providers should not be coming up with our own PD. These great Network leaders are working their program during the day and then nights and weekends they are holding network meeting and training. Some of these providers themselves do not have the education to do this for us. Communication- I see you are trying- and I know we are difficult to deal with. When we had a resource specialist we were able to reach out to her for questions/concern. Lets grow kids offered a mentor to come around to all of the providers to help with professional development, elevate stars and help people with getting their career ladder level. This was an amazing asset to have Cheryl Wells was mine. she would come out and visit the kids knew her. She was our meteor and cheerleader. I could ask her about anything, from STARS to curriculum and best practice*
 - b) what is one thing the state should stop doing and *stop ignoring illegal child care. it is my understanding that although it is illegal the legislators have to come up with a course of action. Is child care important? What about PreK/ preschool and Act 166? It sends mixed messages when there is no consequences for illegal child care (child care with more than two families who are unregistered)*
 - c) what is one thing the state should keep doing *keep working on CCFAP. I believe this is the best way to encourage quality child care. If everyone is eligible for CCFAP then it will prompt people who may be running illegal unregistered child care (more than two families) to become registered, get the training, follow the regulations, get the background checks, CPR/ infant certifications. I believe in choice, of course people should be able to choose who they bring their children to. There are stories of children getting hurt at*

child care that parents did not know was not registered. Providers getting registered for one year then not re registering and not communicating with their families that they were no longer registered. we need to educate our families about registered legal child care and educate the providers running unregistered care because they may not realize it is wrong. Legislators, the state and all of the registered and licensed providers have worked so hard to make this child care system work that it doesn't make sense not to have consequences for providers running unregistered child care. Helping all families pay for child care could solve this.