

Illinois' Contracted Child Care at Dept. of Children & Family Services

- Site Administered Employment Related Child Care
- Network of almost 200 contracts with 500 sites
- Eight regions
 - Regional Day Care Coordinators
 - Oversight of 3 child care programs
 - Frequent communication with providers
 - Regular meetings of providers for training and TA



Strengths

- Funds were allocated to the Regions
- Regional staff were able to work with community leaders to create special programs to meet the needs of a specific population
- Department expected a higher level of:
 - Program quality
 - Parent engagement
 - Community involvement



Transition to Dept. of Human Services

- State agency reorganization
- CCDBG 1996 reauthorization
- Blended of all child care programs
- Kept the Site Administered Contracts
 - Without the regional structure of support
 - Now have 45 contractors with 108 programs



Lessons Learned

- **Lack of regional presence weakened program**
- **State agency staff – a must**
 - Communicates vision
 - Provides training and TA to regional staff

Current Plan

- **Comprehensive Child Care Grant Program**
 - Site Administered Child Care contracts
 - Family Child Care Networks

