

# National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance (ECQA Center)

## Monthly Report, September 2016

This report summarizes activities conducted under cooperative agreement 90TA0002-01-00 during September 1–30, 2016.

### Upcoming Events Supported by the ECQA Center

- ◆ The Continuous Quality Improvement in Family Child Care peer learning group (PLG) is offering one session for each cohort in October:
  - October 18–19: In-person meeting in Chicago (cohort 2)
  - October 20: Final webinar on team project presentations (cohort 1)
- ◆ The Conversations on Access and Quality for Infants and Toddlers peer learning group is also offering one session for each cohort in October:
  - October 18–19: In-person meeting in Seattle (cohort 1)
  - October 21: Implications for State Policies and State Systems (final webinar for cohort 2)
- ◆ Tim Adams will be attending the Office of Head Start (OHS) national professional development (PD) meeting on October 17–20
- ◆ A train-the-trainer webinar on *Strengthening Fiscal Management for Child Care Programs* will be piloted in Pennsylvania on November 14 and Ohio on November 29. Trainers will be expected to deliver this training to child care providers (center-based and family child care) at least twice in the next few months.

### Resource Development and Management

#### Resource Development

- ◆ A list of written products produced in September is provided in appendix A. In summary, seven new products were developed.
- ◆ One product was posted to the Early Childhood Training and Technical Assistance System (ECTTAS) website in September:

- Webinar recording and materials for High-Quality Early Learning for Dual-Language Learners: Moving from Research to Policy to Practice

## National Database of Child Care Licensing Regulations

- ◆ The website was launched on August 24; it includes links to each State's licensing requirements, quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) program standards, subsidy program requirements, and prekindergarten program standards. Technology and Management Solutions staff continue to work on the full search functionality and PDF files of all regulations.

## Electronic Tools

- ◆ Enhancements to the Provider Cost of Quality Calculator are being planned, with feedback from several States and Anne Mitchell.
- ◆ Sheri Fischer provided three demonstrations of the National Database of Child Care Licensing Regulations and the National Program Standards Crosswalk Tool in the STAM Resource Room on September 28 and 29.

## Provision of Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA)

### Health, Safety, and Licensing

- ◆ Presentations on the following topics were given at the National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA) Annual Licensing Seminar on September 19-21: 1) From Community Systems to State Policy: Building Strong Communities of Licensed and License-Exempt Providers; 2) Beyond the Inspection Checklist: Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities for Successful Child Care Licensing Inspectors; 3) Impact of Federal Child Care Initiatives on State Health and Safety Standards and Monitoring Practices; and 4) The Long and Winding Road: Revising Licensing Requirements.
- ◆ The ECQA Center facilitated a focus group on child care licensing at the NARA Annual Licensing Seminar on September 19. Representatives from Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Oregon, Washington, Denver, St. Louis, Canada, and the Cherokee Nation shared their input on promising practices, challenges, and needs in several key areas within the field of licensing. Their input was shared with the Licensing Expert Panel participants.
- ◆ Nina Johnson facilitated a peer-to-peer discussion between Washington and Georgia at the NARA Annual Licensing Seminar on September 20. Participants from Georgia shared the process for putting in place the State's weighted enforcement system. Washington has requested follow-up phone calls with Georgia.
- ◆ Twenty-five participants attended the Child Care Licensing Expert Panel meeting on September 21–22 in Portland, Oregon. This group includes representatives from state licensing agencies in Georgia, Oregon, and Utah. Members will be given the opportunity to submit their feedback on the meeting and recommendations for moving forward through a survey. Notes from the meeting will be shared with all Expert Panel participants. The ECQA Center received the following comments:
  - Katherine Beckmann, Administration for Children and Families, sent the following message regarding including the policy statement on monitoring in the Expert Panel email: "Hi ECQA team. I just wanted to send a quick note to say thank you for your hard work in putting together and leading the Expert Panel on Licensing and Monitoring. It was such a collegial and productive meeting. I left feeling inspired and excited for what's to come. The Panel will be a wonderful asset as we move towards CCDBG implementation as well as operationalization of the policy statement. See you next week at STAM!"

- Kristie Lewis, Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Services, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, sent the following email regarding the licensing research scan to Nina Johnson: “I just wanted to tell you how much I appreciate being asked to participate. I learned so much from hearing others talk and feel very honored that you would consider asking me to participate. Every time I get around a group like this one, I realize how much I have to learn and grow and I really just appreciate this opportunity. I hope you had safe travels home and I will see you in DC next week. Thank you again!”
- ◆ Tim Adams and Nina Johnson met with New Hampshire Lead Agency staff to discuss consumer education and license-exempt providers on September 27.

## Quality

- ◆ Two webinars for the family child care (FCC) peer learning group occurred in September. The first webinar for the second cohort—*Factors Necessary for Supporting FCC: Self-Assessment and Moving to Action*—was offered on September 7. On September 13, the ECQA Center hosted the fourth webinar for cohort 1: *Understanding Existing Local, State, and Federal Policies and Regulations*. Rachel Schumacher joined this webinar.
- ◆ A national webinar, *High-Quality Early Learning for Dual-Language Learners: Moving from Research to Policy to Practice*, took place on September 8. There were 335 attendees with diverse representation, including state agencies, Tribes, child care resource and referral agencies, Head Start grantees, research and technical assistance organizations, early childhood advocacy and support organizations, public schools, and early childhood foundations. Feedback was gathered via survey following the webinar. The large majority of respondents shared positive feedback. A few indicated that they had hoped that more information applicable to the classroom would be shared.
- ◆ Darlene Hamilton offered a presentation titled *QRIS and Registries: How Can One Support the Other?* at the National Workforce Registry Alliance conference in Denver on September 8.
- ◆ Char Goodreau continues to have monthly check-in calls with the Kansas QRIS manager. The QRIS manager shared Kansas’s draft QRIS self-assessment for review and feedback, and Char offered considerations around ensuring that the standards are not duplicative and that the progression between levels is meaningful.
- ◆ Child Trends researchers had monthly check-in calls with States (AR, GA, ID, NV, NC) receiving tailored technical assistance on evaluating quality investments. Kathryn Tout is also providing evaluation materials to Minnesota. Representatives from Idaho and Nevada shared their experiences and progress at the State Administrator’s Meeting and spoke very highly of the support they had received from the ECQA Center.

## T&TA Coordination and Collaboration

### Collaboration with National Centers

- ◆ A national webinar, *High-Quality Early Learning for Dual-Language Learners: Moving from Research to Policy to Practice*, took place on September 8. It was hosted by the ECQA Center in partnership with OHS and the National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching and Learning.
- ◆ Staff joined the Office of Child Care (OCC) on weekly State and Territory Administrators Meeting (STAM) planning calls on September 8, 15, and 22.
- ◆ On September 12, Darlene Hamilton and Michele Adams participated in a call with the National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment to plan a webinar on FCC and school-age care.

- ◆ Laura Johns and Char Goodreau met with Jennifer Amaya Thompson and Shantel Meek on September 14 to discuss the ECQA Center's efforts to provide an Equity, Inclusiveness, and Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Practices (EICLRP) perspective in all resources.
- ◆ Most staff joined the OHS webinar for technical assistance providers on September 14 to introduce the Head Start Program Performance Standards.
- ◆ Nancy vonBargen, Darlene Hamilton, Tim Adams, and Laura Johns participated in the National Center Leadership Team (NCLT) director's monthly call on September 15.
- ◆ On September 15, Char Goodreau joined Region X staff and the Region X State Systems Specialist and Infant/Toddler Specialist for an on-site meeting at the Washington Department of Early Learning (DEL). DEL staff shared updates on quality and PD activities and monitoring and standards alignment.
- ◆ Darlene Hamilton and Tim Adams participated on a call with the National Center on Early Head Start–Child Care Partnerships on September 20 to discuss future areas of collaboration between the two centers. Calls will be scheduled monthly.
- ◆ Char Goodreau and Darlene Hamilton participated on a focus group call hosted by the National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness to discuss gold standards for health and wellness.

## Collaboration with Other Partners

- ◆ On September 9, Nina Johnson met with Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes and Arkansas staff to plan for integrated monitoring technical assistance.
- ◆ Laura Johns and Nancy vonBargen participated in EICLRP workgroup calls on September 9 and 23.
- ◆ Nancy vonBargen participated in the Early Learning Challenge Technical Assistance Consortium call on September 23.
- ◆ Nina Johnson is having regular meetings with NARA's president, Tara Orłowski, to discuss collaboration on product development and T&TA activities.

## Collaboration with Integrated Services Team

- ◆ Tim Adams joined other Integrated Services Team members on one call this month to confirm final regional professional development plans.

## Utilization Data

The following data on the QRIS Resource Guide, National Program Standards Crosswalk Tool, Cost Estimation Model, and Provider Cost of Quality Calculator were gathered using Google Analytics.

### Use of QRIS Resource Guide, September 2016

Number of Visits	Users' Platforms	Five Most Popular Pages
◆ 2,774 total	◆ 2,169 desktop	◆ QRIS State Information
◆ 1,974 first-time visitors	◆ 577 mobile	◆ QRIS Home page
	◆ 98 tablet	◆ About QRIS
		◆ QRIS Resource Guide Landing Page
		◆ State Pennsylvania

### Use of National Program Standards Crosswalk Tool, September 2016

Number of Visits	Users' Platforms	Number Referred from Other Sites	Popular Referring Sites
◆ 211 total	◆ 194 desktop	52	◆ childcareta.acf.hhs.gov
◆ 133 first-time visitors	◆ 14 mobile		◆ eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov
	◆ 3 tablet		◆ ecels-healthychildcarepa.org

### Use of Cost Estimation Model Tool, September 2016

Number of Visits	Users' Platforms	Number Referred from Other Sites	Popular Referring Sites
◆ 36 total	◆ 32 desktop	19	◆ childcareta.acf.hhs.gov
◆ 19 first-time visitors	◆ 4 mobile		◆ acf.hhs.gov
	◆ 0 tablet		◆ naeyc.org

**Use of Provider Cost of Quality Calculator, September 2016**

Number of Visits	Users' Platforms	Number Referred from Other Sites	Popular Referring Sites
◆ 118 total	◆ 112 desktop	0	
◆ 49 first-time visitors	◆ 5 mobile ◆ 1 tablet		

## Appendix A. ECQA Center Written Products, September 2016

Topic	Title	Resource Type	Approved by OCC	Published on Website	Date	Description
Health and safety and licensing	Creating a Meaningful Monitoring System for License-Exempt Providers	PowerPoint	Yes		9/28/2016	PowerPoint developed for a presentation at the 2016 STAM about monitoring systems for license-exempt providers. It includes examples from Utah and Indiana.
Health and safety and licensing	The Inspection Connection: Licensing Inspector Training and Qualifications	PowerPoint	Yes		9/28/2016	PowerPoint developed for a presentation at the 2016 STAM about competencies associated with the regulatory field that can help inform job qualifications, performance expectations, training, and professional development goals for licensing staff. Includes examples from Oklahoma and Virginia; the presentation was facilitated by a representative from NARA.
Quality improvement systems	Evaluating Quality Investments: From Daunting to Doable	PowerPoint	Yes		9/28/2016	PowerPoint developed for a presentation at the 2016 STAM about planning evaluations of quality investments. It includes examples from Nevada and Idaho; the presentation was facilitated by a representative from Child Trends.
Health and safety and licensing	Beyond the Inspection Checklist: Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities for Successful Child Care Licensing Inspectors	PowerPoint	Yes		9/14/2016	PowerPoint developed for a presentation at the 2016 NARA Annual Licensing Seminar about knowledge, skills, and competencies for child care licensing inspectors.
Health and safety and licensing	The Long and Winding Road: Revising Licensing Requirements	PowerPoint	Yes		9/14/2016	PowerPoint developed for a presentation at the 2016 NARA Annual Licensing Seminar about the process of revising licensing regulations.

Topic	Title	Resource Type	Approved by OCC	Published on Website	Date	Description
Quality improvement systems	From Community Systems to State Policy: Building Strong Communities of Licensed and License-Exempt Providers	PowerPoint	Yes		9/14/2016	PowerPoint developed for a presentation at the 2016 NARA Annual Licensing Seminar about supporting licensed and license-exempt providers equitably.
Health and safety and licensing	Impact of Federal Child Care Initiatives on State Health and Safety Standards and Monitoring Practices	PowerPoint	Yes		9/14/2016	PowerPoint developed for a presentation at the 2016 NARA Annual Licensing Seminar about tools and resources available to assist in the implementation of the new Child Care and Development Fund health and safety requirements and licensing regulations.

*The National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance (ECQA Center) supports state and community leaders and their partners in the planning and implementation of rigorous approaches to quality in all early care and education settings for children from birth to school age. The ECQA Center is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.*

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