



PROVIDER SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

October 21, 2010

3:00 PM

ELC Board Room

- | | | |
|------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| I. | Welcome & Introductions | Gina Cortes-Suarez, Committee Chair |
| II. | Approval of Agenda | Gina Cortes-Suarez, Committee Chair |
| III. | Approval of September 30th Minutes | Gina Cortes-Suarez, Committee Chair |
| IV. | Provider Suspension Policy | |
| V. | New Business | |
| VI. | Public Comment | |
| VII. | Adjourn | |

Mission: To promote high-quality school readiness, voluntary pre-kindergarten and after school programs, thus increasing all children's chances of achieving future educational success and becoming productive members of society. The Coalition seeks to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs of Miami-Dade and Monroe County children with a priority toward the ages before birth through age 5.



Minutes

Provider Services Committee Meeting
September 30, 2010; 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe
Board Room
2555 Ponce De Leon Blvd Suite 500
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Committee Attendees: Gina Cortes-Suarez; Shaleen Fagundo; Dr. Daniel Armstrong (via conference call); Santiago Echemendia (Board Counsel)

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres (CEO; via conference call); Blythe Robinson (via conference call); Angelo Parrino (via conference call); Tabatha Cullen (via conference call); Jackye Russell; Mary Williams (via conference call); Nicole Bardin; Carol Brogan; Kerry Allen; Milton Silvera; Leana Pena; Kristina Alonso

General Attendees: Linda Carmona (AECE); Edith Humes-Newbold (MDC); Dr. Yvonne Johnson (board member); Geisy Paez (Precious Years Christian Preschool); Armando Paez (Precious Years Christian Preschool); Doug Melamed (attorney for Precious Years Christian Preschool); Luis Davila (AHCA-Florida Medicaid); Barbara Paredes (New Sunrise I); Yannet Parrondo (New Sunrise I); Elizabeth Bezos (AECE); Erika Goitezolo (Precious Years); Aura Gutierrez (Precious Years)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| I. Welcome and Introductions | Gina Cortes-Suarez |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|

- G. Cortes-Suarez welcomed the committee, staff and attendees.

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| II. Approval of Agenda | Gina Cortes-Suarez |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|

- G. Cortes-Suarez called for the approval of the agenda.
 - S. Fagundo moved to approve the agenda
 - D. Armstrong seconded the motion.

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| III. Approval of May 21th Minutes | Gina Cortes-Suarez |
|---|---------------------------|

- G. Cortes-Suarez called for the approval of the minutes from the May 21st meeting.
 - D. Armstrong moved to approve the minutes.
 - S. Fagundo seconded the motion.

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| IV. Medicaid Presentation | Luis Davila, Agency for Healthcare Administration |
|----------------------------------|--|

- Luis Davila of the Agency for Healthcare Administration presented an overview of how the Medicaid program functions.
 - The objectives of the Medicaid program are to provide broad healthcare coverage to lower income populations, offer special community based



- coverage for certain disabled and elder populations and offset the high costs of institutional care for lower and moderate income Americans.
- Applications for public benefits are processed by either the Department of Children and Families (DCF) or the Social Security Administration (SSA.) The screening process evaluates eligibility based on family situation, medical necessity, income, assets and liabilities.
 - DCF determines eligibility for families with children, and medically and financially eligible persons who are aged, blind or disabled and receiving benefits from the SSA.
 - SSA determines eligibility for all initial applicants who are aged blind or disabled.

V. New Sunrise Grievance

- J. Russell discussed the details related to the grievance received from New Sunrise.
 - The coalition received notification from the Department of Education (DOE) regarding New Sunrise's status as a VPK Low Performing Provider (LPP) for the fourth year in a row. As a result of that finding, the DOE decided that New Sunrise would no longer be able to provide the VPK program.
 - New Sunrise submitted an appeal to DOE for a good cause exemption. That exemption was also denied as a result of a number of DCF licensing violations that New Sunrise had acquired in the previous two years. As a result of the termination of VPK and the Class 2 licensing violations, and since the children in the center served by VPK are also served by School Readiness, the Board of Directors made the determination to suspend New Sunrise from the School Readiness program as well.
- S. Echemendia requested that J. Russell read the DCF class 2 violations that DOE was referring to. S. Echemendia cited a letter from Melinda Webster to New Sunrise listing the various violations and a confirmation that those instances violate the portion of the agreement that states that if a provider is a state licensed childcare provider, the provider agrees to comply with all the requirements 62C-22 and 402.302-319 of the Florida Statutes.
- J. Russell stated the violations in question:
 - The DCF licensing inspection report dated March 31, 2009, lists the non-compliance restriction as: verification of employment history for the past two years was not on file for those employed. The due date was April 17, 2009. The violation level was Class 2.
 - The DCF licensing inspection report dated May 5, 2009 lists the non-compliance restriction as: the facility is licensed to serve 30 children and a total of 31 children were counted at the center and/or were on a field trip. The violation level is Class 2.
 - The DCF licensing inspection report dated August 4, 2009 lists the non-compliance restriction as verification of employment history for the past two years was not on file for those employees identified on the supplemental report. The due date was August 5, 2009. The violation level is Class 2.
 - The DCF licensing inspection report dated August 20, 2009 states the non-compliance restriction is the facility is licensed to serve 30 children and a total of 32 children were counted at the center and/or were on a field trip. The violation level is Class 2.



- The last violation is from the DCF licensing inspection report dated April 8, 2010. The non-compliance restriction is verification of employment history for the past two years was not on file for the employees listed on the supplemental report. The due date was April 12, 2010. The violation level is Class 2.
- J. Russell stated that the aforementioned are all violations of the DCF licensing requirements and as a result, violations of the School Readiness provider agreement.
- S. Echemendia asked if the provision on page 12, paragraph 27 of the School Readiness provider agreement that related to suspension of payment is the provision being relied upon to determine non-compliance, to which J. Russell responded that it was.
- S. Echemendia asked if the recommendation to the committee is to proceed with giving New Sunrise notice of payment suspension based on this provision to which J. Russell replied that it is.
- G. Cortes-Suarez asked the petitioner, New Sunrise, to share any remarks or statements.
- Y. Parrondo introduced herself as representing her mother, B. Paredes, the owner of New Sunrise. Ms. Parrondo shared details about the center and situation in question.
 - New Sunrise is small center in business for the last 12 years. Things have changed since the business first opened and because of the language barrier B. Paredes faces, it has been difficult to keep up to date with the changes.
 - New Sunrise put together a quality improvement plan explaining their intentions to get NAEYC accreditation and their contract with educational specialists that will come in five times a week to train the teachers and share strategies for improvement. In addition, although not Quality Counts participants, they are currently registered for a Quality Counts Course, "The Foundations of Language Learning and Literacy Components." New Sunrise will be taking courses from board members of the Alliance for Early Care and Education. All of these steps are to help improve the quality of the center and keep up to date with all the requirements.
 - New Sunrise respectfully requests to be put on the fast track to acceptance into the Quality Counts program. With the guidance of Quality Counts, they can achieve their goals for improvement.
- G. Cortes asked Y. Parrondo how many children were in the VPK program and how many were in School Readiness to which Y. Parrondo responded that there were previously seven children enrolled in VPK and eighteen enrolled in School Readiness.
- S. Fagundo asked if all the children enrolled at the center were in School Readiness to which Y. Parrondo replied that all but four children were.
- S. Fagundo asked if the violations in question were remedied by the due dates to which J. Russell responded that they were. S. Fagundo also asked when New Sunrise's license was renewed to which Y. Parrondo responded that it was renewed September 1st.
- S. Echemendia asked if the fact that DCF renewed New Sunrise's license changes the recommendation of staff to which J. Russell responded that it did not change the Board's recommendation to suspend them because the determination for suspension of School Readiness was based on the fact that they were low performing as a VPK provider for four consecutive years and they had multiple Class 2 violations in the previous 2 years.



- S. Fagundo stated that while the provider agreement does contain sections referring to having a license in good standing and advising the Coalition if there is action taken against a license, it does not mention anything related to performance in a separate contract for a separate population of students.
- S. Echemendia stated that staff is acting based on the School Readiness provider agreement which states that if a provider is a licensed childcare provider, they agree to comply with all the requirements of 62C-22 and 402.302-319 of the Florida Statutes. Staff's determination is that there has been a failure to comply with those requirements over the course of the two-year period and is therefore, recommending the suspension of payment based on a violation of that provision.
- S. Fagundo responded that what J. Russell had said was that this was the Board's recommendation and that staff was following board direction. What was heard at the last meeting was that the LPP status prompted the look at these providers which was aggravated by the licensing violations. In the provider agreement, it says that the provider will abide by licensing requirements and in the instance of New Sunrise their license was renewed. Is there anything in the contract that says that if they remedy the non-compliance issues we would still take this action?
- J. Russell responded that the cure provision would be related to the policy that they would be suspended for a year and then have the opportunity to reapply at that time.
- G. Cortes-Suarez asked how many times the school has lost their license to which J. Russell responded that they have never lost their license. They have had licensing violations that have been remedied.
- S. Fagundo stated that what we are doing in this grievance process is setting the precedence for all providers who have School Readiness contracts. In this case, there was a history of low performance that brought to light these issues before the board. Do we have any knowledge of how many providers end up having licensing violations that are remedied within 24 hours? How would we be able to enforce this precedent and are we going to be suspending payment across the board for all providers who end up having these remedied violations? While their consecutive LPP status is not an indicator of high quality, from a contracting basis, you cannot enforce this across the board in a standardized way.
- Y. Parrondo commented that if the Board does decide to take away their School Readiness program, being a small center whose main source of income is funds from School Readiness, they would not survive and would have to shut down if payment ceased for one year. Y. Parrondo stated that New Sunrise does have a quality improvement plan and is trying to get everything up to date to increase the quality of the center.
- S. Fagundo asked J. Russell if it was her assessment that since the provider agreement essentially states that providers will follow DCF licensing procedures, in remedying the violations, can it be said that they followed procedure.
- J. Russell clarified that the agreement states they will be in compliance with DCF licensing. At the time that this determination was made, they were not in compliance with DCF licensing.
- S. Fagundo stated that she feels that the state gives providers varying amounts of time to correct violations. We are following a different set of requirements that are not explicitly stated in the agreement. She believes that we should be following the same set of requirements as the state. The provider was out of compliance and the state gave them time to remedy the non-compliance issue which they did. She stated that she is not comfortable with terminating a contract or suspending payment when the provider followed the procedures from



the state. If we are going to have a different set of expectations for providers, we need to be explicit about it in the agreement.

- G. Cortes-Suarez asked for a copy of New Sunrise's quality improvement plan. After reviewing, G. Cortes-Suarez suggested that work was needed on the plan.
- S. Fagundo added that she appreciates that the provider is looking to identify areas of improvement. This is exactly what we should have in what would normally be a cure period. She feels that the provider would certainly benefit from mentoring from Quality Counts.
- E. Torres added that while it is a good idea to place all providers with quality issues, this is not the purpose of the Quality Counts program, nor does the capacity exist to accept them all without any additional funding.
- S. Echemendia stated that though the agreement does provide for a 30-day cure period for some types of violations, it explicitly excludes these very types of violations from the cure period.
- D. Armstrong stated that he shares the concern that even an hour of non-compliance can be something that can create a dangerous situation. D. Armstrong stated that while he has empathy and sympathy for the situation the provider is in, he is concerned that their improvement plan was created not when the first or second violation occurred, but when the notification that the funding would cease was received.
- D. Armstrong moved to continue with the staff and Board recommendation.
 - G. Cortes-Suarez seconded the motion
 - S. Fagundo opposed.
 - Motion was passed by majority.

VI. Precious Years Christian Preschool Grievance

- J. Russell stated the nature of the non-compliance occurrences of Precious Years Christian Preschool.
 - Documentation of level 2 screening was missing for a staff member. The due date was November 17, 2008. The violation level is Class 2.
 - Verification of employment history for the last two years was not on file for the staff member indicated on the supplemental report. The due date was November 21, 2008. The violation level is Class 2.
 - Documentation of level 2 screening was missing for a staff member. The due date was June 26, 2009. The violation level is Class 2.
 - Monthly fire drills were not conducted. The due date is March 19, 2010. The violation level was technical support.
- D. Melamed, attorney representing Precious Years, stated his concerns over the rights of his clients, and what he feels is an arbitrary process that does not follow the letter and spirit of what the law is supposed to be. He expressed the following points:
 - A letter dated September 13th, 2010, stated that on Tuesday, September 7th, the Board of Directors made a decision to stop providing School Readiness funding to centers that can no longer provide the VPK Program. D. Melamed asked what gave the board the right to make that decision. That is a rule changing authority and a decision that cannot be arbitrarily applied at a given point in time.
 - There is Florida law that discusses if there is rule making that affects the private interest, you have to go through the rule making procedure as set forth in the Florida Administrative Procedure Act, which is Chapter 120 of the Florida Statutes. There were no notices of hearings provided



regarding the decision to stop providing School Readiness funding to centers no longer receiving VPK funding.

- There is an explicit procedure that has to be followed including publication of notice, in the Florida Administrative Weekly, giving a timeframe and open to the public, granting them an opportunity to respond. This was not complied with.
 - The letter states that School Readiness is being taken away because of the removal of VPK funding and, very generally, because of health and safety violations. The School Readiness provider agreement does not mention tying School Readiness funding to VPK funding.
 - The provider agreement between Precious Years and the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) was signed April 5th and approved on April 14th. Part of the responsibilities in the provider agreement, on page 9, section III, paragraph 13 states, "The Coalition, or its designee, will review the provider information attached herein and determine that the provider is eligible to receive School Readiness funding." It is the job of the ELC to understand and know what all of the health and safety violations that have been cited by DCF are, and take action based on that. The ELC determined Precious Years as eligible and has already provided School Readiness funding. And now, by some arbitrary process it is being taken away. It violated constitutional rights as well as Florida law.
 - The termination of VPK funding aside, based on only health and safety violations, the ELC approved the agreement knowing of the violations. DCF issued the Child Care Facilities license effective July 23, 2010 through July 22, 2011, having had an understanding of what all of the prior violations were; violations that were quickly remedied.
 - Looking at the violations that were read into record, the Class II violations dated back to November 2008. The only other class II violation was in June of 2009. The November 2009 inspection was in perfect compliance. The violation in March of 2010 was considered a technical assistance violation. This is not a class I nor a class II violation. The violation regarding the fire drills was in fact an oversight on the part of DCF.
 - Paragraph 61 on page 15 of the agreement states, "Depending on the degree of the noncompliance, the timeline for corrective action may extend to 60 days. And failure to make appropriate corrections may result in termination of this agreement," not *shall*. If the coalition wants to look at taking away School Readiness funding based on health and safety violations, it must establish a hardcore line of how many violations of a certain class and what timeframe to give corrective action. If corrective action is not taken immediately, then there might be a case to withdraw School Readiness funding.
- S. Echemendia clarified that the September 13th letter has been abated. What is taking place is the process of staff making a determination to suspend payment based on the licensing violations, which is clear in the contract that the provider must comply with. The provider is being afforded the due process by going through the grievance procedure. Coming before this committee affords the provider an opportunity to be heard and to sway the committee who is in turn going to make a recommendation to the full Board. This addresses the due process issue. This is not an issue of rule making, but an issue of enforcement of the contract provisions, rather than whether or not the ELC adopts rules. The adoption of rules is done through AWI, DCF, etc. The action being taken is not based on VPK, but rather on the contract provisions of School Readiness.



- E. Torres stated that the provider is still receiving payments and the children are still placed at the center for now. The provider has just been placed on notice that this action may take place depending on what happens at the next board meeting and the recommendation of the Provider Services Committee today.
- D. Melamed stated he does not think it is right to make up the rules as you go, so to speak. If School Readiness funding is being taken away because of health and safety violations, there has not been a violation to the point, without corrective action to where the coalition has the right to make that determination. Where is the time limitation in 65C-22 and Chapter 403.309-31 that says if corrective action is not taken, funding will be withdrawn? Relying on the fact that a provider is a state licensed childcare center, the provider agrees to comply. The ELC signed the agreement based on what is supposed to be its own investigation into whether the provider met all the requirements. DCF also issued a renewed license since it was never suspended nor has any reprimands on it.
- A. Paez of Precious Years clarified the details of the violation regarding fire drills. When the inspector came in on 3/4/2010, she stated that the last posted documented fire drill was on 1/25/10. It was explained to her that the last fire drill on 2/26 was done but documented in the Apple accreditation book. Assuming the inspector came on 3/4/10, the next fire drill would have been scheduled 30 days apart which would have been 3/25 or 3/26. The rule says "During the facility licensed year, fire drills should be conducted a minimum of ten times."
- S. Fagundo asked J. Russell if all of the violations were corrected to which J. Russell replied that she would think so since they were issued a renewed license.
- D. Melamed added that they were corrected and he provided documents supporting this.
- S. Fagundo stated that she is not making light of the severity of the Class 2 violations and the contract does state on page one that "Provider agrees to notify the Coalition if action is taken against their license." However, she does agree that the contract does not say that a center will notify the coalition the moment they have a class 2 violation and then have their payment suspended.
- S. Echemendia clarified that the contract states that if there is one of those violations, the provider will give the ELC notice. What the board is ratifying as a policy is that if you have one Class 1 or two Class 2 violations during any consecutive twelve-month period, you will be suspended for one year. This policy was memorialized based on the Board action that was taken and now has a draft policy that is coming back for ratification.
- S. Fagundo further clarified that what she was referring to was the statement on page one referring to the state taking action against a license, which to a provider would not be interpreted as having their school readiness funding terminated.
- D. Melamed added that there are plenty of schools that do not have anything to do with VPK who receive School Readiness funding, that have health and safety violations and do not have funding terminated. D. Melamed stated that he has evidence of other centers with Class 2 violations who have school readiness funding and would like to know if their school readiness was terminated as well.
- S, Fagundo moved to have School Readiness payments be continued, based upon evidence that the provider has satisfied DCF's licensing requirements, sufficient to maintain and/or remain their license.
 - D. Armstrong seconded the motion,
 - G. Cortes-Suarez opposed.
 - Motion passes by majority.



- D. Armstrong added that his second was based on the ambiguity of the policy. However, he has significant concerns about the safety of children in centers with Class 1 and 2 violations. It is not appropriate to be in a position where children are placed at risk because of technicalities in the way the contracts are written.
- G. Cortes-Suarez stated that the recommendation would go to the board at the next meeting.

VII. Katina Thompson Grievance

- J. Russell read the grievance from parent K. Thompson who is filing a grievance as part of the appeal process that states that she is in danger of losing her job because she cannot afford to pay \$100.00 every week for child care. She states that she did not receive her redetermination packet and was unable to complete the documentation in a timely manner. She was under the impression that when she changed her son's school the six-month eligibility period would start over. She has been in the program for years and feels that everyone should be entitled to one mistake. She is a single parent and needs this assistance until she can get her child into VPK or kindergarten.
- J. Russell stated that this is a case of a parent who did not turn in their eligibility documentation timely, and as a result her child care funding was terminated. K. Thompson is asking for reconsideration of this decision. Based on her grievance, there was no information that indicated extenuating circumstances that prevented her from turning in her documentation.
- G. Cortes-Suarez reiterated that K. Thompson has been a recipient of this program for a number of years. One of her statements included that she thought her son's eligibility would start over when she changed his school. J. Russell added that if the parent has been in the program for several years, she knows that the rules state that she must redetermine eligibility every six months. And when she goes in for her redetermination appointment she is given documentation that tells her the date that she needs to come back for redetermination.
- E. Torres explained some key points of what happens when there is a lapse in service.
 - We are not allowed to determine eligibility retroactively.
 - If there is a loss of eligibility, the children may still remain at the child care center, but we are not allowed to pay the provider for that ineligible period.
- E. Humes-Newbold added that included in the redetermination package is a Rights and Responsibilities Form that is given to parents which clearly indicates the authorized period beginning and end dates. This form is also given to the provider. In many instances, the staff highlights the date in yellow so that it brings to their attention when that last date of service is. In addition, the provider receives a monthly list of children who will be terminated from the program that month. Additionally, providers who use the County website can see the status of the children 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- S. Fagundo moved to support staff's findings and conclusion with regard to the grievance of K. Thompson
 - D. Armstrong seconded the motion
 - Motion passes unanimously

VIII. Velouse Rock Grievance

- V. Rock, who had called in earlier in the meeting, was not on the conference line during this portion of the meeting.
- G. Cortes-Suarez asked for background information on this grievance.
- E. Humes-Newbold explained that the parent's case was terminated because she did not redetermine by the last day of service. What is normally done if the parent contacts CDS



within 10 days of termination, is that they are reinstated. However, payment cannot be issued for the unauthorized period.

- J. Russell added that the parent did not contact CDS until September 3rd which was nearly a month after services were terminated. The parent filed an appeal and the decision to terminate was upheld by CDS. The parent also contacted J. Russell and the decision was also upheld.
- E. Humes-Newbold added that all communication with parents and providers is noted electronically and the parent was reminded by the provider.
- S. Fagundo moved to accept the staff's findings and recommendations with regard to the grievance of V. Rock.
 - D. Armstrong seconded the motion.
 - Motion unanimously passes.

IX. Public Comment

- E. Bezos expressed that in light of what took place here, as an active participant in the development of the School Readiness contract, she encourages board members to look at the current agreement and make the necessary changes for it to be clear and to ensure a level playing field. E. Bezos clarified that not all providers are monitored by DCF. Providers such as license exempt and enrichment providers do not get monitored and would have no way of having violations flagged. In the spirit of partnership, she urges the Board to look over the process and consider the recommendations that the attorney for Precious Years made regarding rule changes. As a provider, and one who participated in writing the agreement, it is very ambiguous and she did not interpret that we had no give in compliance. E. Bezos interpreted "Follow DCF licensing procedure" as meaning that the time frame for remedy granted by DCF would also apply. E. Bezos stated that she highly doubts there are providers that do not have one violation or one technical assistance issue. There are several centers that have had violations due to the transient population of teachers which makes it very difficult to create a consistent environment as far as compliance goes.
- L. Carmona stated that one of the concerns she has about the actions taken today is that not always are we totally informed about the processes we are making decisions about. The majority of the people sitting at the table do not operate centers. A level 2 background screening includes several components including a 2-year employment history. The remaining components include a DCF clearance letter, FDLE screening and Local background check. It is possible to still have a letter from DCF stating that you meet the criteria for working with children, even though you might not have the employment history form. You might also be an individual without a previous employer for 2 years. Many providers struggle to receive the DCF clearance letter. L. Carmona stated that as an owner of a center, several times she has had to call Cal Marshall to get copies of a clearance letter and still do not receive them in time.

X. Adjourn

- E. Torres thanked the committee members, providers in attendance, staff and the board attorney for their attendance and participation.
- G. Cortes-Suarez adjourned the meeting.

POLICY STATEMENT

PURPOSE: To establish a standardized policy statement for administrative sanctions of School Readiness providers who have action taken against their license or approval status as provided herein.

POLICY STATEMENT: This policy statement sets the process when Providers are the subject of disciplinary action against their license, registration or approval status for failure to maintain acceptable standards to operate a School Readiness funded program in violation of existing rules and obligations.

RATIONALE: To ensure a system of accountability for the health and safety of children.

PROCEDURES:

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) has the authority, pursuant to Chapter 402.302-319, F.S., to take progressive disciplinary measures against any licensed or registered child care provider who fails to maintain licensing standards which meet the health and safety needs of children.

Equivalent overseeing entities of child care programs exempt from licensure pursuant to section 402.316 or 402.3025 F.S., are responsible for ensuring compliance are responsible for ensuring compliance with the same standards imposed upon licensed or registered child care providers by the DCF and may impose similar disciplinary actions for child care programs under their auspices.

Where the provider has no equivalent overseeing entity and is funded by the Coalition, the Coalition shall ensure compliance with the same standards imposed upon licensed or registered child care providers by the DCF and may impose similar disciplinary actions for child care programs under its auspices.

In the event DCF, the Coalition, or an equivalent overseeing entity, initiates action against a program's license or determines that the program has received one (1) Class I licensing violation* or two (2) Class II licensing violations** during any consecutive 12 month period (or determines that there has been a health and safety violation for license exempt and unlicensed programs), the Coalition will promptly take the following actions which shall be applied prospectively and retroactively:

Place a moratorium on new enrollments of School Readiness children for 12 months and:

Notify the Provider, in writing, that all funding will cease at the end of thirty (30) business days or sooner as School Readiness children find alternate child care arrangements.

Give Provider written notification of the Coalition's actions and rationale, along with notice of the provider's right of appeal. Appeals shall be governed by the Grievance

Policy. If the Board of Directors of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe grants the appeal and finds that the action: (i) Was not based on competent substantial evidence; or (ii) Did not comply with the essential requirements of law, the Provider will be reinstated.

Ensure Parents of School Readiness children actively enrolled with the provider are contacted and apprised of the situation. Parents will be given Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) assistance to locate an approved provider.

Ensure parents are provided a maximum of thirty (30) business days to locate another approved SR provider if they wish to continue with Coalition funding. Parents will be offered Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) assistance to locate an approved provider.

Miami-Dade County/Wesley House Family Services will update the EFS system to reflect the moratorium for School Readiness child placements.

Any parent who wishes to maintain their child in the identified program, may continue on their own expense and without benefit of funding from the Coalition.

If the Provider fails to appeal the action within 30 business days from receiving written notification of the Coalition's actions, the action becomes final.

The EFS and DCF system will be updated to reflect the child care provider is no longer eligible to provide School Readiness services.

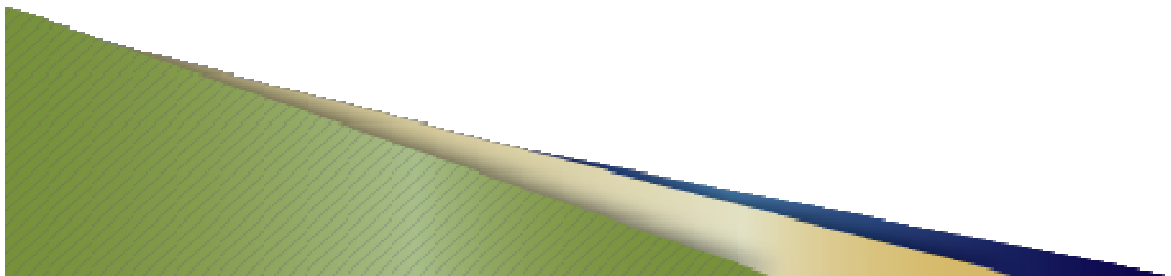
The provider is able to reapply to be a participating School Readiness provider after the 12 month moratorium has expired and the program has cured the health and safety condition to the satisfaction of DCF, the Coalition, or equivalent overseeing entity, or the provider has regained licensure or a satisfactory status with DCF, the Coalition, or its equivalent overseeing entity.

* Class I Violation: An incident of noncompliance with a Class I standard. Class I violations are the most serious violations in nature, pose an imminent threat to a child including abuse or neglect, and which could or does result in death or serious harm to the health, safety, or well-being of a child.

** Class II Violation: The second or subsequent incident of noncompliance with an individual Class II standard. Class II violations are less serious in nature than Class I violations and could be anticipated to pose a threat to the health, safety, or well-being of a child, although the threat is not imminent.

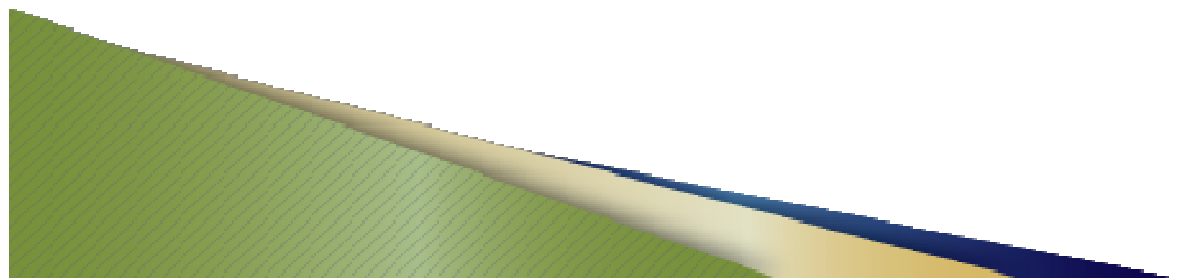
Examples of Class I Violations

- An unscreened individual was left alone to supervise children in care.
- The operator, employee or substitute was observed supervising children while under the influence of narcotics, alcohol or other drugs that impair the individual's ability to provide safe child care.
- A child was given the wrong medication in that [].



Examples of Class II Violations

- The facility's driver did not have a certificate of course completion for first aid and/or infant and child CPR.
- A ratio of [] staff for [] children is required. There were [] staff for [] children observed.
- The facility's discipline practices included the use of spanking or other form of physical punishment.
- Fire hazard, such as [], was observed in the facility.



Child Care Facility Standards Classification Summary

Classes I & II

Florida Statute and Administrative Code Section

| Specific Child Care Licensing Standard | |
|---|---|
| Class Violation Level | Description of the Licensing Standard Violation |

General Requirements ss. 402.3125, 402.318, F.S.

| Licensed Capacity ss. 402.305(6), rule 65C-22.001(2) & 65C-22.002(3)(f) & (g), F.A.C. | |
|--|---|
| 2 | The facility is licensed to serve [] children. A total of [] children were counted at the center and/or were on a field trip. |
| 2 | The facility failed to maintain the required 20 or 35 sq. ft. per child in areas occupied by children. |
| 2 | The facility failed to post the room capacity in each room of the facility. |

| Minimum Age Requirements ss. 402.305(2)(c), F. S. & rule 65C-22.001(3), F.A.C. | |
|---|--|
| 2 | A person under the age of 16 years was employed at the facility and not directly supervised. |

| Ratio Sufficient rule 65C-22.001(4)(a)(b) & 402.305(4), F.A.C | |
|--|--|
| 2 | A ratio of [] staff for [] children is required. There were [] staff for [] children observed. |

| Supervision rule 65C-22.001(5)(a)-(d), 65C-22.001(6)(f), 65C-22.002(4)(c)2. & 65C-22.007(2), F.A.C. | |
|--|--|
| 2 | Direct supervision of children in the [] group was inadequate in the []. |
| 2 | Staff were not within sight and hearing of all the children during nap time. |
| 2 | There were insufficient personnel readily accessible to meet ratio requirements during nap time. |
| 2 | Children in the outdoor play area were not adequately supervised in the []. |
| 1 | A child was unknowingly left behind in a vehicle, at the facility or on a field trip. |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | A child was not adequately supervised and left the facility premises without the knowledge or awareness of staff. |
| 2 | In addition to the staff required to meet staff-to-child ratios, an additional adult was not present during a field trip. |
| 1 | The operator, employee or substitute was observed supervising children while under the influence of narcotics, alcohol or other drugs that impair the individual's ability to provide safe child care. |
| 1 | The facility provided a water activity using a swimming pool that exceeds three feet in depth or a beach or lake area and did not have a person with a certified lifeguard certification or equivalent present. |
| 2 | The individual(s) responsible for children on a field trip did not have a telephone or other means of instant communication available. |
| 2 | During evening child care hours, staff did not stay awake at all times. |
| 1 | An unscreened individual was left alone to supervise children in care. |
| 1 | One or more children were not adequately supervised in that [], which posed an imminent threat to a child, or could or did result in death or serious harm to the health, safety or well-being of a child. |
| 2 | One or more children were not adequately supervised in that [], which was anticipated as posing a threat to the health, safety or well-being of a child, but the threat was not imminent. |

Drivers License, Physician Certification & First Aid/CPR Training rule 65C-22.001(6)(a), 65C-22.002(6)(a)1., 65C-22.006(4)(g), F.A.C.

| | |
|---|--|
| 2 | The facility's driver did not have documentation of a valid Florida driver's license |
| 2 | The facility's driver did not have a certificate of course completion for first aid and/or infant and child CPR. |
| 2 | The facility's driver did not have the appropriate driver's license endorsement. |
| 2 | The facility failed to obtain the proper documentation for driver's endorsement. |

Vehicle Insurance and Inspection rule 65C-22.001(6)(b)(c) & 402.305(10), F.A.C.

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 | The operator did not have the required insurance coverage on all vehicles used to transport children in care. |
|---|---|

Seat Belts/Child Restraints rule 65C-22.001(6)(d)(e), F.A.C.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | The vehicle had seat belts and/or safety restraints for [] children and [] children were transported at one time. |
| 1 | The facility's use of seat belts was not age appropriate for children being transported who required safety restraints. |
| 1 | The number of children transported exceeded the manufacturer's designated seating capacity. |

| Transportation rule 65C-22.001(6)(f),(g), F.A.C. | |
|---|--|
| 2 | The facility did not have evidence that a log was maintained for all children transported. |
| 2 | Upon arrival at the destination, it was determined that the driver of the vehicle failed to mark each child off the log as children departed the vehicle. |
| 2 | The driver of the vehicle failed to drop the child off at the appropriate location. |
| 1 | The driver of the vehicle failed to drop the child off at the appropriate location resulting in serious harm to health, safety or well-being of a child. |
| 2 | Upon arrival at the destination, the driver of the vehicle and second adult failed to conduct a physical inspection and visual sweep of the vehicle to ensure that no child was left in the vehicle. |
| 1 | A child was left unattended in the vehicle without staff awareness when returning from a field trip. |
| 2 | The required staff-to-child ratios were not maintained when transporting children. |
| 2 | Emergency care plans, supplies, and/or medication was not available for children being transported with chronic medical conditions. |

| Child Discipline rule 65C-22.011(8)(a)(b), F.A.C. & 402.305(12), F.S. | |
|--|--|
| 2 | A staff member did not comply with the facility's written discipline policy. |
| 1 | A method of discipline was used at the facility that was severe, humiliating or frightening to children in that []. |
| 2 | The facility's discipline practices included the use of spanking or other form of physical punishment. |
| 1 | A form of discipline used by staff was associated with food, rest and/or toileting. |

Physical Environment 65C-22.002, F.A.C.

| Facility Environment rule 65C-22.002(1)(a)(b) & (7)(e)(f), F.A.C. | |
|--|---|
| 2 | An area of the facility was observed to be a serious health hazard to children in care. |
| 2 | An area of the facility was observed to be a serious safety hazard to children in care. |
| 2 | During the facility's operating hours, an activity occurred which endangered the health and/or safety of children in care. |
| 2 | Furnishings, equipment or plumbing were not clean and maintained in good repair, which pose a threat to the health, safety or well-being of the children in care. |
| 2 | Fire hazard, such as [], was observed in the facility. |

| Toxic Substances and Hazardous Materials rule 65C-22.002(1)(d)(f)(g) and (i), F.A.C. | |
|---|--|
| 2 | A toxic substance was accessible to children. |
| 2 | A hazardous material was accessible to children. |
| 2 | A flammable product was accessible to children. |
| 2 | A cleaning supply was accessible to children. |
| 2 | Smoking was observed in the facility, outdoor area, during a field trip or in a vehicle used to transport children, while children were in care. |
| 1 | A firearm or weapon was observed on the premises. |

| Supplies Labeled/Stored rule 65C-22.002(1)(f), F.A.C. | |
|--|---|
| 2 | A potentially harmful item, [], was not labeled as required. |
| 2 | Harmful items including cleaning supplies, flammable products, poisonous, toxic, and hazardous materials were accessible to children in care. |
| 2 | The storage of potentially harmful items such as knives and/or sharp tools allowed access by children in care. |
| 2 | Knives and/or sharp tools were accessible to children in care |

| Indoor Floor Space ss.402-305(6)F.S., rule 65C-22.002(3)(a)-(e) and (g), & rule 65C-22.007(3)(a), F.A.C. | |
|---|---|
| 2 | The facility that held a valid license on October 1, 1992, did not have 20 square feet of usable floor space per child for the number of children observed in care. The facility had a capacity of [] based on 20 square feet per child, and [] children were observed in care. |
| 2 | The facility did not have 35 square feet of usable floor space per child for the number of children observed in care. The facility had a capacity of [] based on 35 square feet and [] children were observed in care. |
| 2 | The facility did not have the required usable floor space available per child in the [] room/area. |

| Outdoor Area/Square Footage ss.402.305(6), F.S. & rule 65C-22.002(4)(a)(b), F.A.C. | |
|---|--|
| 2 | The facility's outdoor space calculated at 45 square feet per child allows [] children to use the space at one time and [] children were observed using the space. |

| Outdoor Play Area rule 65C-22.002(4)(c) and (h), F.A.C. | |
|--|--|
| 2 | The facility's outdoor play area was observed to pose a threat to the health, safety or well-being of the children due to the presence of hazardous items. |

| Fencing rule 65C-22.002(4)(d)(e), F.A.C. | |
|---|---|
| 2 | The facility's outdoor play area was not fenced to prevent children's access to a water hazard. |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | The facility's outdoor play area was not fenced to prevent children's access to a water hazard |
| 2 | The facility's outdoor play space was not enclosed with fencing or walls a minimum of 4 feet in height. |
| 2 | The facility's fencing walls or gate area had gaps that could allow children to exit the outdoor play area. |

Individual Bedding rule 65C-22.002(5)(a)(c), 65C-22.002(8)(c) & rule 65C-22.008(3)(g), F.A.C.

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 | The bedding available was not safe and poses a threat to the health, safety or well-being of a child in care. |
| 2 | The bedding available was not sanitary and poses a threat to the health, safety or well-being of a child in care. |

Nap/Sleep Space Requirements rule 65C-22.002(5)(b), F.A.C.

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 | The nap/sleep space was under furniture or against furniture that created a hazard. |
|---|---|

Exit Area Clear rule 65C-22.002(5)(b)2., F.A.C.

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 | Exit areas were blocked off and inaccessible in an emergency. |
|---|---|

Crib Requirements rule 65C-22.002(5)(c)(d), F.A.C.

| | |
|---|--|
| 2 | The facility used cribs that did not meet federal guidelines as the bar spacings exceeded the maximum two and three-eighths inches. |
| 2 | An infant was observed in a crib with the crib sides down. |
| 2 | A napping or sleeping infant that is not capable of rolling over on their own was observed not positioned on their back and on a firm surface. |

Toilets and Basins rule 65C-22.002(6)(a)(b)1(c) & (g), F.A.C.

| | |
|---|--|
| 2 | The facility did not adequately keep the toilet and bath facilities used by the children clean and sanitized or disinfected posing a threat to the health, safety or well-being of the children. |
|---|--|

Potty Chairs rule 65C-22.002(6)(b)2, F.A.C.

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 | The cleaning and sanitizing of potty chairs did not take place between use by different children posing a threat to the health, safety or well-being of the children. |
|---|---|

Bath Facilities and Supervision rule 65C-22.002(6)(d)(e), F.A.C.

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 | Children did not receive adequate supervision while toileting or bathing. |
|---|---|

| Operable Phone rule 65C-22.002(7)(b), F.A.C. | |
|---|--|
| 2 | The facility staff did not have a working corded telephone within the building in the event of a power outage. |

| Fire Drills & Emergency Preparedness rule 65C-22.002(7) & rule 65C-22.006(5)(e), F.A.C. | |
|--|--|
| 2 | Fire drills were not conducted and/or did not include one drill during napping/sleeping times, one drill using alternate evacuation routes, or one in the presence of the licensing authority. |
| 2 | The facility operator did not have a current fire safety inspection by the local fire authority. |
| 2 | All adults and children failed to evacuate the facility when the fire alarm was activated. |
| 2 | The facility operator/staff failed to possess a current attendance record during a fire drill, emergency preparedness drill or an actual emergency. |
| 2 | The operator failed to conduct emergency preparedness drills. |

| Proper Handwashing rule 65C-22.002(8)(a)2 & 4,(b)1, F.A.C. | |
|---|---|
| 2 | A staff member was observed to not wash their hands appropriately after assisting a child with toileting. |
| 2 | A staff member was observed to not wash their hands appropriately after assisting a child with diapering. |

| Drinking Water Available rule 65C-22.002(8)(a)3, F.A.C. | |
|--|--|
| 2 | Drinking water available to children was not safe in that []. |
| 2 | Drinking water was not available to all children. |

| Sanitary Diapering rule 65C-22.002(8)(b)1-8, F.A.C. | |
|--|--|
| 2 | Children were left unattended while being diapered or when changing clothes. |

| Diaper Disposal rule 65C-22.002(8)(b)8., F.A.C. | |
|--|---|
| 2 | The container for storage of soiled disposable diapers was accessible to children. |
| 2 | Soiled cloth diapers were not placed in a securely covered container that was inaccessible to children. |

| Indoor Equipment rule 65C-22.002(9)(a), F.A.C. | |
|---|---|
| 2 | Toys, equipment and/or furnishings were not safe and pose a threat to the health, safety or well-being of the children in care. |

| Outdoor Equipment rule 65C-22.002(9)(b), F.A.C. | |
|--|---|
| 2 | The play equipment was not safe for the children to use in that []. |
| 2 | A resilient surface was not provided beneath and within the fall zone for []. |
| 2 | Sharp, broken and/or jagged edges were observed on the [] that pose a threat to the health, safety or well-being of the children in the play area. |

Training 65C-22.003

| Credentialed Staff rule 65C-22.003(7) & rule 65C-22.003(8), F.A.C. | |
|---|--|
| 2 | All owners or operators responsible for the daily operation if the program must have a Director Credential. This standard is not currently met due to []. |

Health Requirements Rule 65-22.004, F.A.C.

| Communicable Disease Control rule 65C-22.004(1), F.A.C. | |
|--|---|
| 2 | A child placed in the isolation area was not within sight and hearing of a staff person. |
| 2 | A child identified as having head lice was permitted to return to the facility before treatment had occurred. |

| First Aid Requirements rule 65C-22.004(2)(a)-(c), F.A.C. | |
|---|--|
| 2 | The facility did not have at least one staff member with a current and valid certificate of course completion for first aid training. |
| 2 | The facility did not have at least one staff member with a current and valid certificate of course completion for first aid training present at all times that children are in care. |
| 2 | The facility did not have an adequate number of staff appropriately trained in first aid to maintain coverage both on-site and on field trips. |
| 2 | The facility did not have a first aid kit available on the premises at all times. |

| CPR Requirements rule 65C-22.004(2)(a)(b), F.A.C | |
|---|---|
| 2 | The facility did not have at least one staff member with a current and valid certificate of course completion for infant and child cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). |
| 2 | The facility did not have at least one staff member with current and valid infant and cardiopulmonary resuscitation present during all hours of operation. |
| 2 | The facility had an inadequate number of staff appropriately trained in CPR to maintain coverage of both on-site and on field trips. |

| | |
|---|--|
| 2 | The online CPR training did not include an on-site instructor-based skills assessment and is invalid for the individual. |
|---|--|

| | |
|--|--|
| Accident/Incident Notification and Documentation rule 65C-22.004(2)(d)2-3, F.A.C. | |
| 2 | The facility failed to immediately notify the child's custodial parents or legal guardians of a serious illness, accident, injury or emergency to their child. |
| 2 | The facility failed to provide a copy of the accident or incident form to the individual authorized to pick up the child on the date of occurrence. |

| | |
|--|---|
| Medication rule 65C-22.004(3), F.A.C. | |
| 1 | Written instructions for dispensing medication, [], were not followed in that []. |
| 2 | Medication was not stored in either a locked area or must be inaccessible and out of a child's reach. |
| 2 | A prescription or non-prescription medication, specifically [], was dispensed without written authorization from the custodial parent or legal guardian. |
| 2 | A non-prescription medication, specifically [], was dispensed and the custodial parent or legal guardian was not notified on the day it occurred. |
| 1 | A child was given the wrong medication in that []. |

Food and Nutrition Rule 65C-22.005, F.A.C.

| | |
|--|--|
| Meals and Snacks rule 65C-22.005(1)(a)(b)(c)(d), F.A.C. | |
| 2 | A child was given [] after the facility was notified of a food allergy by the custodial parent or legal guardian. |

| | |
|---|--|
| Bottles Sanitary and Labeled rule 65C-22.005(3)(c)(d)(e), F.A.C. | |
| 2 | Heated foods or bottles were not tested before feeding |

Record Keeping Rule 65C-22.006, F.A.C.

| | |
|--|--|
| Background Screening Documents ss. 402.3054(3), 435.04(1), & 435.05(1)(a)(c) F.S., & rule 65C-22.006(4), F.A.C. | |
| 2 | Documentation of Level 2 screening was missing for staff |
| 2 | A fingerprint card for the purpose of conducting state/federal criminal records check was not on file for the employees. |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 | A CF-FSP Form 5131, Background Screening and Personnel File Requirements, was not on file for the employees. |
| 2 | The fingerprint card had been completed but was never submitted to FDLE for the employees. |
| 2 | Verification of employment history for the past 2 years was not on file for the employees. |
| 2 | Background screening was not completed every five years after the initial screening for the individuals. |
| 2 | The personnel record for the individual indicated the person had been found guilty of an offense noted in Section 435.04, Florida Statute, which disqualifies the person from employment. |
| 1 | The personnel record for the individual indicated the person had been found guilty of an offense noted in Section 435.04, Florida Statute, which disqualifies the person from employment and the owner/operator failed to take appropriate action |
| 2 | The child enrichment provider was missing level 2 screening. |
| 2 | The child enrichment provider did not meet the screening requirements prior to providing services. |

Enforcement 65C-22.001(11)

| | |
|--|---|
| Access/Child Abuse or Neglect/Misrepresentation ss. 402.319, F.S. & rule 65C-22.001(9), (11), F.A.C | |
| 1 | The owner, operator, employee or substitute, while caring for children, committed an act or omission that meets the definition of child abuse or neglect provided in Chapter 39, Florida Statutes. |
| 1 | As a mandated reported, the owner, operator, employee or substitute failed to report suspected child abuse or neglect as required in section 39.201, Florida Statutes. |
| 2 | The owner, operator, employee or substitute failed to grant access to the child care facility during the hours of operation to the licensing authority or parent/legal guardian. |
| 1 | Child care personnel misrepresented information, impersonated, or provided fraudulent information related to the child care facility to a parent/guardian, licensing authority, or law enforcement. |

- [CBS4.com Daycare Database](#)

If you're poor or a minority, your children have nearly twice the likelihood of attending a daycare with a questionable safety record. That's the result of a ground-breaking, first-of-its-kind investigation by the **CBS4 I-Team**. It's something not even the state of Florida has ever done. And I-Team Investigator Stephen Stock says it could change the way daycare is delivered for millions of children.

Take for instance the three examples below:

November, 2008, a little boy, unwatched by daycare workers in Homestead, falls more than six feet from the top of a playground set.

No one notices but an undercover **CBS4 I-Team** monitoring the daycare.

A week later the daycare's owner vows to make changes.

"If you tell me who was the person I will fire them," daycare owner Wanda Rabelo told **CBS4 I-Team investigator Stephen Stock** in October, 2008.

Even so, subsequent state inspection records from this past March show the daycare continues to struggle to comply with rules regarding sufficient staffing to watch all the children. Inspectors cited them for failure to maintain proper staff-to-children ratios in March, 2009.

Or take another example: a downtown Miami daycare. Back last September, its owner was unaware that it had been operating with 86 different violations of safety rules in the last two years. That is the highest number of violations in the county.

"What!?! You're kidding!?" daycare owner Berdine Smith said to **I-Team investigator Stephen Stock** when he showed her daycare's records to her.

Since then the very same daycare picked up two more violations during state safety inspections this spring.

Then take a daycare on Broward Boulevard in Lauderhill, a daycare where last fall a child accidentally pulled a pot of boiling hot water off a stove and onto his own face.

This March, Broward County officials moved to close the daycare down after it racked up 72 safety violations in two years, the highest in Broward County.

In March the daycare's owner defended her record saying she was following safety rules as best she could.

"These are not violations that are going to cost me financially let me put it that way," owner Tracye Wilkerson told **I-Team investigator Stephen Stock** in March, 2009.

Even so, on April 30th, 2009, owner Tracye Wilkerson gave up her license and closed the daycare's doors after Broward County Child Services officials cited her again and moved to force the daycare to shut down.

Beyond these violations, each of these daycares has another thing in common.

They are located in low income communities or in communities where US Census data shows populations with more than half the residents are either African-American or Hispanic.

These are communities that a **CBS4 I-Team** investigation has discovered have a higher likelihood of having troubled daycares than other neighborhoods in Florida.

This information is the result of a year-long **I-Team** investigation that started with our groundbreaking database which can be found on-line in an easy to access, continuously, updated collection of state of Florida daycare inspection reports.

You can still find the searchable database by clicking on the link [here](#).

It is an interactive map where, for the first time, anyone can look at the inspection record of any state licensed daycare anywhere in Florida. Only in counties where local agencies self-regulate daycares, such as Brevard County, do state inspection records not show up in this database.

"The biggest discrepancy was race," said Jeremy Milarsky, former Library Database [Director](#) at the National Institute of Computer Assisted Reporting (NICAR).

Milarsky and his team at NICAR and Investigative Reporters' and Editors led a team that analyzed every state inspection report for every state licensed daycare in Florida, about 20 thousand records. They then compared those inspection record trends with US Census data.

"We were able to see evidence of poor performing daycares in areas where the incomes were lower than average and where the percentage of resident who were minorities were higher than average," said Milarsky.

So high, in fact, two years of daycare inspection data shows that if you live in a poor or African American community you have almost twice the likelihood of having your child attend a daycare with numerous failures on its safety inspection record.

The computer data analysis of DCF state inspection data for the entire state of Florida shows:

1. In communities with African American majorities as defined by US Census data, there is a 45% increase in poorly performing daycares.
2. In communities with lower than average income it's a 42% increase in poorly performing daycares.
3. In communities with Hispanic majorities as defined by US Census data, there is a 9% increase in poorly performing daycares in that neighborhood.

"It gives us more information on which to have the discussion on early [childcare](#) and early childcare performance," Milarsky said of the in-depth social analysis.

"We need folks like you (at the **CBS4 I-Team**)," said the top advocate for child safety in Florida, DCF Secretary George Sheldon.

The Secretary of Florida's Department of Children and Families admits his agency has not done the kind of in-depth, computer analysis of social trends involving populations and daycares that the **CBS4 I-Team** did.

DCF Secretary George Sheldon says the **I-Team's** work will spur DCF to do better.

"It does very little good if I have a database and the information is in the database, and I don't know how to mine that information," Sheldon said.

While the **I-Team's** findings didn't surprise him, Secretary Sheldon says it confirms what has been whispered in backrooms but never acknowledged openly in policy discussions.

"I think knowing it empowers us," DCF Secretary Sheldon said. "I think we've got to do a better job in terms of providing information to the public. We've got to do a better job of closing facilities down."

While troubled by our findings, daycare experts at DCF say wealth and income do not have to add up to poor daycare.

And they have just the proof in an innovative model daycare set up to train prospective daycare owners.

Coming up in our follow up report, the **CBS4 I-Team** will take you behind the scenes and show you how, when it comes to safe quality daycare, it doesn't take a lot of money, just a lot of commitment.