Improving Quality through Family Child Care Networks

National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance
Session Objectives

• Share research on quality in family child care (FCC)
• Describe the role FCC networks can play in improving the quality of care
• Explore different network service delivery strategies and methods for funding FCC initiatives
Panel Members

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• Kelly Meigs  
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What are the possibilities of high-quality family child care?
National Survey of Early Care & Education: Home-Based Child Care

4 million providers
paid family child care (1 million)
unpaid friend/neighbor & relative providers (3 million)

7+ million children ages 0-5
4 million infants & toddlers
Close to 2 million school-age children

National Survey of Early Care and Education, 2014; 2016

Working families with non-standard hours more likely to rely on friend/neighbor & relative providers

Erikson Institute
Benefits of family child care

Children

- one-on-one relationships
- nurturing, responsive
- family setting

Parents

- convenient, flexible
- affordable
- siblings together
- language/culture

Community

- economic and social asset in neighborhood
- neighborhood watch

Sources: NICHD, 2004; Bromer & Henly, 2004, 2009; Bromer, 2006; Henly, Shaefer, & Waxman, 2006; Gilman, 2001
Need for quality improvement

Aspects that limit quality caregiving

- Isolation
- Role burden (child care-family balance)
- Lack of access to information and resources
- Caring for mixed age groups

Poor to mediocre quality of care, especially FCC serving children who receive a subsidy

Research on Promising Approaches to Quality Improvement

- Support: professional, personal, social
- Individualized services (visits to provider homes)
- Group services (training workshops; support groups)
- Menu of services (Networks, systems, hubs)

**Provider Outcomes**

| Reduced isolation; increased support; self-efficacy; child development knowledge | Access to resources, professional engagement; networks; lower job stress; increase tenure |

**Quality Outcomes**

| Environment, Instructional practices, Sensitive provider-child interactions | Provider-family relationship quality |

**Child and Family Outcomes**

| Family engagement | Family well-being | Child social emotional development | Cognitive development (literacy, language) |
Family child care networks: A strategy for sustainability and quality

Family child care networks have dedicated staff who offer a comprehensive and coordinated menu of services to home-based child care providers including visits to homes, training, facilitated peer support, materials & equipment.

Other strategies/programs
- Child care resource & referral
- Shared services alliances
- Family resource centers
- Family child care associations
- Unions
Panel Discussion
Staffed Family Child Care Networks: A Research-Informed Strategy for Supporting High-Quality Family Child Care

Supports and Systems to Improve the Quality of Family Child Care: ECQA Center Products

• Developing a Staffed Family Child Care Network: A Technical Assistance Manual

• Estimating the Cost of Staffed Family Child Care Networks: A Cost Estimation Tool

• Policies and Practices Supporting Access to High-Quality Family Child Care: A Policy Assessment and Planning Tool

• Engaging Family Child Care Providers in Quality Improvement Systems

Coming Soon!
Resources


- The Town Square, professional development modules and webinars created specifically for family child care professionals ([http://townsquareil.org/grow/](http://townsquareil.org/grow/)).
Resources (cont.)

Questions and Reflection
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Thank You