

This document was a handout offered by the West Side Story Team's Karen Hart, when her group gave a presentation on guiding principles. It was presented at the NRMT meeting on August 11, 2007. A copy of this document will be kept in a master file by the DEL's NRMT project manager.

Discussion Topics for Negotiated Rule Making Team

Below are some current perceptions of the existing Family Child Care WAC, offered for discussion by the whole team. Many of our desired priorities/outcomes in the regulations may be in conflict. How do we balance these questions when creating regulations for family child care?

Traditional and Alternative Practices

- Current WAC is based on the health sciences.

In our diverse society, when providers and/or families have other practices that are based on other belief systems other than health sciences, how do we protect the health and safety and well being of children and allow for culturally relevant and anti-bias practices?

Should the WAC allow for both? Does one outweigh the other?

Language and Provider Literacy Level/Diverse Oral and Written Traditions

- The WAC is a document written in English.

What are the expectations for documents to be presented in provider's home languages, if any?

What about other languages such as indigenous languages, for example, Central and South America or dialects? What resources are available?

What are the expectations when providers are not able to read in their own home language even if the WAC and related documents are written in it?

What are expectations of provider's verbal skills in English? For example, the ability to call 9-1-1 in the event of an emergency and give adequate information to access assistance.

What are the expectations for providers' literacy level in English, if any?

- **Knowledge of regulations varies within the parent community.** What if a parent wants a certain kind of care, which contradicts the WAC?
- **Current WAC is unclear and confusing.** How do we acknowledge reasonable judgment when WAC conflict or are unclear?
- **Regulations will prevent injury.** Is this really true? Is this the foundation of our WAC? Should it be the foundation of our WAC?
- **Relationships can be regulated.** Can we really expect WACs to regulate relationships between the parents, providers, advocates, and state?

FINAL DRAFT Guiding Principles for presentation at August 11, 2007 meeting
Team B aka West Side Story

The following document was brainstormed as the intent of the entire WAC itself.
At the core of the newly envisioned Family Child Care WAC are the rights of children.
Following these rights are the intentions which breathe life into these basic rights. This section
would be a great introduction to the new WAC

Rights for Children in Family Child Care

1. Right to freedom from abuse and neglect.
2. Right to confidentiality.
3. Right to freedom from harmful actions or practices.
4. Right to a safe and healthy environment
5. Right to be free from discrimination.
6. Right to consideration and respect.

The Minimum Family Child Care Licensing Requirements WAC Guiding Principles

The intent of the Family Child Care WAC is to:

Promote the health and safety of children, while allowing children to take reasonable risks, appropriate to childhood. Reasonable judgement and recognition of the home environment are essential.

Increase quality of child care, by being research-based and data driven. Providers will be allowed options for being in compliance. Professional growth will increase, through mentoring and monitoring, training, and pro-active, and voluntary compliance.

Encourage the nurturing and guidance of children, allowing for growth in all developmental domains. The WAC should allow for culturally relevant care.

Increase availability of licensed family home child care, by being inclusive of anyone, meeting the minimum licensing requirements, to provide child care. The WAC should be inclusive of all children (i.e. special needs). The WAC should encourage licensed care.

Be transparent about expectations and compliance, by being an understandable, clear, and user-friendly resource, where child care providers, licensors, and parents know what to expect from licensed care.

Provide a legal base to protect children and providers, while allowing flexibility for unexpected situations.