



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL
AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

Don Jordan, Secretary

House Health and Human Services Committee

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Child Care Providers Together Agreement

Secretary Don Jordan

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House Health and Human Services Committee Child Care Providers Together Agreement April 27, 2010

Chairwoman Landwehr and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to address the Agreement between the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Child Care Providers Together-Kansas (CCPT), the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

On July 18, 2007, Executive Order No. 07-21 recognized CCPT as the representative of persons who are registrants and licensees of family day care homes, licensed day care homes, and group day care homes. Following this executive order, CCPT, SRS and KDHE entered into an agreement to work together to build a child care system that promotes the safe, healthy development of the children of Kansas; respects and recognizes child care providers; and complies with applicable state and federal regulations.

This agreement allows for a formalized process for CCPT and the state to discuss common goals identified throughout the agreement's development. These common goals include: child care quality standards; provider training and professional development opportunities; rates for subsidized child care benefits; payment timeliness; health and safety conditions, monitoring, and evaluation of providers; and recruitment and retention of qualified provider and the overall quality of child care programs in Kansas. Continued collaboration has occurred through CCPT participation in the Child Care Licensing Systems Improvement Best Team with KDHE and the development of the State-Provider Cooperation Committee (SPCC). Providers emphasized certain issues during the development of the agreement, such as the receipt of a child care notice for children receiving SRS child care benefits and the availability of the EBT web portal to access payment detail.

Recently, the SPCC has been able to successfully establish the Health and Safety Promotional Fund through the receipt of Recovery Act Child Care Development Funds. These funds are allowing for professional development and peer mentoring opportunities and the availability of facility upgrade and equipment/materials grants for child care home providers.

Thank you. I will stand for questions.

