

Iraida Orr

From: Rose Grimes <rosegrimes1@att.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 16, 2012 11:35 PM
To: Brenda Landwehr
Cc: Iraida Orr; rosegrimes1@att.net
Subject: Dec.19th Health Policy Oversight Committee - Lexie's Law

House Rep Brenda Landwehr:
Chairperson of the Health Policy Oversight Committee

First I would like to say that child care providers are very disappointed that they did not receive the information about the Open Meeting on Dec. 19, 2012 from our local health departments or KDHE. I suggested to Rachel Berroth and Eldonna Chestnut that the local health dept should send an email out to their child care providers. Please know that if the responses are very low, it's because Kansas providers were unaware of this open meeting and it seems to be intentional that they were excluded.

Over all the changes to the child care regulations and Lexie's Law have been good and have improved child care.

I would like to see that consultations are not listed on the child care portal. Verbal consultations that are given by surveyors are supposed to be for the purpose of educating child care providers during their inspections. They shouldn't be included on the Notice of Survey Findings on KDHE's website. These consultations are not "findings", they are initiatives that the health dept wants to be disseminated. The portal is supposed to be a compliance website. It's very misleading to the parents and public who are reading them. They come across as a violation which isn't fair to the provider or her child care business. There is another more serious problem that has come from listing consultations on the portal. Now providers are no longer asking questions of their surveyors out of the concern that they will have these consultations posted on the portal.

I also feel that only "substantiated" complaints should be listed on the website. It only encourages a disgruntled parent or neighbor to file frivolous complaints trying to hurt an innocent provider. Has anyone considered that it might cut down the time the Health Department would have to spend going out on false complaints on providers or centers, if unsubstantiated complaints aren't listed. There would be nothing for a person to gain by making false reports on providers or centers. This could also save tax dollars that could be spent solving real problems.

While working on Lexie's Law with House Rep Lisa Benlon, she had asked the committee that only substantiated complaints be listed on the portal for the above reasons and was assured that unsubstantiated complaints would not be listed. They are being listed and it is only a matter of time until an unjustly accused provider starts legal action against the state. The resulting settlement would be a tremendous waste of taxpayer dollars in an era of scarce funding. A little forethought will stop this.

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