Empower Program Gets National Attention!

The Department’s Physical Activity and Nutrition and Child Care Licensing Programs were selected for a national award from Let’s Move! Child Care for their outstanding work to promote young children’s health and prevent childhood obesity through our Empower program and our training videos. Our work will be showcased at the May 9th Let’s Move! Child Care Recognition Luncheon in Washington D.C.).

Additionally, earlier this year the Altarum Institute released a report (http://www.altarum.org/publications-resources-health-systems-research/quality-rating-improvement-systems-QRIS) highlighting Arizona as one of only 10 states to successfully integrate physical activity and nutrition criteria into a quality rating program. In Arizona, the quality rating system for child care is known as Quality First and is administered by First Things First. To be eligible for Quality First, child care providers need to be licensed and participate in Empower (http://www.azdhs.gov/empowerpack), which offers reduced licensing fees to child care providers who agree to adopt 10 healthy standards (related to nutrition, physical activity, screen time, and tobacco prevention). More than 90% of Arizona’s licensed child care sites participate in Empower, meaning that more than 240,000 Arizona kids are getting more physical activity than ever before!

By the way, our team has also created numerous tools to support implementation of Empower, including a short video series that highlights actual centers and homes in Arizona with real staff showing and discussing how they incorporated things such as family style meals, physical activity, and breastfeeding support into their child care centers which have been featured on the Let’s Move! Child Care website.

The Department is very proud of those child care programs that have greatly reduced the use of television, computers and video games and are encouraging more physical activity. Many programs are serving fruit and vegetables in place of sugary fruit juice and offering more water throughout the day. Arizona’s child care programs are making a difference helping children create healthy habits that will last a lifetime! Need some new ideas? Check out the Let’s Move! Child Care website. http://www.healthykidshealthyfuture.org/welcome.html

The Outlook
Art Masterpieces Wanted

The Bureau’s Phoenix Office would like to display children’s art work in our building so an Art Masterpiece Contest is being held! The deadline to submit art work to the Bureau is Monday, June 15, 2012. Three pieces of art work will be chosen from each of the 3 following age groups: 1 – 2 year olds, 3 – 4 year olds, and 5 years old and older. Winners will have their work displayed on the walls of the Phoenix Licensing Office to be enjoyed by all who visit or work in the Office. Winners will also receive a ribbon of appreciation and mention in the next edition of The Outlook! Ready, Set – Create!

Entry requirements are:
At least 16” wide x 20” long – The art will be displayed vertically in poster-size frames.

Colorful!
Pertain to health, safety, nutrition, physical activity or sanitation.

Print the child’s name and age on the back of the art.

What’s New in BCCL?

Congratulations to Phoenix Licensing Surveyor Tricia Tartaglio who was named the Division of Licensing Services’ Employee of the Month for February 2012. Tricia has been with the Bureau for 7 years.

The Bureau said goodbye to long time Phoenix Licensing Surveyor Jeanette Brainard who retired in October after 22 years.

Kudos also to Phoenix Licensing Surveyor Nicole Howard recently earned in Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University. Way to go Nicole!

DID YOU KNOW?

When hiring a staff member who already has a fingerprint clearance card, the Department of Public Safety must be contacted within 7 working days of the staff member beginning work to verify that the card is still valid and to register as the new employer. There is a fillable version of the Emergency Information and Immunization Record Card available on this website at http://www.azdhs.gov/als/childcare/documents/providers/forms/emergency_info_immunization_card.pdf. Parents can fill out the card at home where pertinent information is handy, print off a copy, and bring to the facility along with a copy of the child’s immunization records. This process will assist with a worry-free first day.

The facility must notify the Bureau within 10 days of a change in director or provider. Request from your local Office to be invited to the next scheduled Director Workshop.

New forms abound! We encourage you to check out our web pages on a regular basis for updated forms, as well as new information related to child care issues and upcoming training opportunities.

"Children are our most valuable natural resource."
Herbert Hoover

A Masterpiece in the making!
Flagstaff Headlines

The Flagstaff Office has almost gotten through another winter. We did not receive too much snow this winter, so we did not have to postpone many inspections due to weather! We have been promised a new four wheel drive vehicle to replace the 2003 Explorer that has almost 190,000 miles on it. The Surveyors in the Flagstaff Office drive an average of 5,000 miles a month to do inspections, investigate complaints, and conduct trainings throughout Northern Arizona so a new vehicle feels like quite a gift! Surveyor Pat Stallings recently opened a new facility in Beaver Creek in far northern Mohave County. It was five and a half hours of travel – and that was just one way! A video training for new providers is being created by Tim Triplett and Jamie Anderson and is almost completed. After almost a year of filming, editing and re-working many hours of film, the complete project is almost ready to go on the website. It will give new providers an idea of what is involved in a new inspection.

Our Surveyors have been offering trainings on-site to their providers on the regulations and other related topics. If you are interested in training at your facility, please contact your Surveyor to make arrangements.

Tucson/Yuma Headlines

Greetings from the Tucson/Yuma Office! We have BIG news from our piece of the desert! Licensing Surveyor Christine Fiore tied the knot on March 24th in a Western-themed event at Old Tucson. Congratulations Chris!

The Tucson Office is also home of the lucky SECC (State Employees Charitable Contribution) winner Alicia Taylor who is $1000 richer. Contributions to SECC are distributed to many non-profit organizations throughout the State. Alicia is definitely proof of the motto, “It pays to give”!!

Planning Ahead for Summer Field Trips

Many programs are gearing up for summer and that may mean field trips! Every summer the Bureau receives complaints filed against facilities regarding field trips. Issues of concern have included: lack of supervision of children while on the field trip, children left behind at the field trip location, children not in child restraint systems while being transported, and lack of air conditioning in the vehicle used to transport children. It’s time for staff to review the requirements for field trips, as well as the transportation of children. The Bureau’s Field Trip Permission Form embodies all of the requirements for securing parental permission prior to the field trip to documenting each child’s presence during the field trip. http://www.azdhs.gov/als/childcare/documents/providers/forms/field_trip_permission_slip.pdf. The form is easy to use and helps ensure the health and safety of our children.

For specifics, check out:
For Centers: R9-5-517 & 518
For Homes: R9-3-408

Will your program be temporarily closing for the summer or other times during the year? Be sure to provide your Surveyor with your facility’s calendar. Our certified homes are required to notify their Surveyor any time their program will be closed. A phone call or email will suffice.
“Only the curious will learn and only the resolute overcome the obstacles to learning.”
Eugene S. Wilson

Button Battery Dangers

Battery controlled devices – Inside small electronic devices may be very powerful coin-sized button batteries. When swallowed, these batteries can get stuck in the throat and cause severe burns or death. Children under the age of 4 are at the greatest risk. Each year, about 3,500 button battery swallowing cases are reported. The most serious cases involve nickel-sized 20 mm diameter batteries. These can get stuck in a child’s throat and burn through the esophagus in as little as 2 hours. Repair can require feeding and breathing tubes and multiple surgeries. Symptoms may be similar to other illnesses, such as coughing, drooling, and discomfort. Children can usually breathe with the battery in their throat, making the problem difficult to spot. Devices that may contain button batteries include remote control devices, car key fobs, bathroom scales, recordable children’s books, thermometers, calculators and candles. For more information, visit TheBatteryControlled.com or contact the National Battery Ingestion Hotline at 202-625-3333.

Online High School Diplomas

Before accepting a staff member’s (or potential staff member’s) high school diploma or encouraging a staff member to enroll in an online high school, verify that the school is accredited from Arizona’s regional accreditor, the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation. Find them at www.ncacasi.org. Surveyors are seeing diplomas from a number of online schools who are not accredited. It is heartbreaking for us to see staff members paying hundreds of dollars for a bogus diploma.

Changes Affecting Your Program

Room Modifications
With Summer coming, we know that some of you will be changing how you use your licensed space and you may need to add additional licensed space to accommodate your summer program. Be in contact with your Surveyor and submit your Modification Request as soon as your plans are known.

Newly Passed Legislation
Several bills affected the Bureau this year:
- HB2029 Child care; day camps.
- HB2520 Pesticide buffer zones.
- SB1136 Fingerprint Central Registry.
- SB1220 Child care facilities.
The Department is working on implementation plans to determine how these bills will effect both Providers and the Department.

Crib Standards
The prohibition against drop-side cribs goes into effect December 28, 2012. After this date, facilities shall no longer be using cribs which are equipped with sides that drop. Surveyors are beginning to see facilities that have already replaced their cribs with cribs that meet the new standards. As a reminder, the drop-side cribs that you are replacing shall not be sold or given away for another’s use, but should be dismantled and discarded. In most cases, drop-side cribs cannot be retrofitted to comply. For more information, go to www.cpsc.gov/onsafety.
Sun Safety with SunWise

**Summertime in the Desert!**

Summer’s Comin’! Bet you were already aware of this! Are you ready for excessive heat warnings in our desert communities? Do you have adequate shade? Is drinking water available to children? Are they encouraged to drink water? What about sun screen? Check out SunWise ideas at http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/sunwise.

**UNLICENSED CHILD CARE**

Arizona’s child care statutes permit providers to care for 4 or fewer children at any one time for compensation on a regular basis and not be licensed as a center or certified as a small group home. We, in the Bureau, refer to this as lawful care. **Lawful care** also includes those programs who are operating with an exemption as defined in A.R.S. § 36-884. The Bureau is now granting exemptions to programs who meet the established criteria.

With the downturn in our economy, the Bureau is seeing an increase in the number of complaints being filed against unlicensed child care providers. The Bureau’s role in investigating these complaints is to assess whether the provider is providing lawful care or is operating outside of the law. The Bureau will take legal action against those providers who are operating outside of the law and assist them with the licensing process should they choose to become licensed or certified.

If you are aware of a child care program or home that is operating outside of the law, please let us know by filing an online complaint on our website at https://app.azdhs.gov/ls/online_complaint/CCComplaint.aspx.

**Our Stats: The Inside Scoop**

In Arizona and as of March 1, there are currently 1,586 licensed centers, 351 certified homes and 618 licensed public school programs with a total licensed/certified capacity of 232,303 children. Capacities are not reflective, however, of the actual number of children being served. The county serving the fewest children is Greenlee with 197 total slots where there are 2 licensed centers and 2 licensed public school programs. No surprise is Maricopa County with the most slots at 161,301, and 963 licensed centers, 163 certified homes, and 431 licensed public school programs. Additionally, there are 24 pending centers, 25 pending homes, and 3 pending public school programs.

From January 2011 through March 2012, we have seen 332 programs close and have opened 223 new programs. A large percentage of the closed programs, were public school programs that combined with other programs on the same campus. As most of you are aware, Arizona’s economy has taken a downward turn in the past several years which has negatively impacted the viability of many programs.

Our 32 Licensing Surveyors conducted 4,489 inspections in 2011! This included 547 complaint investigations with 1,160 allegations of non-compliance. Allegations range from diapers not being changed to children left behind at field trip locations. Of those allegations, Surveyors were able to substantiate 450. The balance of the allegations were not substantiated or Surveyors were unable to determine if the facility was out of compliance.

**Average June Temps**

(See page 1)

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<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greer</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>89°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Luis</td>
<td>102°</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How’d you do?

Whew!

Ahhh… Nice!
**The Outlook**

**Inside the BCCL**

*Systems Analysis Committee* – The Systems Analysis Committee has been spending much of its time over the last six months updating many of the forms used by our child care group homes as a result of the new rules that took effect in September 2011. In the process, many of the forms used by all of our facilities were also reviewed. In some cases, in addition to minor updates, the forms got a face-lift!

One of the major changes completed was the creation, design and approval of the Condensed Rule Instruments for both home and center providers. These condensed instruments are being used for inspections that are limited in scope by the nature of the required inspection, e.g., mid-years, complaints, modifications. While the full-length instrument can also be used if necessary, the condensed instrument will be helpful in our efforts to conserve everyone’s resources, including time, space and paper.

Over the last couple of years, we have also been working to improve the efficiency of our application processes, including relicensure and modification requests. The applications are easily accessed under Provider Information on the website and can be completed and printed out immediately. Other resources on our website continue to be updated to provide current and useful information pertinent to regulatory requirements as well as effective and appropriate child care practices.

Our goal whenever we update a form or process is to not only to maintain or improve its accuracy in reflecting the regulatory requirements but also to create a format that is easy to read, understand and use. We are very pleased with the results of the suggestions and feedback we have received from co-workers and our providers, and appreciate the help in our continued efforts to improve our products! We strongly recommend that you check on our website regularly for any changes, updates or additions to our list of useful forms.

Efficiencies undertaken by the Bureau include the use of the condensed inspections checklists, when appropriate; flexible scheduling of routine inspections; consolidation of forms; and, enforcement procedures. And, there is much more to come!

*Design & Development* – This committee is comprised of staff from the Flagstaff, Tucson and Phoenix Offices. Their mission is to create tools that are evidence and research based in order to support child care programs in our State. The group is hard at work developing pertinent and useful information that will be available to you from the Bureau’s website.

Proposed projects include Small Group Home Provider training modules, Sun Safety information and activities, Rule Enhancement Kits and more. As the materials are completed, they can be found by clicking the Training button on the Bureau’s home page.

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**On Emergency Preparedness from D.E.E.P.**

*(BCCL’s Disaster, Emergency, Evacuation, Preparedness Committee)*

*Summer is almost here! Are you ready? BCCL recommends:*

⇒ When outside: Plenty of water to stay adequately hydrated, sunscreen, hats, and sunglasses.

⇒ Monitor the Heat Index and Heat Advisories - Schedule outside time for early morning. Plan to move activities inside if too hot outside.

⇒ Review signs and symptoms of overheating and heat exhaustion. Be SAFE out there!!!
REMINDERS —

CPR – Only in-person hands-on/participatory training courses are accepted to meet the requirement. Online web-based coursework for CPR will NOT be accepted. Online first aid certifications are accepted, however.

Fingerprint Clearance Cards – Is it time to renew your card or those of your staff? Create a tickler system to remind you when it is time. Cards must be renewed prior to the expiration date.

Poison Help - Program into your cell phone the number for Poison Control 1-800-222-1222 for quick responses.

MORE REMINDERS —

Licensing Fees for 3 year Anniversaries – Did you know that Payment Plans are available? Speak with your Surveyor if you have questions.

Medications for a life-threatening condition such as an extreme allergy or asthma (Epi-Pen or inhaler) may be stored within an activity area as long as the medication is not accessible to children. Written parental permission is required for the administration of all children’s medications, including over-the-counter. Be sure to verify that all medications are within their expiration dates.

Have a safe summer!