

Summary of Public Hearing
Child Care Subsidy Program Integrity
Chapter DCF 201/CR 17-099

The department held a public hearing on the proposed rules in Madison on January 26, 2018.

Ann Becker, VP of Programs at the Penfield Children's Center in Milwaukee, submitted the following comments:

1. The current formatting of the department's automation system, Child Care Provider Information, is not provider friendly. Previously, providers had access to a parent's authorized hours and weekly payment amount.

Department response: Section 49.83, Stats., prohibits the use or disclosure of public assistance information for any purpose that is not related to administration of the program. Child care providers no longer submit attendance records for reimbursement and are no longer involved in the administration of the subsidy program.

2. It is difficult for providers to plan ahead when we do not know how many hours of child care have been authorized for a parent or the amount of the monthly subsidy payment.

Department response: Parents know the number of authorized hours that have been authorized. Providers and parents will need to discuss the anticipated hours the child will be attending and payment arrangements.

3. The rule mentions a form. Is the form a template or is it required? When will it be available?

Department response: The rule requires a written agreement between a provider and a parent that receives a subsidy for child care by the provider. The rule specifies the information that must be included in the agreement. Use of the form is optional. The form, DCF-F-5224 *Provider/Parent Child Care Payment Agreement*, is available on the department's website at <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/forms>.

4. Changing from a weekly to a monthly subsidy payment means that parents who receive a subsidy different are treated differently than private pay parents. Providers need to calculate everything a month in advance instead of weekly as with private pay parents. Weekly payments are the industry standard.

Department response: Subsidy payments are electronically available to parents on the first of each month. Providers can still require that all parents pay on a weekly basis. One of the primary purposes of the current payment system is to allow providers to receive payments from parents who receive a subsidy and private pay parents in a similar manner.

Debra Gorman, District Leader, KinderCare, West Allis, registered in favor of the proposed rules.

The following persons observed for information only:

- Darcy Marshall, Subsidy Coordinator, KinderCare, Monona
- Jodi Dobberphul, Subsidy Coordinator, KinderCare, West Bend
- Melissa Burke, Subsidy Supervisor, KinderCare, New Berlin
- Ruby Grisby, Owner, Grisby Child Development Center, Milwaukee
- Jacqueline White, Licensee, Nana's Cozy Corner, Inc., Milwaukee
- Sheryl Strommen, Director, Campus for Kids, Madison
- Carla Burtrock, Assistant Director, Campus for Kids, Madison