



Oklahoma Child Care Resource & Referral Association's Policy Recommendations for 2008

FOUR PROBLEMS

1. "Parents don't know what they don't know." Parents want access to all information regarding child care providers; the information is not easily accessible and understandable to parents needing to make an informed decision on who should care for their children.
2. With minimum wage increases, the current subsidy payment to child care providers will not be enough to sustain the system; providers already are closing. This limits parent choice, child safety and child care accessibility.
3. Currently, individuals in child care centers can care for children without having any type of pre-service training other than an orientation. Even the cosmetology and animal care industries require training prior to employment. Family child care home providers are only required to have 12 hours of pre-service training, with most of that time for First Aid and CPR.
4. Currently, an OSBI background check is required of caregivers only prior to employment. There is no requirement for child care workers to tell employers after employment about child abuse or neglect convictions or any other type of felony that may affect the individual's ability to provide safe, quality child care.



FOUR SOLUTIONS

1. Partner with OKDHS Oklahoma Child Care Services to improve the recently available online "Summary of Facility Monitoring" so that parents have complete, easily understandable information about the state's documentation of the health, safety and quality of care available.
2. Request the legislature increase child care subsidy appropriations so that OKDHS can increase provider reimbursement rates to address minimum wage increases and reach the 75th percentile from the 2007 market rate survey for Two and Three Star facilities.
3. Encourage the Child Care Advisory Committee to expand recent improvements to child care regulations to require a minimum of 40 hours of pre-service training for all individuals caring for children in center or home settings. Focus such training on ensuring the health and safety of children. Make pre-service training a personal responsibility of the caregiver.
4. Recommend to the Child Care Advisory Committee an annual OSBI check for all workers in the child care industry. Make the OSBI check the personal responsibility of the caregiver.



