Delaware’s Strategy and Study of Family Child Care Engagement in QRIS

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Presentation Agenda

- Brief overview of research on family child care participation in QRIS
- Strategies from three different states on engaging the family child care sector
  - Delaware
  - Colorado
  - Minnesota
- Large group discussion and brainstorming
Family child care participation in voluntary QRIS is significantly lower than center-based programs. Family child care programs who do participate are generally rated lower than center-based programs (Tout, et al, 2011; Tout et al., 2010).

Family child care providers who participate in QRIS often do not access the resources and supports available to them (Smith, Schneider, & Kreader, 2010).

Effective PD for FCCP is situated to meet the unique needs of the setting, coordinated over time, linked to on-site assistance, and includes a social support component (e.g., Bromer et al., 2009; Hallam & Bargreen, 2013; Koh & Neuman; 2009).

Community of Practice models are an evidence-based strategy for teachers, however, there has been little application of COP with family child care in QRIS (Buysse, Sparkman, & Wesley, 2003; Vescio, Ross, & Adams, 2008).
Engaging FCC Providers: Ambassadors

- Family Child Care Ambassadors nominated by TAs
- July 2013- 10 Ambassadors began meeting monthly
  - Topics: public speaking, marketing, recruitment, leadership
- Assist with outreach during town meetings and recruitment sessions
- Second ambassador group will begin in September
  - 13 FCC providers
  - First group of ambassadors will support this new group
Engaging FCC Providers: Stars Plus

- Stars Plus targets high subsidy programs

Model Components

- **Technical Assistance**
  - Higher Intensity (weekly with flexibility)
  - All driven by Quality Improvement Plan
- Relationship-Based

- **Community of Practice**
  - Monthly CoP meetings facilitated by TA

- **Coordinated Professional Development**
  - Providers and TA attend together

- **Grants and Awards**

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It’s like our cohort is like family and our TA is like family. She’s the one that keeps us going and gives us advice on how to better ourselves.
- FCC Provider
Engaging FCC Providers: Family Child Care Caseloads

- Specific TAs predominantly serve family child care providers
- Provide mentoring and support to TAs on unique issues in the family child care community
- TAs hold monthly meetings for their caseloads to focus on professional and social support
Other Strategies

- Hiring of past family child care providers
- Educating all Stars staff on the value of family child care as important sector in early care and education
- Inviting/including family child care providers in all Stars events (e.g., recognition, provider meetings, etc).
Study Goals

✧ Document the experiences of family child care providers across two different states and with different QRIS systems.

✧ Study the impact of a novel quality improvement framework for family child care providers on QRIS participation and engagement.
## Study Context

| Kentucky Stars for KIDS NOW | • Launched in 2002  
|                            | • Voluntary and available to all licensed programs  
|                            | • Star levels 1-4  
|                            | • Building Block model  
|                            | • Quality standards – staff/Child ratio, group size, curriculum, parent involvement, staff education, regulatory compliance and personnel practices.  
|                            | • ERS required for levels 2-4  
|                            | • TA available to support programs |

| Delaware Stars for Early Success | • Launched in 2007; redesign launched in 2012  
|                                  | • Voluntary and available to all licensed programs  
|                                  | • Star levels 1-5  
|                                  | • Hybrid points-based model  
|                                  | • Quality standards in learning environments and curriculum, family and community partnerships, management and administration, and professional development and qualifications  
|                                  | • ERS required for levels 3-5  
|                                  | • TA available to support programs; Stars Plus available to high subsidy programs |
Research Questions

- What are the patterns of family child care provider participation and experience in QRIS efforts across the two state systems?
- What are the critical features of implementing a Community of Practice with FCC in a QRIS context?
- How does participation in a Community of Practice influence FCC provider participation in QRIS and quality improvement over time?
- How does enhancing a FCC Community of Practice with curriculum-focused professional development influence program quality?
Mixed Methods Approach

- Analysis of state-level administrative data across both states
- Focus groups of providers – both participants and non-participants – across both states over the study period
- Implementation study of community of practice groups – both monthly meetings and TA visits
- Time series analysis of family child care quality using the FCCERS-R and CHELLO
Family Child Care Participation in Delaware

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Number of FCC Providers in DE</th>
<th>FCC Providers Participating in QRIS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1044</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>951</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>883</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>836</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bar chart showing the decrease in total number of FCC providers and the increase in providers participating in QRIS over the years.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Number of FCC Providers in KY</th>
<th>FCC Providers Participating in QRIS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>719</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>621</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Delaware: Star Level Distribution

June, 2011
- SLD 1: 5
- SLD 2: 6
- SLD 3: 6
- SLD 4: 1
- SLD 5: 1

June, 2012
- SLD 1: 6
- SLD 2: 27
- SLD 3: 6
- SLD 4: 1
- SLD 5: 1

June, 2013
- SLD 1: 38
- SLD 2: 76
- SLD 3: 12
- SLD 4: 6
- SLD 5: 1

May, 2014
- SLD 1: 35
- SLD 2: 189
- SLD 3: 25
- SLD 4: 35
- SLD 5: 6
## Family Child Care Participation in QRIS Across DE and KY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Kentucky</th>
<th>Delaware</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Certified Homes</td>
<td>Type II Licensed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Total</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAR Rated</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penetration Rate</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>39.4%</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preliminary analysis suggests...

- Across both states the family child care population is declining
- FCC participation in QRIS may require aggressive recruitment
- FCC providers can make progress in QRIS systems with effective supports
- Need for additional study of demographic differences in participation
Discussion

- What strategies for engaging family child care providers in QRIS have been successful in your state?

- What types of quality improvement supports seem to be most effective for family child care providers?

- What are other family child care provider characteristics that might be relevant in understanding QRIS participation and engagement?
Thank You!
Today’s Agenda

- Introduction
- FCCQC Project Goals
- FCCQC Project Strategies & Structure
- FCCQC & CO’s New QRIS
- Questions
Who We Are

is a non-profit dedicated to advancing quality early childhood education across Colorado.
Family Child Care Quality Certificate (FCCQC)

How did this get started?

• Only 2% of all licensed family child care homes in CO have a current Qualistar Rating™

• CO Office of Early Childhood projects 40% of licensed family child care homes in the upper levels of the new QRIS by December 2016
Family Child Care Quality Certificate (FCCQC)

How did this get started?

• Partnership with Mile High United Way

• Partnership with the Colorado Association of Family Child Care (CAFCC)
Project Goal

• Prepare Family Child Care (FCC) home providers for successful participation in Colorado’s Next Generation Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)
Strategies

• Create an FCC program assessment that results in recognition of quality exceeding FCC licensing rules that aligns with QRIS standards
  – Conduct a crosswalk analysis between FCC licensing rules, NAFCC standards, Qualistar Rating™ criteria, and Colorado Next Generation QRIS standards draft
Strategies Continued

• Offer trainings tailored to FCC providers that focus on such topics as:
  – Forging strong family partnerships
  – Developing curriculum for mixed age groups
  – Child care business administration
  – An introduction to Colorado’s Early Learning and Development Guidelines
Strategies Continued

• **Provide incentives**
  - $300 grant for each participant to be used for quality improvement in their child care program
  - One year of annual membership dues with CAFCC
Assessment Standards

- Standards are grouped into categories aligned with Colorado’s Next Generation QRIS:
  - Provider Qualifications and Professional Development
  - Family Partnerships
  - Learning Environment
  - Business Practices and Administration
  - Child Health
FCCQC & Colorado’s QRIS

• Colorado’s Next Generation QRIS has not yet launched
• 130 family child care home providers will be more prepared for successful participation in the new system
• Program evaluation
Contact Information

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www.qualistar.org

Qualistar
Ratings & Assessments
Acknowledgements

• The Qualistar Rating™ is patented with the United States Patent and Trademark Office under US Patent Number 6,916,180.

• Business Administration Scale For Family Child Care, by Teri N. Talan and Paula Jorde Bloom. (Teachers College Press, Copyright © 2009 by Teri N. Talan and Paula Jorde Bloom)

• Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale - Revised, by Thelma Harms, Ellen Vineberg Jacobs, and Donna Romano White. (Teachers College Press, Copyright © 2007 by Thelma Harms, Ellen Vineberg Jacobs, and Donna Romano White.) Used with permission of the publisher and the authors.