

Testimony by Leadell Ediger  
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Chairwoman Landwehr, and members of the Joint Committee on Health Policy Oversight, thank you for allowing me to testify this morning. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you and I know we share the same goal: to ensure that children in Kansas have access to safe child care that promotes their healthy development.

My name is Leadell Ediger and I am the Executive Director, of Child Care Aware® of Kansas. We are the state network that supports six child care resource and referral agencies who serve all 105 counties in Kansas. We are in a unique position within communities to work with families, child care providers as well as state and local governments to strengthen the quality of child care. We do this by:

- Ensuring that families have access to affordable, high-quality child care across the state, through child care referrals and consumer education. This year we've helped over 17,000 families in Kansas find child care.
- Supporting child care providers including assistance with starting and operating a child care business, on-going professional development and training both in person and on-line classes, and information and support about how to make quality improvements that positively impact the children in their care.
- We network with employers and community partners to provide information about family/friendly policies and programs that benefit employees, child care supply and demand data, and how to support the development of high-quality child care programs in their communities.

Since 2007, Child Care Aware of America, formerly NACCRRRA has produced annual rankings of State Standards and Oversight alternating years for Child Care Centers and Small Family Child Care Homes. In those early years, I was embarrassed to report the Kansas scores and ranking. Today, I'm proud of the incredible progress Kansas has made to ensure that all children in child care are safe and well cared for by a trained provider. Over the years are scores have been:

|      | Child Care Center<br><i>We Can Do Better</i> |         | Small Family Child Care Homes<br><i>Leaving Children to Chance</i> |         |
|------|--|---------|--|---------|
|      | Score  | Ranking | Score  | Ranking |
| 2007 | 54/150                                       | 47      |  |         |

|      |        |    |       |                 |
|------|--------|----|-------|-----------------|
| 2008 |        |    | 0/140 | 42              |
| 2009 | 64/150 | 47 |       |                 |
| 2010 |        |    | 0/140 | 41              |
| 2011 | 64/150 | 48 |       |                 |
| 2012 |        |    | 111   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |

The strengths identified in the 2012 report included:

- All family child care homes caring for one or more unrelated children are required to be licensed.
- All family child care homes are inspected once a year.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Child care licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- Providers are required to have comprehensive initial training, including first aid and CPR certification.
- Providers must offer toys/materials in all developmental domains.
- Providers must offer activities addressing all development domains.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.

In 2012, we jumped to 3<sup>rd</sup> in the country, behind Oklahoma and Washington! I attribute this incredible jump in points and ranking to Lexie's Law! The most significant changes to the child care licensing laws in 30 years. The new educational requirement of a minimum of GED and the following professional development: orientation for child care facilities applicants and staff; initial health and safety training for providers such as child development, safe sleep, and certified pediatric first aid and CPR; daily care of children; competent supervision of children; and expanded napping requirements related to safe sleep practices all contribute to this national recognition of high quality standards!

The impact on the number of child care providers attending professional development offered by the child care resource and referral agencies has been tremendous. The first chart reflects the increase in professional development events and the number of providers attending from 2009/2010 through November 2012. The second chart shows specific professional development events and number of providers attending since the Lexie's Law. You will note that just since Lexie's Law was passed we have provided training to just under 9,200 providers.

| Professional Development Events (PDEs) completed | July 2009-<br>June 2010 | July 2010-<br>June 2011 | July 2011-<br>June 2012 | July 2012-<br>November<br>2012 |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Professional Development Events                  | 698                     | 692                     | 831                     | 478                            |
| Hours of In-Service                              | 2,677.50                | 3,370                   | 2,918                   | 1,364.5                        |
| # of Providers Attended                          | 9,616                   | 11,906                  | 13,790                  | 8,503                          |
| # of Modules                                     | 269                     | 257                     | 279                     | 104                            |
| Co-Sponsored                                     | 466                     | 376                     | 293                     | 89                             |

| Professional Development Offered to Fulfill Lexie's Law | April-June<br>2012 | July 2012-<br>November<br>2012 | Total |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| Professional Development Events                         | 159                | 257                            | 416   |
| Hours of In-Service                                     | 373                | 624                            | 997   |
| # of Providers Attended                                 | 3,665              | 5,533                          | 9,198 |

Of course, as an advocate for high quality child care there would be some additional measures that I'd like to see, which are supported by Child Care Aware® of America, including:

- Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history and include a check of the sex offender registry for background checks.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants when older children are present.

Thank you for taking time to review this important safe guard for young children in Kansas.