

From: Mary Ellen Tremelling
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 2:33 PM
To: Host, Monica
Subject: child care concerns

As a long time provider, I have seen many changes come to child care, most of them for the intended purpose of bettering the child care programs. I am not quite sure about Young Star for all providers. I do think it has great intentions of strengthening programs as providers receive training to raise their Young Star rating. I have heard about providers in outlying areas of need, that are getting paid less because now their level of training is not good enough and puts them at a lower rating on the scale so that their pay is reduced to reflect that. Not everyone is able to attend or take additional trainings. I personally believe it is a great way for providers without a degree to obtain training.

The Dane county funding area is something that needs much improvement. I remember the old program where family child care providers could enroll children in the "enrollment" category. We were paid if the child was or was not here. We got vacation time and a notice period if a child was leaving. I expect ALL of my families to pay whether the child is here or not, to get paid vacation (this is suppose to be a sign of a good business practice), and to get an adequate amount of notice before a child leaves a program. I have had children from county funding over the years. Some I have even reduced the co pay so they could handle it better and they were grateful. Now that things have changed, so have I. I will charge the going rate to ALL families regardless of their income status. I would be loosing way too much income to enroll a child based on their attendance! I have 3 weeks of paid vacation and 6 professional days and all holidays off with pay.

I know that by being 5 star rated, that I get 25% added to my paycheck. What you pay me plus the 25% does not add up to the amount I charge. The last family I had, I let them apply that 25% so their co pay will be less. I do care about families too.

One big issue with me is about centers getting paid the "enrollment" category when family child care cannot!!! This is totally unfair. When you run out of family providers because they are not willing to accept these families because of unfair tactics and low pay, all of these families will have to end up in centers and you will be paying the "enrollment" pricing anyway. From what I last knew was an amount higher than what you pay family child care providers!

I do not have a solution for these problems. My job is to do the best I can. I do that every day.

I know that creating child care options for needy families is a huge undertaking for any organization. I do want to thank you for the areas where you got it right!

Mary Ellen Tremelling
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