

# Early Childhood Health Consultation

Thursday, May 13th

2:30pm-4:30pm CST

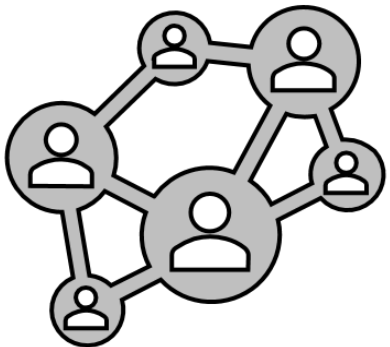
# Introductions

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# Today's Purpose

- Not only to prevent children from being at risk
- Ensure they are thriving and flourishing with the support of high-quality guidelines and standards
- Help Early Childhood be more successful!



# Today's Agenda



- Project Background
- Needs Assessment Survey
- Policy Scan
- Overlapping Trends
- Project Recommendations
- Concluding Thoughts
- Reflections &/or Questions

# Project Background

# Project Background



- Need
  - Support for Wisconsin early care and education (ECE) providers
- Purpose
  - Needs Assessment for child care health consultants (CCHCs)
- Partnership
  - Funded by the Preschool Development Grant
  - Partnered with the Wisconsin Department of Children & Families
  - Report submitted this past December 2020
- Process
  - Needs Assessment Survey
  - Policy Scan

# What is a Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC)?

## CFOC Standard 1.6.0.1<sup>1</sup>

- *Defines CCHCs as "a licensed health professional with education and experience in child and community health and child care and preferably specialized training in child care health consultation."*
- CCHC role within Early Care and Education<sup>1</sup>:
  - Provide general health expertise & answer questions
  - Conduct health and safety assessments
  - Interpret health and safety standards
  - Refer to community resources
  - Connect families to a primary care medical home when necessary

# Evidence for CCHC programs

- Improved written health and safety policies and health practices <sup>2</sup>
- Increased rates of recommended vaccines, well-child physicals, and use of medical care homes among children in the study <sup>3</sup>
- Support children's health needs through collaboration with primary care medical homes <sup>4</sup>





# Needs Assessment Survey

# Needs Assessment Survey Participation

- 35 Wisconsin ECE providers from July 21, 2020 to August 12, 2020
  - All five of DCF regions represented



# Needs Assessment Survey- Summary

- Varied guidelines to create health policies
- Limited familiarity with CFOC
- Challenging general health & mental health needs
- Expressed need for health consultation
- Consultation with CCHCs on variety of topics
- Trust in nurses & clinicians as CCHCs
- Virtual consultation
- Resources to help parents accept guidance from CCHCs

# Policy Scan

# Policy Scan- Process

- Wisconsin ECE providers' online health policies
- Of 4,537 providers, 550 online health policies found and analyzed
- Provider exclusion/inclusion guidelines for five health topics were compared to the CFOC standards and scored based on alignment with CFOC
  - Fever, Lice, Pinkeye, Ringworm, Vomiting

# Policy Scan- Findings



- Average overall scores indicate divergence between center policies and the CFOC standards
  - Overall average score = 3.5
- No online policy was found that matched the CFOC standards on all five health topics
  - Scores of 2 were fairly uncommon within health topics
  - Highest score = 7

# Policy Scan- Findings Cont'd



- Wide variation in health policies
  - Depth of definitions and number of health topics covered
  - Sources used to create policies
    - Templates, policy samples, links to online resources, communicable disease chart
    - Some policies referenced state licensing policies and laws

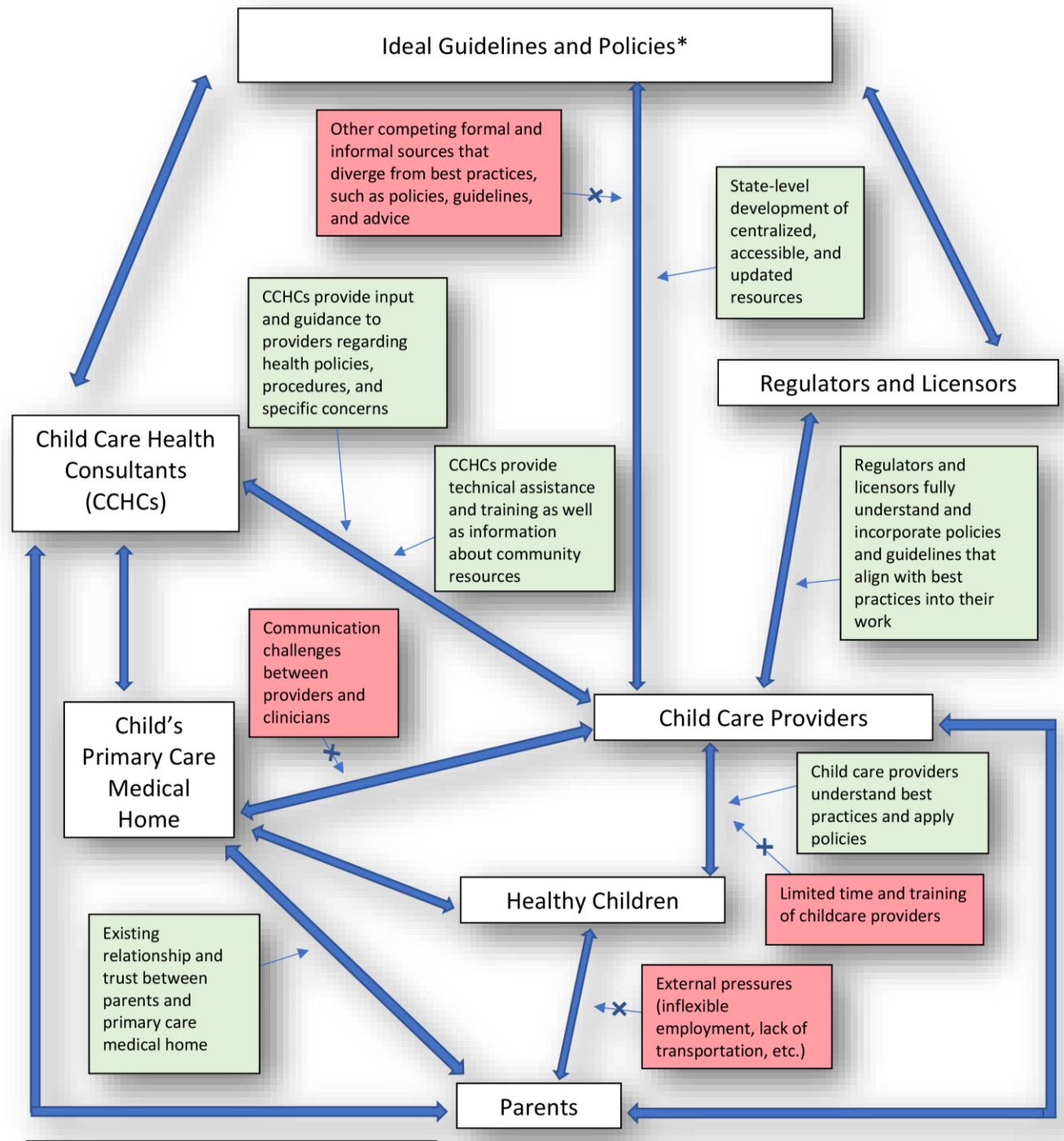
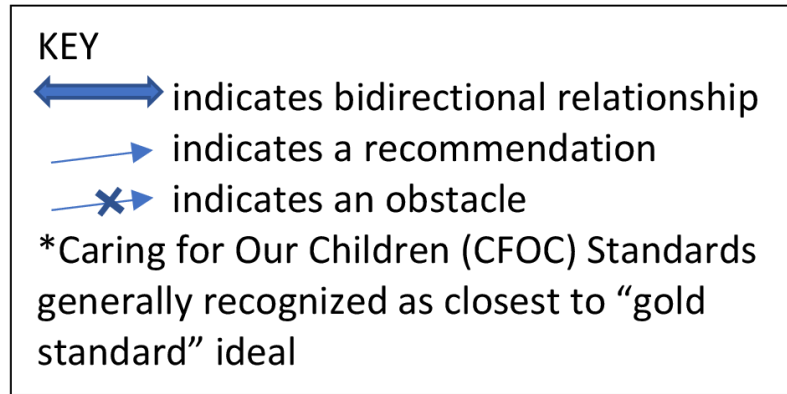
# Overlapping Trends

- Needs Assessment Survey & Policy Scan identified overlaps
  - Variety of resources and sources used by ECE providers to develop health policies, Variety of policies
  - Lack of familiarity of CFOC guidelines, High variance of CFOC guidelines with ECE providers health policies
  - Expressed interest from ECE providers for support on health related challenges, Expressed desire & identified need for CCHC guidance on health policies





# Recommendations & Obstacles on the Path Toward Healthy Children



# Project Recommendations

CCHC  
Pilot  
Program

Centralized  
&  
Consistent  
Resources

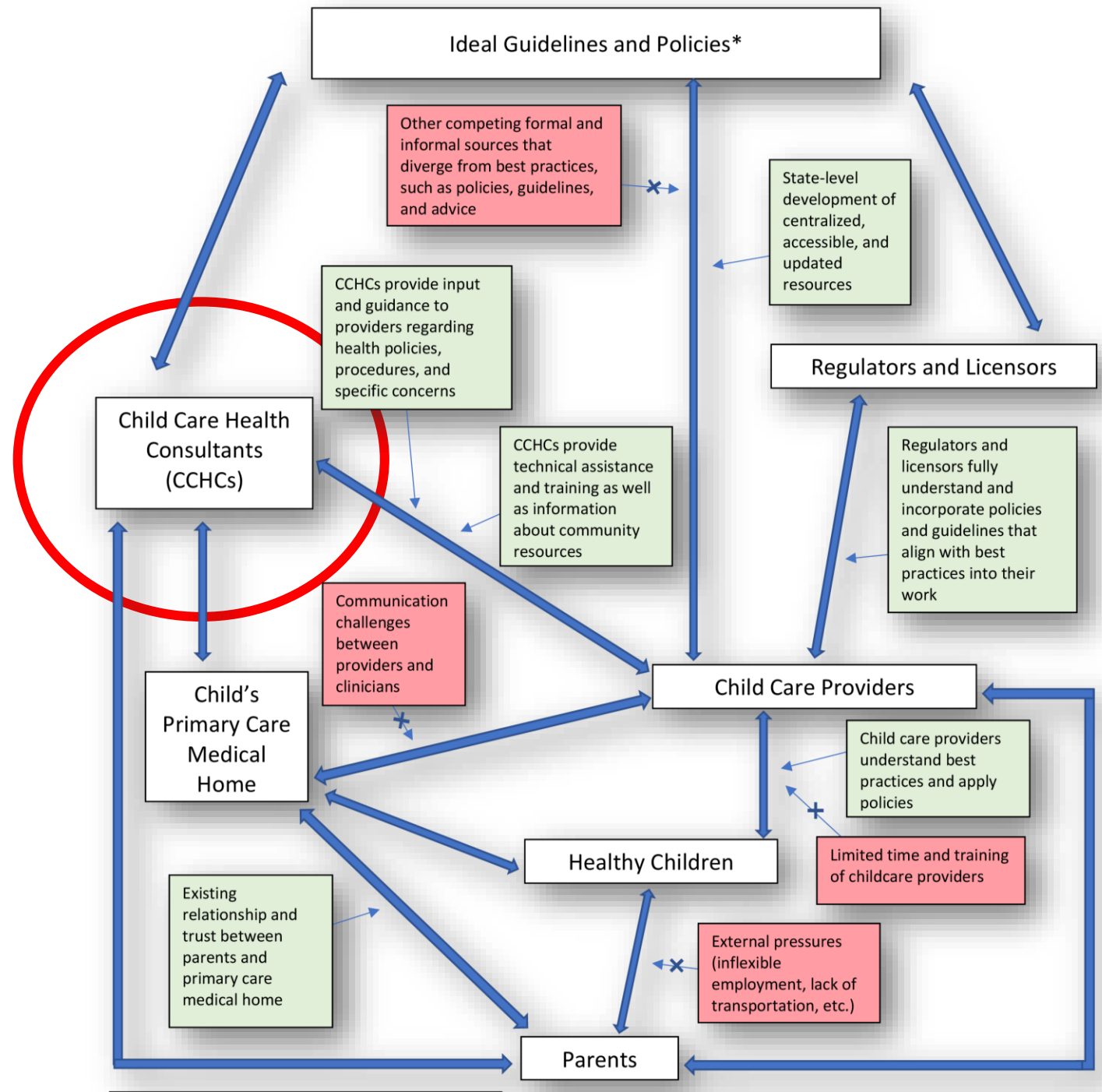
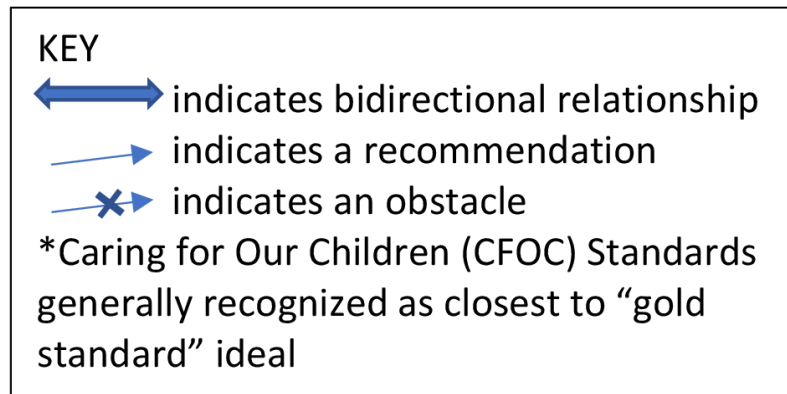
Training  
to  
Support Pilot  
&  
Resource  
Awareness

# Project Recommendations: CCHC pilot program



- Role filled by registered nurse with oversight from physician
- Experience in pediatrics/working with children and consultation
- Virtual consultation for majority of ECE program needs
  - Expansion option to increase consultation services as needs & budget allow
  - Scope & scale developed through collaboration with DCF

# Recommendations & Obstacles on the Path Toward Healthy Children



# Project Recommendations: Centralized & Consistent Resources

- Centralized website or landing page
  - Current websites commonly used by ECE providers could hyperlink to bridge to this centralized page
- Easily accessible CFOC Standards
- Others available aligned resources could include sample policies or templates



# Recommendations & Obstacles on the Path Toward Healthy Children

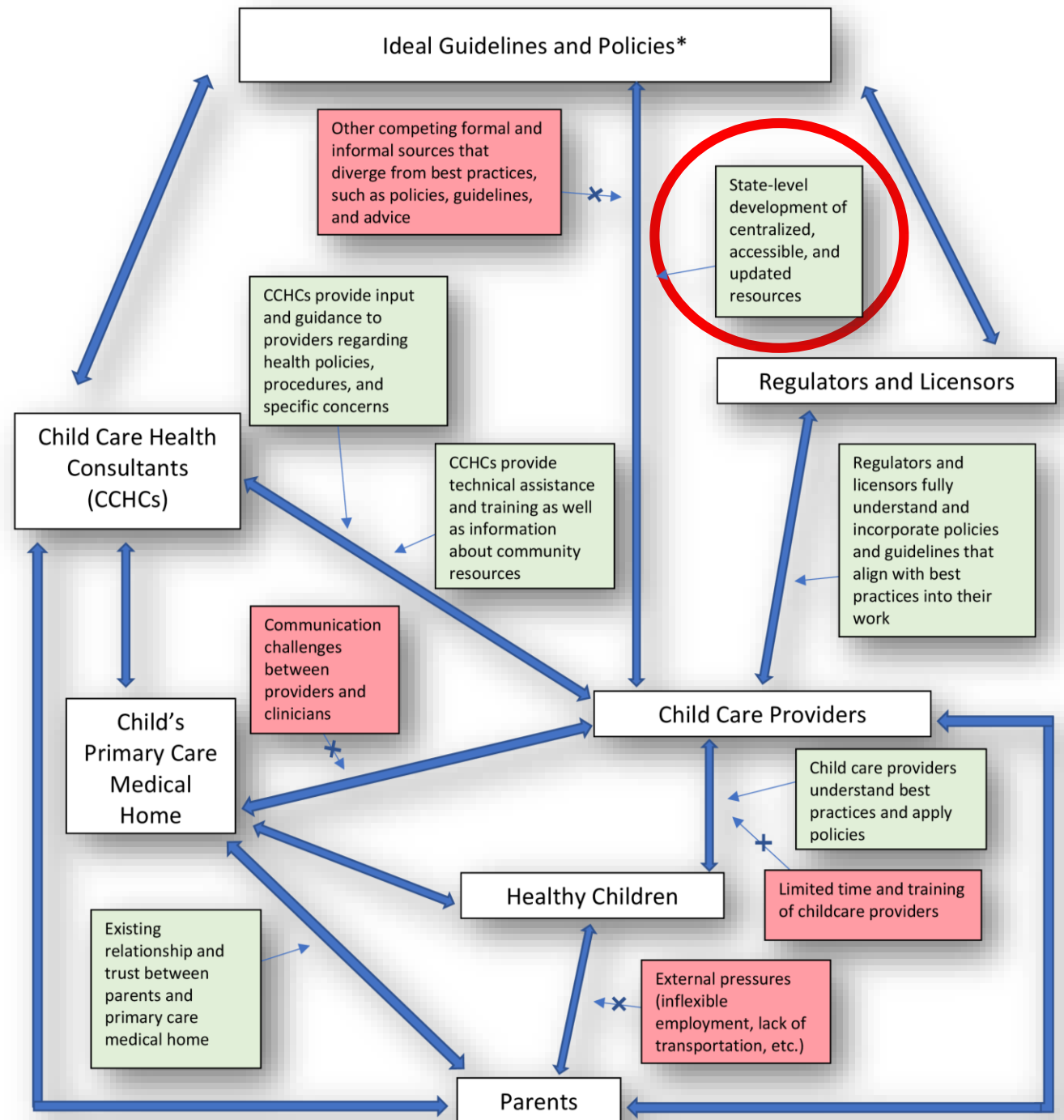
## KEY

↔ indicates bidirectional relationship

→ indicates a recommendation

✕ indicates an obstacle

\*Caring for Our Children (CFOC) Standards generally recognized as closest to “gold standard” ideal



# Project Recommendations:

## Training to support pilot & resource awareness

- For Wisconsin child care licensing & ECE providers
- To promote awareness of CCHC pilot program
- To reduce any barriers to participation
- Offer opportunities for input on program design process
- To promote collaboration between ECE providers with CCHC
- To support ECE providers on communication of CCHC program with families
- To encourage application of aligned resources on future health policies



# Recommendations & Obstacles on the Path Toward Healthy Children

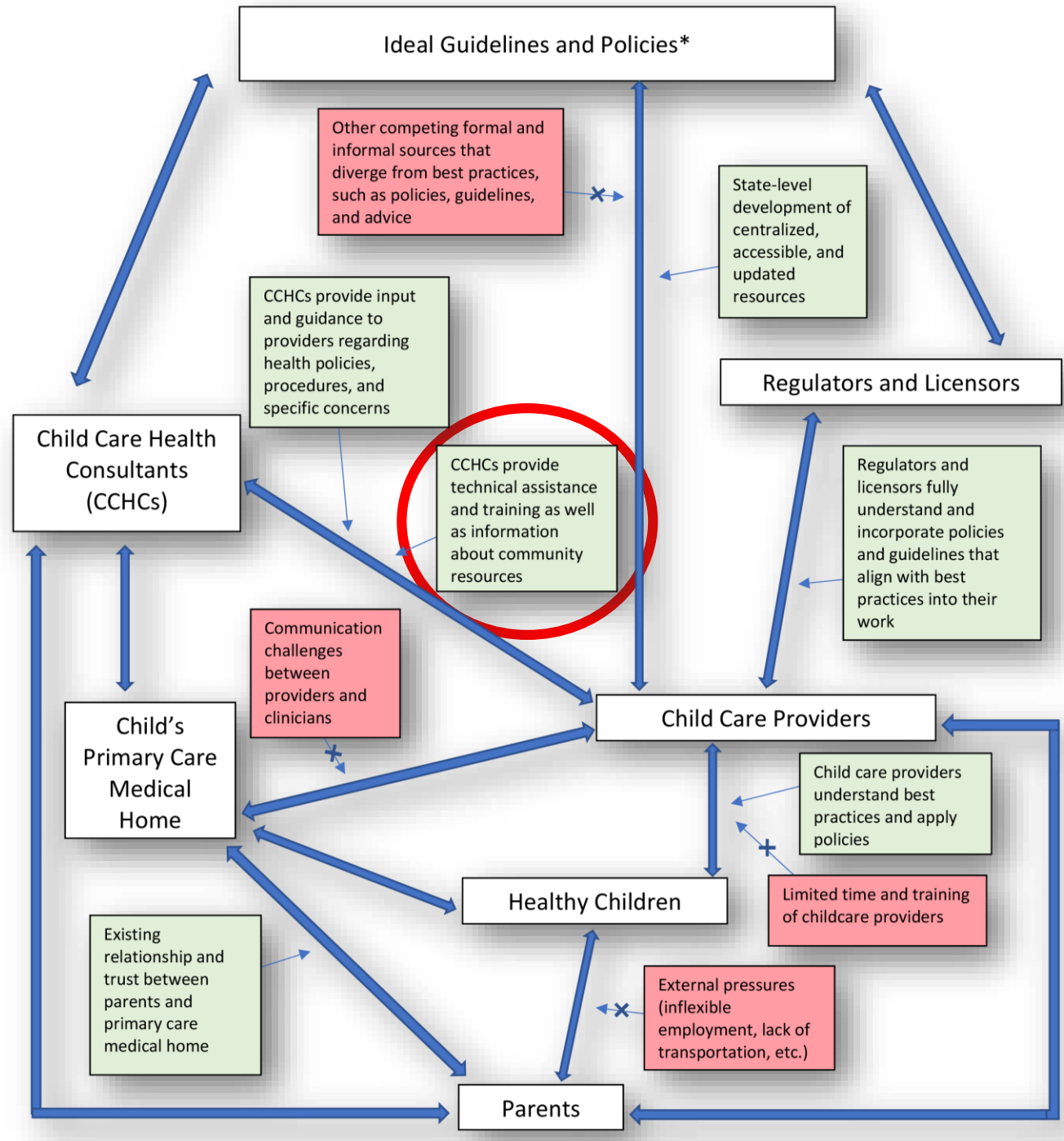
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# Summary & Concluding Thoughts

# Any Other Reflections &/ Questions



Thank you!

# References

1. American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. (n.d.). Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs (CFOC). Retrieved from CFOC Standards Database: <http://nrckids.org/CFOC/Database>
2. Alkon A, Bernzweig J, To K, Wolff M, Mackie JF. Child care health consultation improves health and safety policies and practices. *Academic Pediatrics*, 2009;9(5):366-70. doi: 10.1016/j.acap.2009.05.005
3. Isbell P, Kotch J, Savage E, Gunn E, Lu L, Weber D. Improvement of child care programs' policies, practices, and children's access to health care linked to child care health consultation. *NHSA Dialog: A Research to Practice Journal*. 2013;16(2):34-52. Accessed November 18, 2020. <https://journals.uncc.edu/dialog/article/view/93>
4. Honigfeld L, Pascoe T, Macary S, Crowley A. *Promoting Children's Health in Early Care and Education Settings by Supporting Health Consultation*. Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut, Inc. February 2017. Accessed November 18, 2020. <https://www.chdi.org/index.php/publications/reports/impact-reports/promoting-childrens-health-early-care-and-education-settings-supporting-health-consultation>
5. Hashikawa AN, Juhn YJ, Nimmer M, et al. Unnecessary child care exclusions in a state that endorses national exclusion guidelines. *Pediatrics*. 2010;125(5):1003-1009. doi:10.1542/peds.2009-2283