

**Marion County Feedback Re. School Age Care**  
**October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007**  
**Notes**

**Common Themes**

Length of time program operates and/or children attend - # of hrs, days/week

Cost of program to the family – program fee

Age of children served

# of children served

Level of responsibility program has for child – expectation/understanding parents have, including if child can come and go without an adult

Developing a tiered or middle range category that isn't licensed but includes some minimum standards in the following area:

- Staff/child ratio
- CPR & First Aid
- Background checks
- Fire Drills

Programs should be held to the same standards of accountability

**What is happening that is good for school age kids in your community?**

Kids look forward to after school program

Kids have higher success in school such as in literacy

Respite for foster families

Learning social skills

Supervision is drug, pregnancy prevention

Healthy snacks – especially for low income families

Structure & healthy adult relationships

**What is not happening for school age kids in your community?**

Lack ability to measure results of after school programs for child outcomes

Adequate medical care for kids

Programs often can't close on time and kids are not always signed out to parents

Gaps in safety between learning and home

Staff need more training opportunities

**What do you think the current exemption of school age should be? (Principles and criteria)**

Length of time (14 or more hours)

Payment – is it free or low cost

The level of responsibility the program has for the child

Can the site afford licensure?

Staff to child ratio

Training

Supervision

Does the program provide structured activities for children?

Recommended a tiered system:

1. minimum standards:
  - a. background checks – there are different types
  - b. CPR & 1<sup>st</sup> Aid training for staff
  - c. Fire drills
  - d. Physical space is addressed, includes bathrooms and running water
  
2. licensing:
  - a. # of hours, days/week
  - b. relationship with parents – is there an expectation parents have
  - c. # of kids served

Grey Area termed ‘community care programs’

Registration

Consistent standards

Emergency contacts

CPR & 1<sup>st</sup> Aid

Procedures for leaving

Attendance is not required

Age of children served

Is there a program fee

Frequency of service (how often you meet)

An annual check list or peer review that is not as arduous as licensing but has same level of accountability

**Additional notes:**

The shortage of after school programs/options for kids

Funding for after school programs

Led to discussion of quality

Unsure of what the licensing requirements are

What are other states doing?

Rural programs – do they have to meet the same requirements

Is there a burden for licensure – what are the impacts if licensed?

There is money needed to achieve licensure

Accountability of grey area

Offer incentives for programs to meet a standard of the state vs. the stick of licensing

Programs should be required to meet all or the same stringent requirements (ratio, facilities, safety, medical care) regardless of if the program is city/county/state sponsored.

If one group of caregivers is held accountable to a certain standard, then let all be held accountable to the same high standard.