

Report for the Missouri Coordinating Board for Early Childhood
October 6, 2015

Department: Department of Health and Senior Services

Liaison to the Board: Gail Vasterling.

Report as of September 22, 2015

- **Action Items In-progress/Pending:**

- **Announcements:**

Senate Bill 341 Effective August 28, 2015

During the last legislative session, the Missouri General Assembly passed Senate Bill 341 (SB341). This bill has key pieces impacting licensed and license-exempt child care providers in the areas of immunization and safe sleep for children less than one year of age. On July 7, Gov. Jay Nixon signed the bill which became law on August 28, 2015.

Immunizations

SB341 requires both licensed and license-exempt child care providers to notify parents and guardians of each child, at the time initial enrollment in or attendance at the facility, that they may request notice of whether there are children currently enrolled in or attending the facility for whom an immunization exemption is on file.

Beginning December 1, 2015, licensed and license-exempt child care providers must notify parents and guardians of each child currently enrolled in or attending the facility that they may request notice of whether there are children currently enrolled or attending the facility for whom an exemption has been filed.

Finally, licensed and license-exempt child care providers must notify the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in or attending the facility, upon request, of whether there are children currently enrolled in or attending the facility for whom an immunization exemption has been filed.

Safe Sleep

SB341 requires the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), Section for Child Care Regulation (SCCR) to approve training concerning the safe sleep recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and to promulgate licensing rules that include the most recent safe sleep recommendations of the AAP. The goal is to maintain a safe sleep environment that reduces the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and sudden unexpected infant deaths (SUIDS) in children less than one year of age.

This bill will require licensed child care providers to:

- Implement and maintain a written safe sleep policy in accordance with the most recent safe sleep recommendations of the AAP.
- Obtain written health care provider instructions if child's sleep positioning differs from AAP guidelines.
- Ensure all employees of licensed child care facilities who care for infants less than one year of age, or any volunteer who may be assisting at the facility, to complete DHSS

approved safe sleep training on the most recent AAP recommendations. This training must be completed every three years.

- Keep soft or loose bedding away from sleeping infants and out of safe sleep environments. This includes, but is not limited to, bumper pads; pillows; quilts; comforters; sleep positioning devices; sheepskins; blankets; flat sheets; cloth diapers; bibs and other similar items.
- Keep blankets or other soft or loose bedding from being hung on the sides of cribs.

The SCCR will continue to share information with child care providers as it moves forward with implementing the required statutory changes.

Update of SCCR's Online Complaint Project

The Section for Child Care Regulation (SCCR) is responsible for inspecting, regulating and licensing child care facilities in Missouri. SCCR maintains public records that include inspection reports to document compliance with regulations related to health and safety, as well as substantiated complaint reports. The records are maintained in SCCR's district offices located throughout the state. In years past, anyone who was interested in accessing the information maintained needed to make an appointment and travel to the district office responsible for regulating the facility.

Parents and the public expect greater access to public information, and SCCR has been working hard to provide that access. In April, 2013, SCCR began posting inspections online for public review. Inspection reports can be viewed on the Show Me Child Care Provider Search at: <https://webapp01.dhss.mo.gov/childcaresearch/searchengine.aspx>. This site allows the public to search for regulated child care programs by name, address, city or county. Once a child care facility is selected, any child care inspection that has been completed since the online inspection system began can be viewed. This provides parents with important information when they are trying to assess a program's ability to meet their child care needs.

Another important piece of information that the public is interested in viewing is substantiated complaint reports. In September, 2014, SCCR began a project to place substantiated complaint reports for licensed and license-exempt child care facilities on the Show Me Child Care Provider Search. The application allows SCCR staff to complete all complaint investigations, from intake to documenting the results, on their computer tablets. It also allows supervisors to review and approve the complaint report and to push substantiated complaints to the Show Me Child Care Provider Search.

SCCR staff began using the new online complaint system on August 31, 2015. SCCR is pleased to offer parents and the public the opportunity to view substantiated complaint reports online, which will be placed on the Show Me Child Care Provider Search with the inspection reports.

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