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**DATE:** February 18, 2009

**TO:** Interested Parties

**FROM:** Jill D. Chase, Director  
Bureau of Early Care Regulation

**RE:** **LICENSING ACTIVITY SUMMARY REPORTS FOR LICENSED CHILD CARE, CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES AND CHILD WELFARE AGENCIES - JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER, 2008**

I am sending you statewide informational reports for calendar year 2008 on licensed child care, children's residential facilities and child welfare agencies. These reports include information on the size and capacity of children's licensed facilities and associated licensing activities conducted by the Bureau of Early Care Regulation (BECR) from January through December 2008, including complaint and enforcement activity for this period.

**STATUS OF LICENSED FACILITIES**

- BECR regulated 5,840 facilities in 2008. This is approximately the same number of facilities that were regulated by BECR in 2007. (See Attachment A.)
- BECR conducted 11,103 child care and child welfare site visits in 2008 to monitor facilities, provide technical assistance, verify compliance and conduct complaint investigations. This was accomplished with 54.80 full-time equivalent licensing specialists.
- Statewide licensed child care capacity increased by 2,759 slots from December of 2007 to December of 2008, an increase of over 1%.
- Statewide capacity in residential care centers for children and youth remained the same for 2007 and 2008. Statewide capacity in group homes increased by almost 6% between 2007 and 2008. Shelter Care capacity increased by 3% between 2007 and 2008. Capacity in Child Placing Agencies increased by 1% between 2007 and 2008. Statewide licensed child care and child welfare capacity is presented in the Capacity Statistics Report. (See Attachment C.)

- During 2008, 755 new child care centers and child welfare agencies were licensed (730 child care centers and 25 child welfare agencies). The total number of new agencies licensed in 2008 increased by 1% compared to the number of new agencies licensed in 2007.
- During 2008, there were 783 child care and child welfare facility closures. A total of 768 child care centers closed in 2008, compared to 837 in 2007.
- In 2008, the number of Milwaukee child care facilities and capacity in these facilities remained approximately the same compared to 2007. However, the number of child welfare agencies increased by almost 13% between 2007 and 2008 and capacity of these agencies increased by almost 2%.

## **COMPLAINTS**

- BECR investigated 1,875 complaints during 2008, involving 3,307 alleged violations. This compares to 1,789 complaints investigated in 2007, a 5% increase between 2007 and 2008. The number of complaint investigations conducted by BECR has varied from year to year, ranging from 1,711 complaint investigations in 1998 to 1,899 complaint investigations in 2006. BECR completes, on average, 1,877 complaint investigations per year.
- Nineteen percent (351) of the complaints investigated in 2008 concerned unlicensed facilities.
- Ninety three percent (1,740) of the complaints concerned child care programs. Of the 3,052 alleged child care violations, 1,591 violations (52%) were substantiated for complaints involving child care programs.
- For child welfare agencies, a total of 135 complaints were investigated in 2008, involving 255 alleged violations. Of the total alleged violations, 138 violations (54%) were substantiated for complaints involving child welfare facilities.
- The most frequently alleged violations in child care in 2008 concerned supervision/ staff coverage (17%), administration and records (12%), unlicensed illegal activity (12%), and inappropriate discipline/behavior (9%).
- The most frequently alleged violations in child welfare facilities involved supervision/ staff coverage (18%), abuse or neglect (15%), inappropriate discipline/behavior (11%) and administration and records (10%).

## **MOST FREQUENTLY CITED CHILD CARE RULE VIOLATIONS**

In 2008, the top five most frequently cited rule violations in **family child care centers** were violations related to the following:

- Child Records-Enrollment and Health History Forms;

- Daily Attendance Records;
- Practice of Written Emergency Plans;
- Smoke Detectors;
- Child Records-Immunization History, Physical Exam.

In 2008, the top five most frequently cited rule violations in **group child care centers** were violations related to the following:

- Registry Certificate;
- Compliance with Laws\*;
- Staff File – Qualifications, Orientation, Continuing Education;
- Continuing Education – CPR;
- Staff File – Caregiver Background Check Results.

For more information on frequently cited violations in 2008, see Attachment S and Attachment T.

\* ‘Compliance with Laws’ is the administrative rule citation used when a statute containing new requirements for licensees is passed before the administrative rule has been updated to reflect the new statutory requirements. This citation was used in 2008 to indicate noncompliance with the new statutory requirement that child care licensees complete training on shaken baby syndrome prevention. Effective January 1, 2009, the revised child care administrative rules include requirements that licensees complete shaken baby syndrome prevention training before providing care and supervision to children.

### **ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY**

- BECR initiated 1,232 enforcement actions in 2008, compared to 804 enforcement actions in 2007. Intermediate enforcements, in particular, have increased including orders (35% of all enforcements), warning letters (26% of all enforcements), and forfeitures (19% of all enforcements).
- Fifty seven licenses were revoked in 2008, compared to 40 revocations in 2007.
- License denials more than doubled between 2007 and 2008, with 32 denials in 2007 and 73 in 2008.
- Ninety four percent (1,153) of all enforcement actions were taken with child care facilities.

Please refer to attached reports and graphs for additional information.

Cc: Dan Harris, Administrator, Division of Early Care and Education  
 Laura Saterfield, Bureau of Early Childhood Education  
 Linda Leonhart, Head Start Collaboration  
 Regional Licensing Chiefs, Bureau of Early Care Regulation