Department of Children and Families Child Care Provider Call
March 26, 2020

Key take-aways from participants

- DCF supports programs that **remain open or close**. This is decision is up to individual child care providers. If possible, programs are **encouraged to stay open** as more essential workers are will be looking for care.
- Child care programs need to update their information in the **Provider Portal**.
- **No documentation** is required to "prove" essential worker status at this time.
- **WI Shares payments** will be paid to programs that are closed through April 2020 and will be reevaluated monthly after that. Programs that are open will continue to be paid their WI Shares payments.

Topics and questions/answers addressed during call

- Safer at Home emergency order #12
  - What does this mean for child care **providers**?
    - DCF order 16 explains how emergency order #12 relates to child care providers and teachers.

  - What does this mean for **families**?
    - The DCF COVID-19 webpage for families and provider resource includes information providers can share with families about this order.

  - Who is considered **essential workers/personnel**?
    - DCF order 16 highlights tier 1 and tier 2 essential personnel, those who should be prioritized for available child care slots in programs.

  - How do I **run my program** under this new order?
    - DCF order 6 provides information on group size of 10 or fewer staff and 50 or fewer children. This document highlights ways to consider grouping staff and children, and other factors to consider.
    - DCF order 7 provides information on rule suspensions.

  - My program has been asked to open an **alternate site**, what does this mean?
    - DCF order 11 identifies next steps.

  - Are there templates that my program can use for health screenings and sharing information with parents? The COVID-19 For Providers webpage includes a number of templates and sample documents for providers to use.

- Additional COVID-19 information and best practices
  - Where do I find information related to **exposure and positive test results?** DCF order 19 shares pertinent information related to child, staff and program health and safety measures.

  - Are there **other factors** that should be considered?
    - DCF order 19 includes additional information on daily operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.
    - DCF order 16, question #14 addresses payment questions for private-pay families.
      - WI Shares payments will continue for programs that remain open.

- For programs that have closed, WI Shares payments will continue on a month-by-month basis and payments will be made for April.

- Matching essential personnel and child care programs
  - What is meant by **matching** essential workforce families and child care providers?
    - The [Matching overview doc](#) provides an overview of the process to match essential workforce and providers.

  - How do I ensure my **enrollment information is up-to-date** so essential workers find a program that meets their needs?
    - Child care providers should update their enrollment information in the [Provider Portal](#).

  - How will I know when an **essential worker is interested** or in need of care by my program?
    - A representative from DCF, Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA), Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA), or Child Care Resource & Referral agencies (CCR&R) will contact you directly to ensure a spot is available. If the spot is available, the representative will inform the essential worker, who will contact the program directly.
    - An essential work may contact programs directly by using the [Child Care Map](#), which uses program-specific information from the [Provider Portal](#).

  - Can I **volunteer** to work in the home of an essential worker or for another program?
    - DCF is matching individuals with essential workers that are requesting in-home care and with programs in need of staff. Please complete this [survey](#) to indicate your preferences and other relevant information. Someone from WECA will contact you when a match with a family occurs.

- Next steps for child care providers and teachers
  - **Child care programs**
    - Update [Provider Portal](#) information
    - Contact you licensing specialist with questions

  - **Individual educators**
    - Complete the [survey](#) to indicate available and preferences

  - **Everyone**
    - Subscribe to [DCF Child Care listserv](#)
    - Monitor [DCF COVID-19 Child Care webpage](#) regularly
    - Be prepared for a DCF, WECA, SFTA, or CCR&R representative to contact you when you have a match