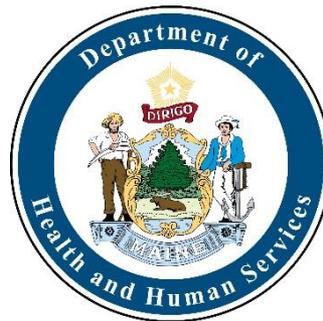


# Early Childhood Education and Public Policy in Maine

Office of Child and Family Services

10/4/2019

Early Care and Education Conference



# Today's Speakers

**Todd A. Landry, EdD** – OCFS Director

**Elissa Wynne** – A.D. of Children's Development and Behavioral Health

**Crystal Arbour** – Child Care Services Program Manager

**Kerri Wyman** – Child Care Subsidy Supervisor

**Janet Whitten** – Children's Licensing & Investigation Services Manager

**Jen Welch** – Child Care Licensing Supervisor

**Pattie Collins** – Child Care Licensing Supervisor



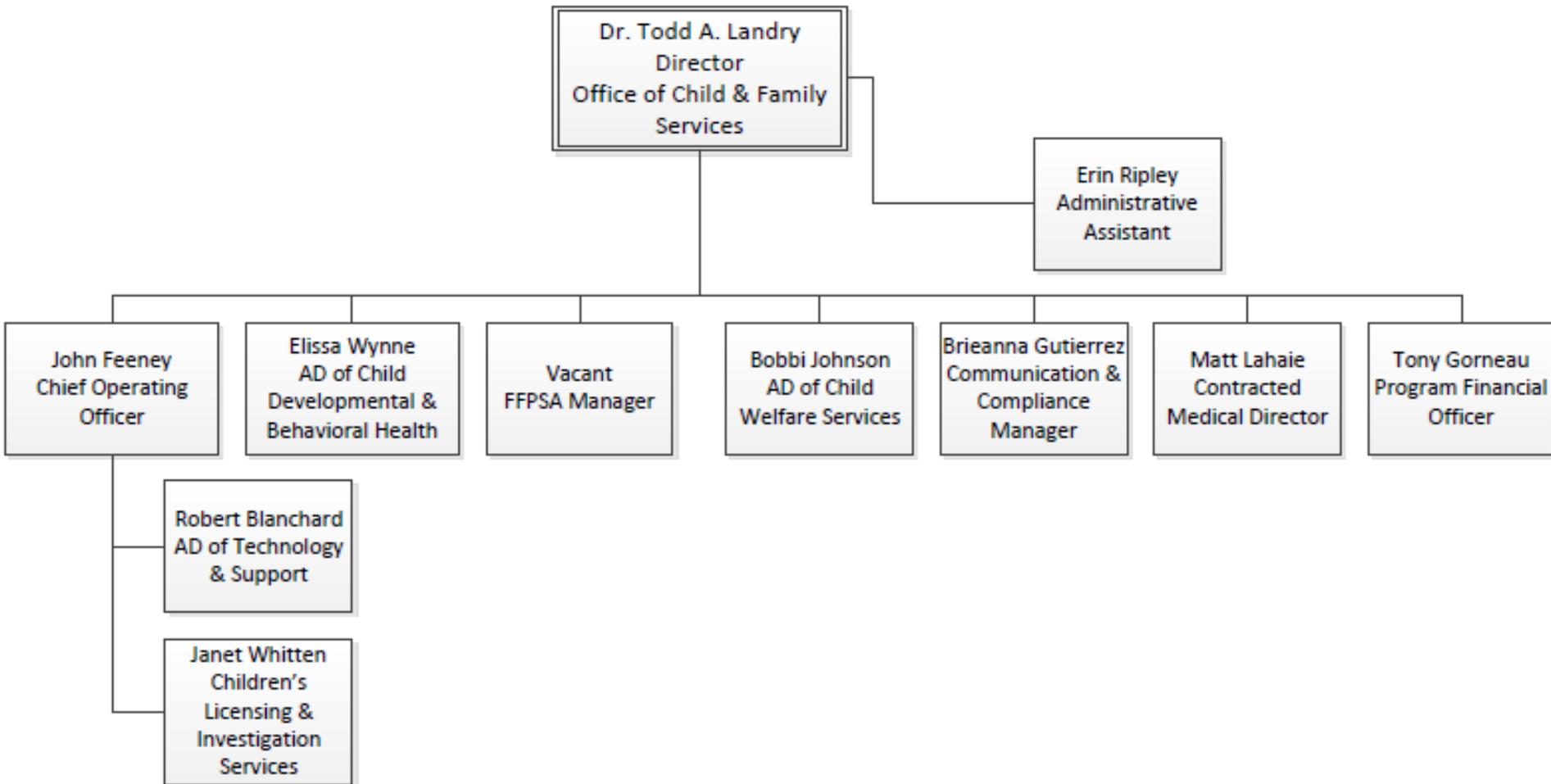


All Maine Children & Families

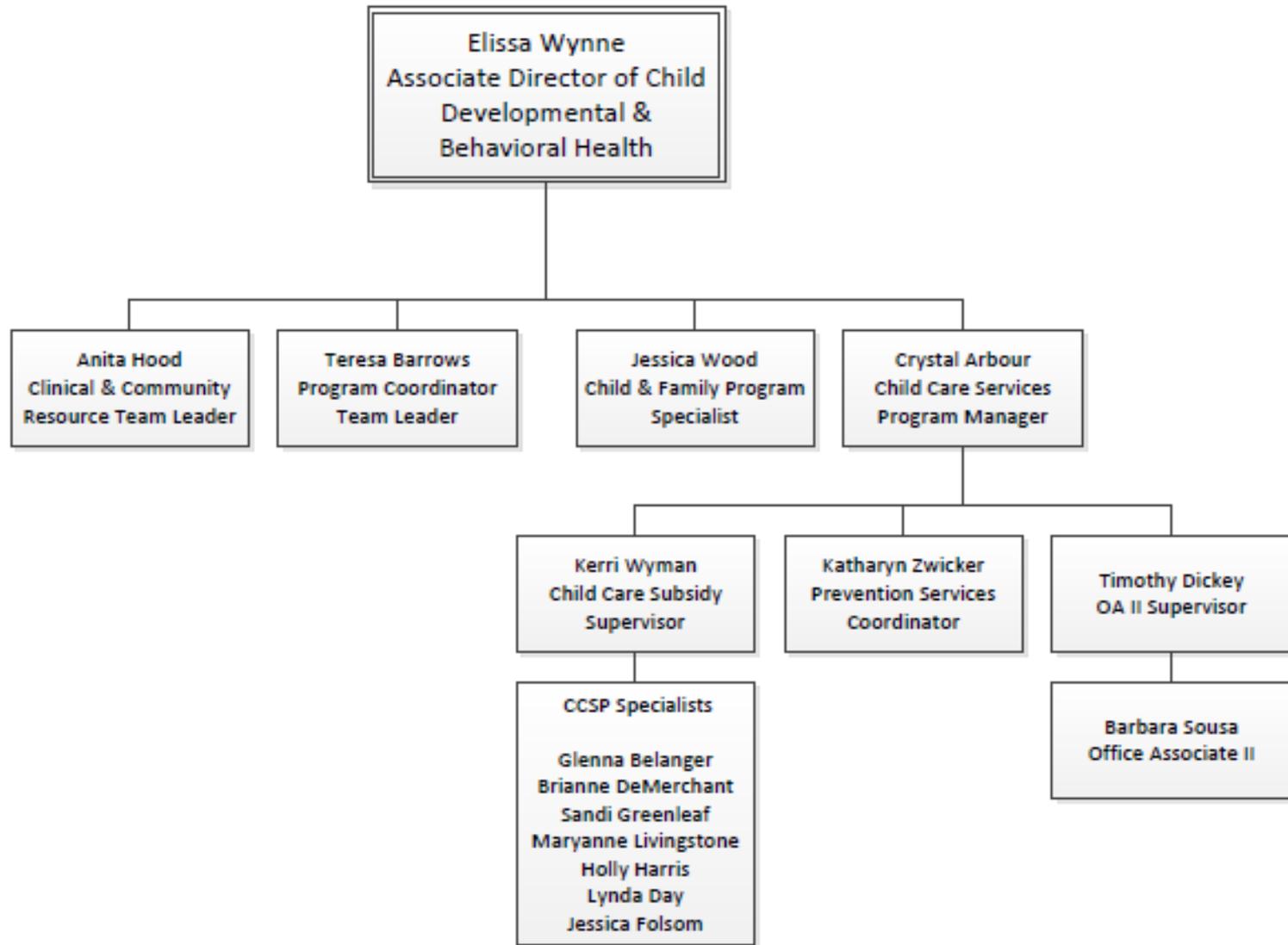
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**SAFE, STABLE,  
HAPPY, HEALTHY**

# The Reorganization of OCFS



# The Reorganization of OCFS



# Governor Mills Reconvenes Maine's Children's Cabinet

“There is no higher priority than our children,” said Governor Mills. “My Administration is committed to protecting and supporting them from their early years through their transition to adulthood by providing high-quality care, education, and support for their families. By reconstituting the Children’s Cabinet today, we are renewing this commitment to them and to our future.”

# The Children's Cabinet Goals

Create an **aligned early care and early education system** in Maine that supports children before they reach school age. Includes *expanding home visiting, improving childcare and early childhood programs, bolstering coordination across agencies and geographies, maximizing state and federal funds, and targeting the children and families who need quality programs the most.*

Improve care and prevention for at-risk youth, especially those *who are in the child welfare system, or who are homeless, or who are at risk of entering the juvenile justice system.*

# iLookOut for Child Abuse

Research Project of the Penn State Center for the Protection of Children, Maine was chosen as the site for this project

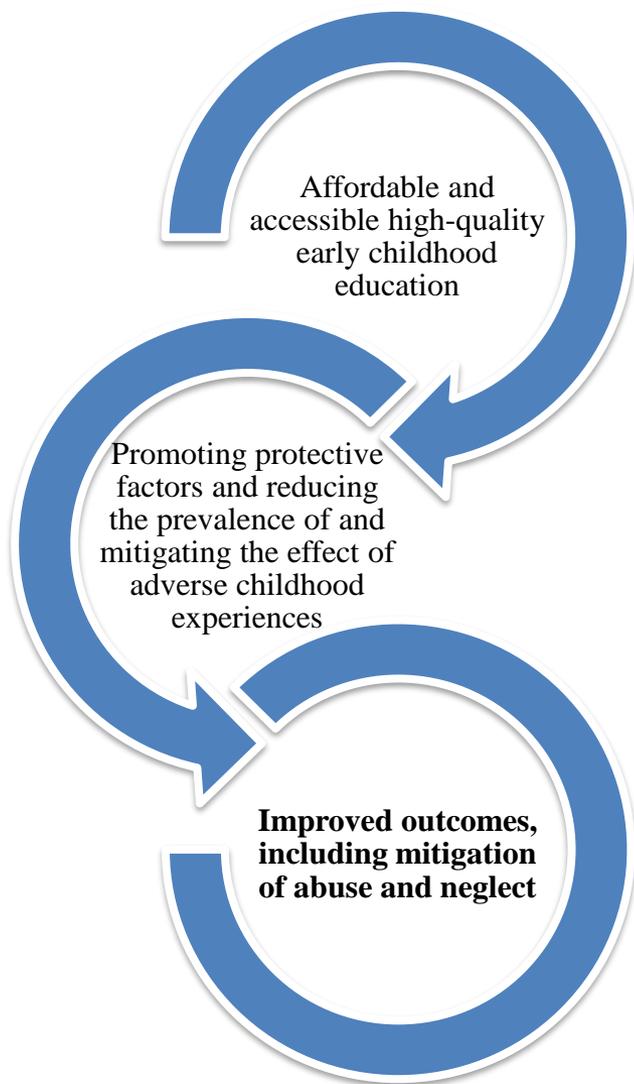
Created an engaging and effective online learning program for early childhood education professionals regarding mandated reporting. This included state-specific information regarding child abuse and neglect

Training seeks to improve knowledge and attitudes regarding abuse and reporting, as well as change reporting behavior

# iLookOut for Child Abuse

- As of 5/31/19, 510 professionals had participated in iLookOut's training.
- When compared to those who participated in the standard mandated reporter training, those who participate in iLookOut training indicated greater confidence:
  - In reporting
  - Less concern over legal liability for reporting
  - Greater conviction that reporting suspected abuse improves child safety, promotes a child's long-term interests, results in helpful services, and should occur even if the supervisor disagrees.
- Initial data indicates iLookOut has a strong effect on professionals' knowledge regarding abuse, neglect, and reporting.
- In the next year iLookOut will become available to all early childhood education professionals statewide (previously the availability was limited to allow for a control group who received the standard training).
- We are looking forward to continuing to partner with the team at Penn State on this project and continued improvements in mandated reporter training for early childhood education professionals who are a key part of ensuring the safety of children across the state.

# Early Childhood Education



## Current Efforts

- Administer Federal grant funding to support early childhood education and allow parents to work or attend school or training. **We currently support over 3,000 families and nearly 5,000 children with this funding. There is currently no waiting list for these services.**
- **Currently focused on bringing subsidy program and child care licensing into federal compliance.**
- Increased reimbursement rates.
- Encouraging high-quality care by providing high reimbursement to providers that obtain quality ratings.
- Streamlining eligibility.
- Support the Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network to assist early childhood education staff with their professional growth and development.
- **Partnering with those involved with the Children's Cabinet to develop a comprehensive and accessible early childhood education system.**
- Collaborating on innovative solutions to improve the quality of child care available and provide effective and accessible professional growth and development opportunities to early childhood education staff.

# The Children's Cabinet ECE Goal

*Create an aligned early care and education system in Maine that supports children before they reach school age.*

**Support ECE Professionals**

**Preschool Development Grant (PDG)**

**Children's Licensing and Investigation Services**

**Quality Rating System Revisions**

**Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP) Rules**

**Application Process for CCSP**

**iLookOut**

**Child Development Services (CDS) Referrals**

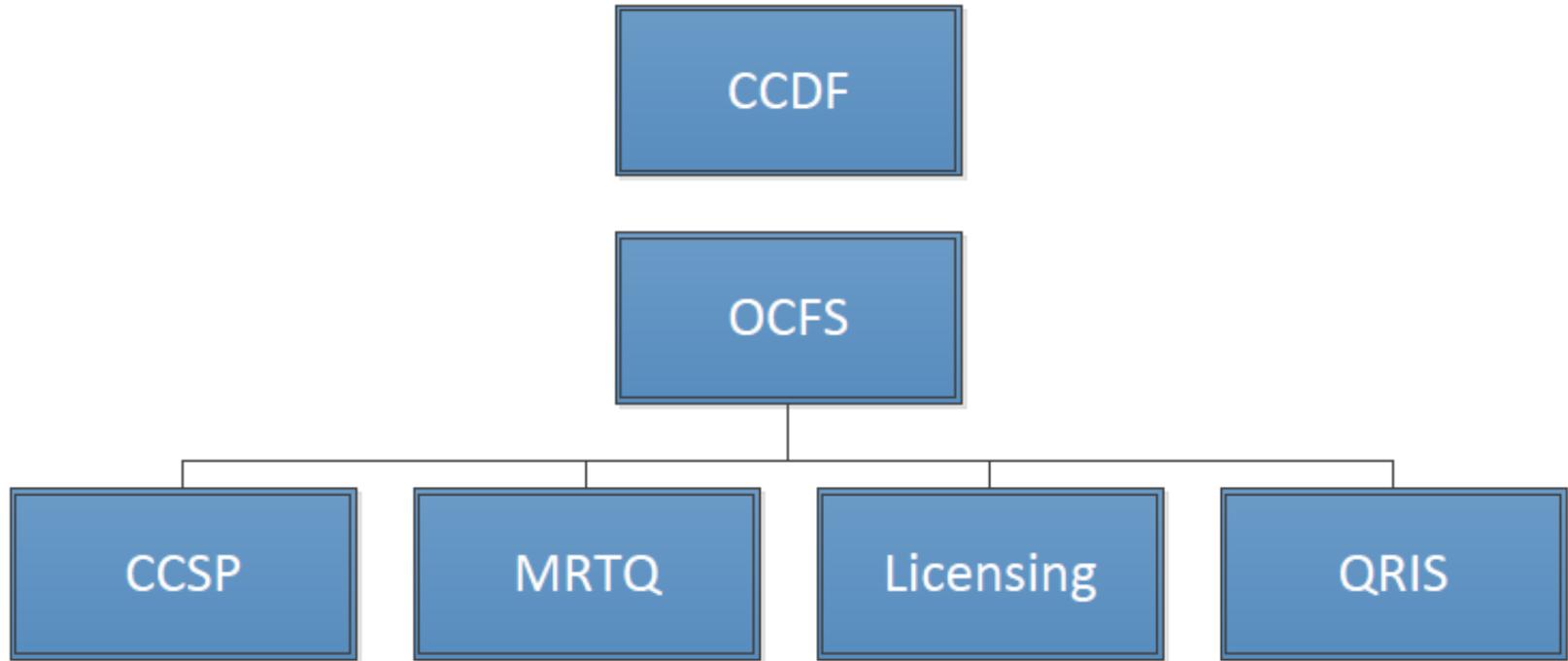
# Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

## **Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS)**

- Child Care Subsidy Program Eligibility
- Foster Care Child Care Payment
- Children's Behavioral Health
- Child Care Licensing
- Child Protective Services
- QRIS

## **Office for Family Independence (OFI)**

- Child Care Subsidy Financial Eligibility
- ASPIRE
- FEDCAP Payment
- Maine Care
- SNAP



**Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)**

# Health and Safety

- **Background Checks (BGC)**

- Required by all Licensed Center Staff, FCC Providers & License-Exempt Nonrelative Providers and individuals 18 years of age or older residing in the home.

- The Department will be paying for BGC

- **Health and Safety Training**

- CCDF requires programs receiving funds to have all owners, directors, and direct care staff complete the Department approved training within 90 days of hire or signing a CCSP provider Agreement and annually, a Department approved refresher course.

**CCDF Requirements**



# Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS) Revision Project

- **Phased Implementation**
- **Pilot**
- **5 Star System**
- **Include License-Exempt**
- **Enhanced tech support**
- **Rules**
- **OCFS Portfolio Review**
- **2021 Rollout**

# Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP)



# Financial & Program Eligibility

January 2, 2020

The financial eligibility and program eligibility for CCSP will be conducted at the Office of Child and Family Services.



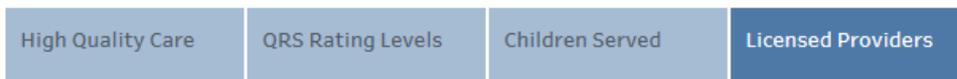
# CCSP Data

- CCSP serving 3,191 families who have 5,141 children
- Average monthly payment/child receiving CCSP services: \$498.88
- 90% of families eligible for full time awards
- In June 2019, 898 providers had open authorizations paid by CCSP
- CCSP seen increase in all provider types that accept the program
- Up to 40% of CCSP providers charge below market rate

# CCSP Data, continued

## Early Childhood Education

[Key Measures](#) | [Child Welfare](#) | [Children's Behavioral Health](#) | [Early Childhood Education](#)

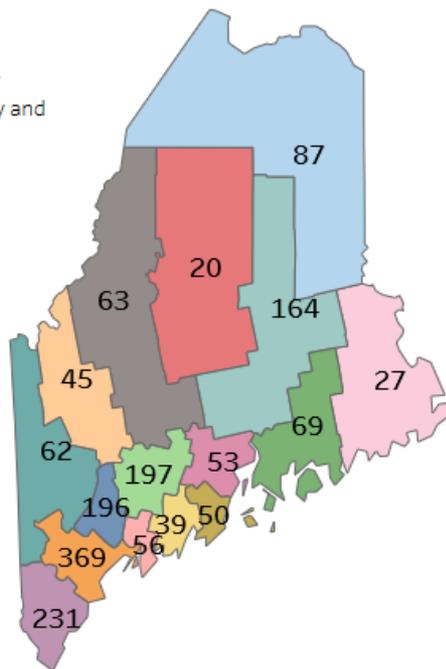


### Licensed Providers

The goal of the Department is to provide early childhood education services in a safe, healthy and secure environment. This report shows the number of licensed providers by type, quality rating step level and county.

Point in Time Data as of 9/15/2019

State Totals		
Step	Child Care Facility	Family Child Care Provider
Not in QRS	256	476
Step 1	304	333
Step 2	67	48
Step 3	58	51
Step 4	125	10
<b>Total all steps</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>918</b>



#### Select Step

- (All)
- Not in QRS
- Step 1
- Step 2
- Step 3
- Step 4

#### Select Type of Provider

- (All)
- Child Care Facility
- Family Child Care Provider

For more information on the Quality Rating Score System please visit:  
<https://childcarechoices.me/index.php/quality-rating-and-improvement-system/>

# Changes to CCSP Rules

- Non-temporary change
- Educational program
- Self-employment
- Parent fee
- School-age child
- License-exempt providers
- Child absences
- Work requirement for legal guardian who have reached retirement age
- Background checks
- Health and Safety Training

# Children's Licensing and Investigation Services

2 Child Care Licensing Supervisors Jen Welch and Pattie Collins and 17 Child Care Licensing Specialists state-wide.

## **Provider Total: 1,815**

Family Child Care Homes: 944 (52%)

Child Care Facilities: 821 (45%)

Nursery Schools: 50 (3%)

## **Total Approved Capacity: 44,968**

Family Child Care Homes: 9,783

Child Care Facilities: 34,464

Nursery Schools: 721

# Children's Licensing and Investigation Services

## 2019 Year-to-date Licensing Action Data

9 Conditional Notices Mailed	4 Denial Notices Mailed	2 Void/Consent Agreement	33 Directed Plan of Action	3 Fines (began in 9/2017)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 Issued</li><li>• 2 Consent Agreements</li><li>• 4 Pending Hearing</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 Issued</li><li>• 1 Pending Appeal Timeframe</li><li>• 2 Pending Hearing Outcome</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 Void Issued</li><li>• 1 Consent Issued in lieu of the Void</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 33 Issued</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2019 – 1 Issued</li><li>• 2018 – 2 Issued</li><li>• 2017 – 0 Issued</li></ul>

- Inspection reports and licensing action are posted for public view on Maine's Consumer Education Website for a period of 3 years.

# Children's Licensing and Investigation Services

## National trends impacting Child Care in Maine...

- Decline in Family Child Care Providers
- Child Care workforce challenges (programs struggling to hire and retain qualified staff)
- Rural access
- Infant and Toddler Care Access

## On the Horizon...

- Proposed Unified Child Care Licensing Rule

# Thank you!



# Questions?

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