



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

# Visible Child Conference

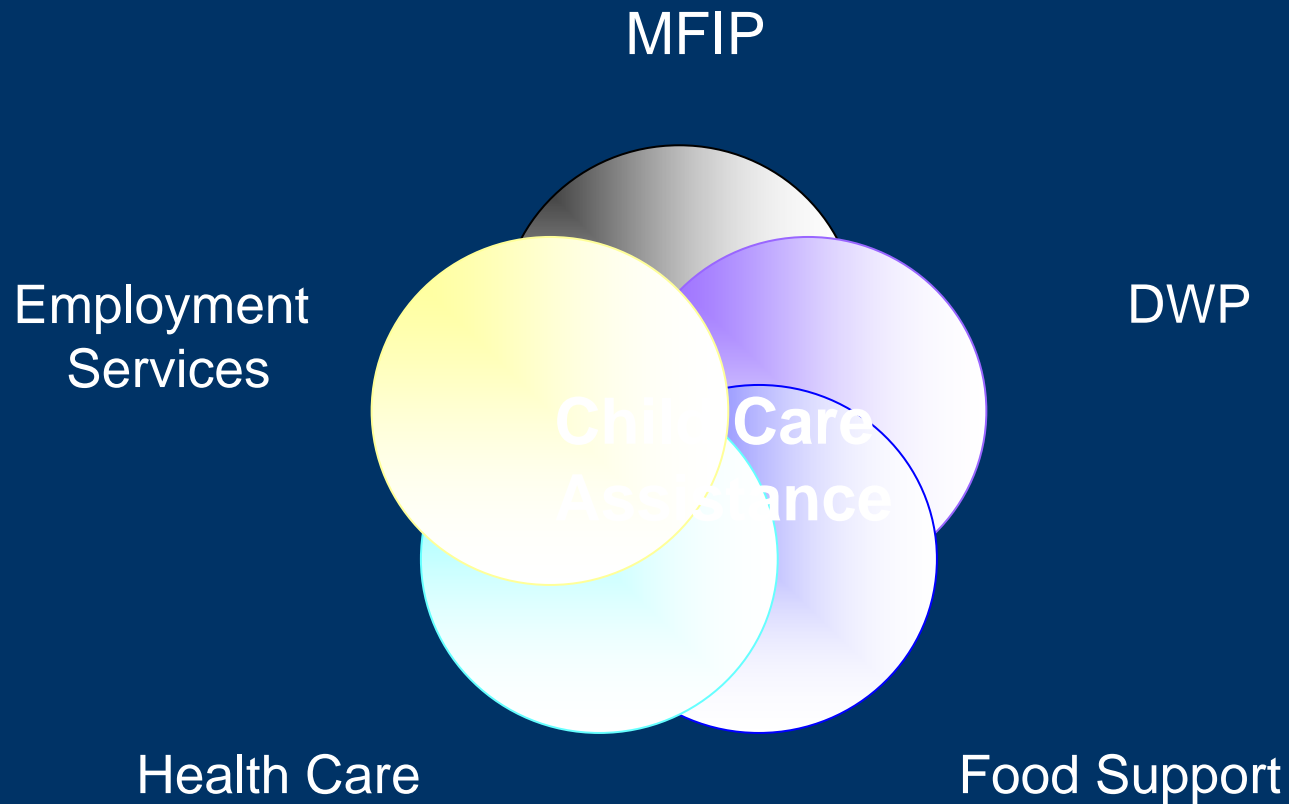
## October 28- 29, 2008

*Presenters:*

*Brenda Clark, Maya Sullivan,  
Child Care Assistance Programs  
Lelia Farah, MFIP Cash Assistance*

*Minnesota Department of  
Human Services*

# Working together to make CCAP work for family success



# Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)

- MFIP is Minnesota TANF Program
  - Assists low income families with children to work towards and achieve economic stability through work.
  - Work focused program with time limits
    - Customer rights & responsibilities



# Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)

- MFIP has an income and asset-based eligibility basis
  - Provides benefits and/or services
    - Cash portion
    - Food portion
    - Strong employment services designed to help parents/caregivers meet work rules



# MFIP Goals

- Encourage and help families find employment
  - Participate in Employment services
- Help families increase their income and move out of poverty
  - Work incentives
- Prevent long term dependence on welfare
  - Work focused program with time limits



# MFIP

## Employment Service Plan

- Developed and approved by the parent and employment service provider.
- Eligible activities that may be included in an EP are:
  - Employment and job search
  - Social services such as,
    - Mental health (parent and children)
    - Looking for housing
    - Child protection services



# Minnesota Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

- Authorized and funded through the child Care Development Block Grant Act, and Section 418 of the Social Security Act,
  - assists low-income families, families receiving TANF, and those transitioning from TANF in obtaining child care so they can work or attend training/education.
  - Parents may select any legally operating child care provider.
    - Must meet health and safety requirements set by State and Tribes.



# Minnesota Child Care Assistance Program - Goals

- Provide Child Care Assistance subsidies to families so;
  - Child care is affordable,
  - Children are well cared for and ready to learn, and
  - Parents can work and or attend school, or
  - participate in the authorized activities in their approved employment plan.



# Child Care Assistance Program Consists of Three Subprograms

- Administrated by counties or local contracted agencies
  - Applications taken in –person or by mail.
- **MFIP Child Care Program**
  - For families receiving MFIP/DWP, or Tribal TANF
  - *Fully funded*



# Child Care Assistance Program

## Three Subprograms, cont.

- Transition Year Child Care
  - For eligible families for a full year after their MFIP/DWP or Tribal TANF case closes.
- Transition Year Extension -
  - For eligible families who have completed their transition year but they are on the county's waiting list for BSF
- *Fully funded*



# Minnesota Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

- Basic Sliding Fee Child Care
  - For other low-income families and families who have complete their transition Year.
  - ***Capped allocation*** – Counties administer funds.
  - *Some counties have a waiting list.*



# Child Care Assistance Program General Eligibility

- Parents must:
  - Be income eligible (varies by family size)
  - Use a legal child care provider
    - Licensed family child care
    - Licensed Child Care Centers
    - Licensed exempt centers
    - Legal non-licensed providers
  - Cooperate with child support enforcement



# Child Care Assistance Program General Eligibility (2)

- Be in an authorized activity (work, school, job search or other approved activities – employment plan)
- Eligible Children for CCAP payments
  - Ages, birth through their 12<sup>th</sup> year or through their 14<sup>th</sup> year if the child has a disability.
- Pay a family copayment fee based on gross income and household size.



# Child Care Assistance Program Payment Policy - Rates

- Maximum payment rates are established by the legislature.
- Rates are determined based on the county's maximum rate where the provider or program is located.



# Accreditation or Credentials Rates

- A family child care provider or a child care center can receive up to a 15% differential above the maximum rate up to the actual provider charge if the provider or center holds a current early childhood development credential or is accredited.
  - Providers must charge this rate to all their families.



# School Readiness Initiatives For At Risk Children

- Early Childhood Pilot Projects – June 30, 2009
  - School Readiness Connections – SRC
  - Pre-Kindergarten Allowance Program
  - Parent Aware Rating System – June 30, 2010
  - Minnesota Early Learning Foundation (MELF) Scholarships



# Child Care Assistance Program

More Information Available on DHS website.

For the Child Care Assistance Program Policy Manual  
From the DHS Public website – [www.dhs.state.mn.us](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us)

From the grey menu, select Children

On the left of the window, select Child Care

On the left of the window, select Rules and Regulations

In the main window, select Child Care Policy Manual

For the Provider Guide

<http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfservlet/Legacy/DHS-5260-ENG>



# Child Care Assistance Program

## Children with Special Needs

- The Child Care Assistance Program has a special interest in ensuring that children with special needs receive additional child care services necessary for their adequate development
- Providers may request special needs rates if they care for special needs children



# Relevant Regulations Governing Care of Special Needs Children

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990  
(42 USC §301)

Defines “Disability” as:

“...with respect to an individual –

- A) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual
- B) a record of such impairment
- C) being regarded as having such an impairment.”



# Relevant Regulations Governing Care of Special Needs Children Continued

- Most states have state laws that address this issue also.
- In Minnesota, it is the Minnesota Human Rights Act (Minn. Stat. § 363A) – very similar to the ADA



# Relevant Regulations Governing Care of Special Needs Children Continued

## EXAMPLES OF MAJOR LIFE ACTIVITIES:

- Hearing
- Breathing
- Walking
- Learning
- Speaking
- Seeing



# Relevant Regulations Governing Care of Special Needs Children Continued

Substantial Limitation  
(Physical Impairment) - Examples:

- Cerebral Palsy
- Cancer
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Heart Disease



# Relevant Regulations Governing Care of Special Needs Children Continued

Substantial Limitation  
(Mental Impairment) – Examples:

- Mental Retardation
- Emotional or Mental Illness
- Behavioral Disorders
- Specific Learning Disabilities



# CCAP Special Needs Rate Request Process

1. Parent to complete the CCAP Special Needs Rate Variance Request –Parent Request (DHS-4197) and include documentation of the child's special needs due to a disability. Leave the diagnosis to applicable qualified professionals.
2. Parent signs a General Authorization for Release of Information (DHS-2243A). The county retains this document.



# CCAP Special Needs Rate Request Process Continued

3. Provider fills out and returns the CCAP Special Needs Rate Variance Request – Provider Request (DHS-4194).
4. Provider signs the Notice of Privacy Practices for Child Care Providers (DHS-3985). The county retains this document.



# CCAP Special Needs Rate Request Process Continued

5. Require documentation of the provider's accommodations for the care of the child.
6. County completes the CCAP Special Needs Rate Variance Request – County Responsibilities and Summary Sheet (DHS-4195)



# CCAP Special Needs Request Rate Process Continued

7. County submits everything to the assigned DHS Technical Liaison.
8. DHS makes a written decision to approve or deny a request. The rate is paid retroactively to the date of the parent or provider request.



# Homeless Children and Special Needs

A significant number of homeless children are children with special needs. Many become ill more often than children that are not homeless.

## EXAMPLES:

- \*4 times as many have asthma
- \*6 times as many have speech problems
- \*2 times as many hospitalizations



# Homeless Children and Life Experiences

Homeless children often suffer more traumatic and stressful life experiences. These experiences can contribute to a number of behavioral and emotional conditions.

## EXAMPLES:

\*97% move frequently (3 or more times per year)

\*22% are separated from their families to be put in foster care or live with relatives



# Homeless Children and Life Experiences Continued

- \*25% have personally witnessed acts of violence within their family
- \*Over 20% of homeless pre-schoolers have emotional problems so serious they need professional help
- \*Homeless children have many more mental health problems than other children



# Homeless Children and School

Although approximately 77% of Homeless children attend school, they tend to have more difficulty in school. Homeless children:

- \*Suffer from developmental delays at a rate of 4 times more than children that are not homeless
- \*Twice as likely to have learning disabilities



# Homeless Children and School Continued

\*Are twice as likely to fail a grade than children who are not homeless

\*Only 15% of homeless pre-schoolers attend pre-school



# Funding for Children with Special Needs

Many special needs children are not receiving needed additional services for a variety of reasons such as:

- Not CCAP participants even though eligible
- CCAP participants who are unaware of special needs rates
- Not aware of other funding sources (TEFRA, Medicaid, etc.)
- Cared for by friends or relatives that don't realize they may qualify for CCAP payments even if not licensed



# Relevant Regulations Governing Care of Special Needs Children Continued

## WHY DO THESE LAWS APPLY TO CHILD CARE FACILITIES?

Even though they are considered private business, child care facilities are considered places of “public accomodation” under the ADA because they provide a service to the public.



# Relevant Regulations Governing Care of Special Needs Children Continued

**WHAT TYPE OF CHILD CARE FACILITIES  
ARE GOVERNED BY THESE  
REGULATIONS?**

**All child care facilities are governed by these regulations. This includes Licensed Family Child Care, Centers, License Exempt and Legal Non-licensed**



# Relevant Regulations Governing Care of Special Needs Children Continued

**MAY A CHILD CARE FACILITY DENY ITS  
SERVICES TO A CHILD SIMPLY  
BECAUSE HE OR SHE HAS A  
DISABILITY?**

No. If they attempt to provide services to the child and the cost (among other things) is unreasonable, they do not have to accommodate.



# Special Needs Resources Used

**Compilation of Disability Resources and Websites:**  
<http://www.disabilityresources.org/MINNESOTA.html>

**Center for Inclusive Child Care (CICC):** <http://www.inclusivechildcare.org>

Includes specific and general information about disabilities and children, additional resources and learning modules.

**Child Care Law Center (CCLC):** [www.childcarelaw.org](http://www.childcarelaw.org)

Provides educational information regarding children with special needs as well as advocacy for such children.

Oklahoma Department of Human Services. Providing Quality Childcare to Children with Special Needs. Retrieved April 23, 2008 from  
<http://www.okdhs.org/programsandservices/cc/spneeds/specialneedsprovider.htm>.

National Center on Family Homelessness. America's Homeless Children. Retrieved on September 5, 2008 from [http://www.familyhomelessness.org/pdf/fact\\_children.pdf](http://www.familyhomelessness.org/pdf/fact_children.pdf)



# Other Resources for Special Needs

**Americans with Disabilities Act Information Line** toll-free at: 1-800-514-0301

**Pacer Center:** [www.pacer.org](http://www.pacer.org)

Advocacy information and educational information regarding individuals with special needs.

**Family Voices:** <http://www.familyvoices.org>

Information for children with special needs in addition to advocacy for such children.

Handout from Child Care Law Center regarding ADA requirements in child care:

<http://www.inclusivechildcare.org/resourcesWeb/uploads/CCLCReferralHandout.pdf>

