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JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling
Representative John Nygren

Date: November 2, 2015

Re: DCF Report to JFC

Attached is a report on the YoungStar Program from the Department of Children and Families.

This report is being provided for your information only. No action by the Committee is required. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Attachments

AD:JN:jm



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Governor Scott Walker
 Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

October 27, 2015

The Honorable Alberta Darling, Senate Co-Chair
 Joint Committee on Finance
 Room 317 East, State Capitol
 Madison, WI 53707

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The Honorable John Nygren, Assembly Co-Chair
 Joint Committee on Finance
 Room 309 East, State Capitol
 Madison, WI 53708

RE: Joint Finance Committee 3rd Quarter YoungStar Report

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Nygren:

This letter provides information from the 3rd quarter report from the Department of Children and Families' YoungStar Program. The information provided below is a compilation of data requested by the Committee related to YoungStar implementation.

Status of YoungStar

The Consortium (the YoungStar contractor) continues to process applications, provide technical assistance and conduct evaluations of programs. As of October 9, 2015, 3,974 programs had been rated using the five-star rating system. Of these rated programs, 2,985 are currently serving children who are in the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program. Additionally, 167 providers have applied for the subsidy and are in the process of being rated. A breakout of rated programs by star level is included below:

	Licensed Group	Licensed Family	Certified Family	Public School Programs	TOTAL
One Star	3	6	1	0	10
Two Stars	594	769	602	123	2088
Three Stars	841	353	49	66	1309
Four Stars	111	66	9	7	193
Five Stars	321	51	0	2	374
TOTAL	1870	1245	661	198	3974

Note: Programs that receive a 1 Star rating are not eligible to care for children in the Wisconsin Shares program.

Senator Darling and Representative Nygren

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During the third quarter, the Consortium provided on-site coaching, mentoring, professional development and rating services to school-age programs, day camps, as well as programs serving children birth to age 12. Additionally, \$479,100 in micro-grants were given to programs to support quality improvement goals.

Validation of YoungStar

Dr. Katherine Magnuson, an expert in early childhood policy and programs, conducted an independent quality rating system validation study. The Study, in part, was designed to determine two things:

1. Whether the YoungStar rating scale differentiates between programs according to their levels of independently observed quality; and
2. The extent to which the number of points within each rating domain predicts the observed quality

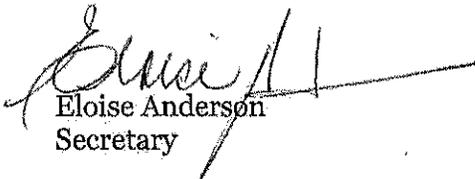
Results from analyses of the data for part one of the study show YoungStar does differentiate among programs of varying observed quality. Specifically, programs rated at the 2 Star level had lower observed levels of quality than programs at the 3 – 5 Star levels. Also, in part two of the study, the total number of points in all four rating domains predicted observed quality. The differences were statistically significant and meaningful.

The executive summary and full study are available on the YoungStar website at:

- Executive Summary of the Wisconsin Early Child Care Study:
http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/pdf/ys-validation-study/weccs_executive_summary.pdf
- Wisconsin Early Child Care Study Full Report:
http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/pdf/ys-validation-study/weccs_full_report.pdf

I appreciate the opportunity to provide an update on the status of the YoungStar program and look forward to working with the Committee on strengthening these important services for Wisconsin families.

Sincerely,



Eloise Anderson
Secretary

cc: Scott Neitzel, Department of Administration
Bob Lang, Legislative Fiscal Bureau