

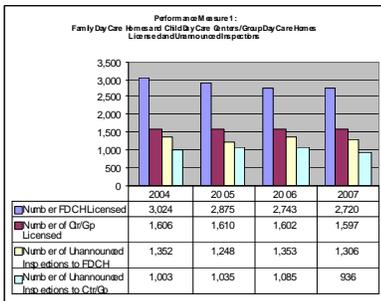
Connecticut Appropriations Committee RBA Template Part II, Program/Agency/System Accountability Summary

Program/Agency/System: Child Day Care Licensing/Department of Public Health(DPH)

Quality of Life Result: All Connecticut children are healthy and ready for school success at age 5.

Program/Agency/System Purpose: To promote the health, safety and welfare of children attending Connecticut's licensed child day care facilities.

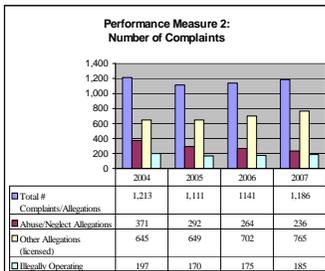
Performance Measure 1



Story Behind Measure 1

DPH continues to license programs and exceeds its required mandates for inspections. Licensing and inspecting facilities results in increasing the immunization rates and decreasing the death and serious injury rate for children attending such facilities.

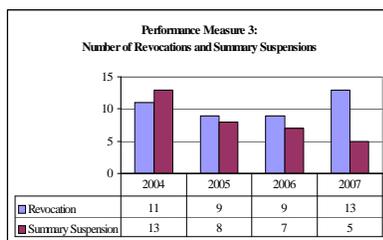
Performance Measure 2



Story Behind Measure 2

DPH investigates and resolves complaints that have remained relatively constant over the past 4 years.

Performance Measure 3



Story Behind Measure 3

DPH continues to close down programs that seriously threaten the health, safety or welfare of children attending such facilities. IT continues to identify those programs that are either unable or unwilling to comply

with requirements and take disciplinary action deemed appropriate. When conditions are such that danger appears impending, or an actual instance of harm has occurred, the Department summarily suspends licenses. The Department's ability to identify regulatory violations is greatly impacted by the frequency of inspections conducted to licensed childcare programs.

Turning the Curves: What do you propose to do over the next two years and why?

1. Effective 10/1/08, transition from a 2 yr renewal cycle to a 4 yr cycle to comply with PA 07-129 that will result in more staff time being committed to field inspections*
2. Complete revisions to the regulations that govern child day care centers to bring them into more close alignment with nationally recognized guidelines*
3. Continue to pursue efforts to increase the frequency of licensing inspections to improve regulatory compliance, cause earlier identification of deficiencies, provide more opportunities for technical assistance, be more consistent with other states and improve the baseline standard for licensed programs in support of the Governor's SFY08 and 09 budget proposal that included the establishment of a Quality Rating Scale (QRS)
4. Enhance data systems to support the licensing program and improve customer service
5. DPH has hired a nurse consultant who will focus on investigating complaints and reported accidents, injuries and reportable illnesses at licensed child day care facilities

*No-cost/low-cost action steps

Key Budget Information	(in millions)
Total Current Program Year Funding	\$4.02
Funding as Percent of All Funding for Population Result	
Program Funding As Percent of Total Agency Budget	Less than 1%
Funding Distribution	
Total Federal Funds	\$.67
Total State Funds	\$2.8
Capital Projects Subtotal	
Other Funding	\$.55
Percent of Total Current Funding Contracted to Third Parties	

DPH: Child Day Care Center Licensing

Connecticut Appropriations Committee RBA Template Part II, Program/Agency/System Accountability

Program/Agency/System: Child Day Care Licensing/Department of Public Health

Program/Agency/System Purpose To promote the health, safety and welfare of children attending Connecticut's licensed child day care facilities.

Contribution to Population Result: Licensing is the process by which a government agency regulates the activities of an enterprise that involves the public interest. The licensing statutes (C.G.S., Sec. 19a-77, C.G.S., Sec. 19a-80 and C.G.S., Sec. 19a-87b) prohibit the provision of child day care services but then set up administrative methods to lift the general prohibition if certain conditions are met. Licensing requires the applicant and facility operator to comply with established life-safety, program and staffing rules the purpose of which is consumer protection through risk reduction (NARA Licensing Curriculum, 2000 Edition). CT statutes require the Department to license family day care homes, group day care homes, and child day care centers; to inspect licensed facilities and provide technical assistance as required by statute; to investigate complaints of illegal operation and non-compliance; and take regulatory action against non-compliant facilities. Child protection in licensed child day care facilities is achieved through the provision of technical assistance to licensed programs, corrective action plans submitted by licensed facilities when health, safety, staffing, and programmatic violations are cited, and through enforcement action when facilities fail to comply with regulatory standards.

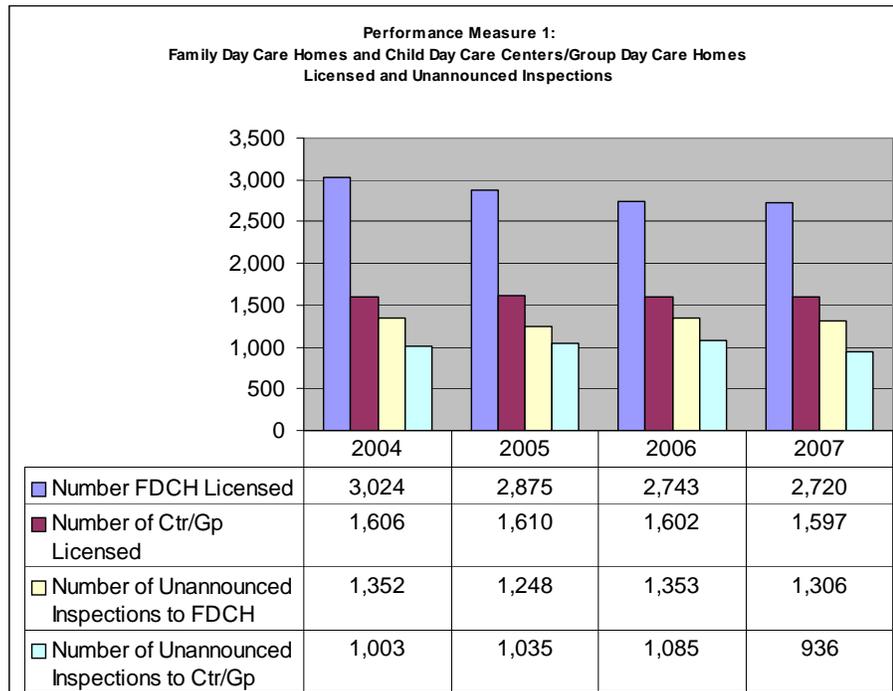
Key Budget Information (<i>Dollars reported in millions</i>)	
Total Current Program Year Budget	\$4.02
Funding as Percent of All Funding for Quality of Life Result	
Program Funding as Percent of Total Agency Budget	Less than 1%
Budget Distribution:	
Federal	\$.67
State	\$2.8
General Fund	
Capital Project Funds	
Other State Funding	
Other Funds (Not Federal or State)	\$.55
Percent of Total Current Funding Spent on Direct Service	
Percent of Total Current Funding Contracted to Third parties	

Basic Program Facts The Department of Public Health licenses family day care homes (2720), group day care homes (42), and child day care centers (1555) every two years; conducts unannounced inspections to 1/3 of the family day care homes annually and inspects child day care centers and group day care homes every two years; investigates complaints; takes enforcement action against non-compliant programs, and provides technical assistance on regulatory issues.

DPH: Child Day Care Center Licensing
 Performance Measures and Story Behind the Baselines

Summary of Story Behind the Baselines

Program Performance Measure 1: Number of facilities licensed and renewed every two years. Number of site visits to licensed family day care homes, group day care homes and child day care centers.



Story behind the last 4 years of performance: In 2007, DPH licensed family day care homes (2,720), group day care homes (42), and child day care centers (1,555). While the number of licensed facilities has declined since 2004, the licensed capacity in licensed child day care centers has increased from approximately 91,871 in 2004, to 95,498 in 2007. According to a survey of 158 family day care homes closed in 2006 conducted by 211 Childcare for 2006, the top 6 reasons that the reporting family day care homes closed were: career change (39%), regulatory reasons, including summary suspensions, voluntary surrenders (16%), retired (15%), moved (10%), medical reasons (8%), and business not profitable (6%). The top four reasons that child day care centers closed in 2006 (26 centers reporting) were: business not profitable (65%), regulatory reasons including summary suspensions and voluntary surrenders (23%), retired (8%), and moved (4%).

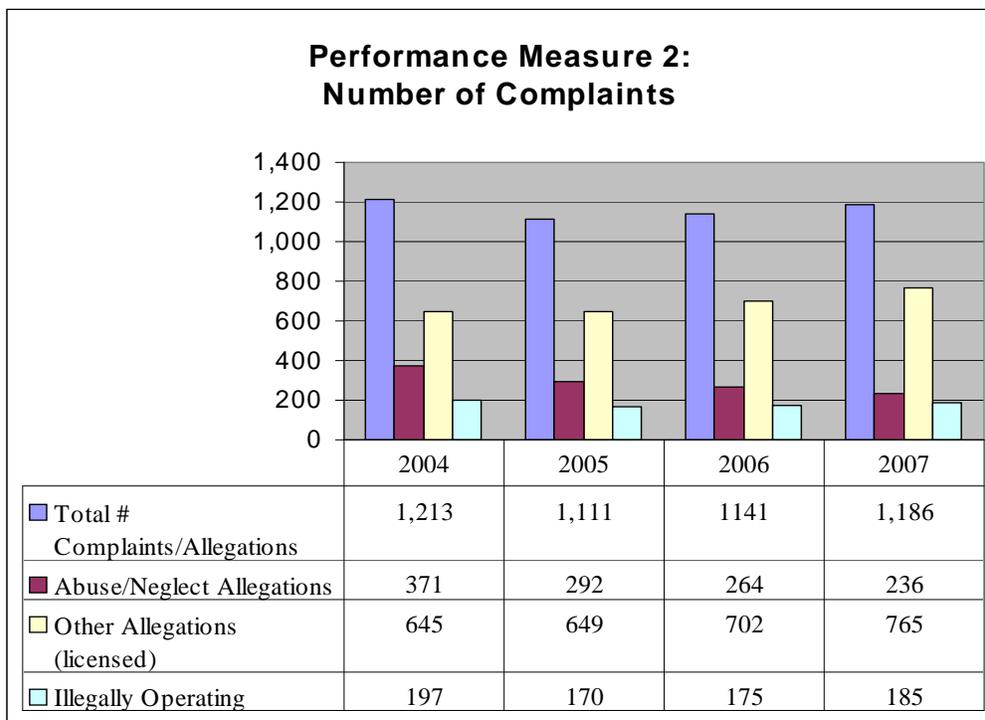
Connecticut General Statutes require the Department to make unannounced visits during customary business hours to at least thirty-three and one-third per cent of the licensed family day care homes each year, and to each licensed child day care center and group day care home every two years. The department has consistently exceeded this requirement. It is important to note that 26 states and the District of Columbia require at least annual visits to licensed family day care homes. According to the 2005 Child Care Licensing Study, NARA, NCCIC, August 2006, increasing the number of site visits is expected to increase regulatory compliance.

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Licensed facilities are required to verify that enrolled children have received all age appropriate immunizations. This is confirmed by Department staff during licensing inspections. Based on annual surveys conducted by the Department during the past four years, we know that the vaccine specific coverage rate for children enrolled in licensed childcare facilities in Connecticut over the last four years is 99%. This is much higher than the national immunization level for all recommended vaccines for two year old children which is at 77% and exceeds the Healthy People 2010 target for 95% vaccination coverage levels for children in licensed child daycare facilities. Immunization is a health output with a strong impact on child morbidity, child mortality and permanent disability.

In 2007, the Department surveyed 1,501 licensed child day care centers in Connecticut regarding the number of children that died or received injuries requiring hospitalization while at the facility between January 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007. Responses were received from 1,033 facilities. There were no reported fatalities and eight reported hospitalizations. The injuries fell into four categories-falls, choking, motor vehicle accidents and insect bites. The results were compared to Connecticut statewide fatality and accident rates for the years 2000-2004. This data implies that children being cared for in Connecticut licensed facilities are likely to be safer than children cared for outside of licensed child day care centers.

Program Performance Measure 2: Number of complaints investigated

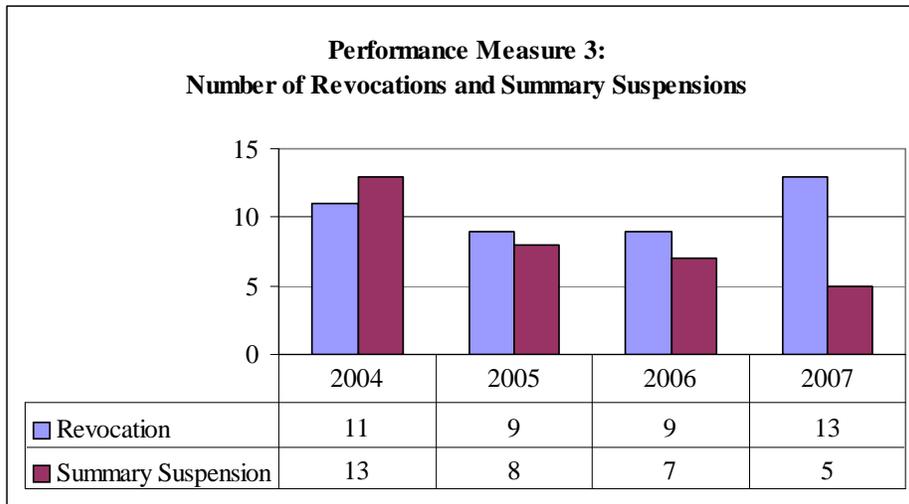


Story behind the last 4 years of performance: DPH investigates complaints which have remained relatively constant over the past four years. Programs that are operating illegally without a license must cease operation or meet statutory and regulatory requirements for licensure. When a complaint investigation results in regulatory violations, the licensed program is required to submit an acceptable plan of correction that brings them into compliance. Programs that fail to achieve regulatory compliance are referred for enforcement action. The Department labels a complaint as abuse/neglect when the Department of Children and Families (DCF) has also accepted the complaint for investigation. The decline in the number of complaints labeled as abuse/neglect and increase in the

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number of complaints labeled as “other” may be attributed to a change in the criteria applied by DCF when determining whether to accept a complaint for investigation.

Program Performance Measure 3: Number of revocations and summary suspensions



Story behind the last 4 years of performance: During the past four years, the Department identified through its monitoring process, 42 childcare providers that habitually or seriously failed to satisfy minimum licensure requirements. After an administrative hearing, the licenses for these programs were revoked. In 33 of these cases, the Department found that the health, safety or welfare of children in attendance were in imminent jeopardy causing the Department to immediately withdraw permission for the licensees to operate, prior to the initiation of the hearing. These summary suspension actions provided immediate protection to 340 children served by these programs. The Department will continue to identify those programs that are either unable or unwilling to comply with requirements and take disciplinary action deemed appropriate. When conditions are such that danger appears impending, or an actual instance of harm has occurred, the Department will continue to exercise its authority to summarily suspend licenses. The Department’s ability to identify regulatory violations is greatly impacted by the frequency of inspections conducted to licensed childcare programs.

Partners and Their Roles

The Child Day Care Licensing Program collaborates with other state agencies including the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Children and Families on conducting background checks and investigations, the Department of Social Services for providing subsidies to parents seeking childcare, 211 Childcare (the state’s childcare referral service), and the Early Childhood Education Cabinet which is charged with promoting the development of all the state's young children.

What do you propose to do to improve performance in the next 3-5 years and why?

1. Effective October 1, 2008, DPH will implement the new four year license renewal cycle mandated by PA-07-129 that will allow more staff time to be committed to field inspections and less time to reviews of paperwork in the office.
2. Facilitate the approval and implementation of proposed changes to the child day care center and group day care home regulations. The public comment period for these proposed changes has

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been completed and the draft regulations have been forwarded to the Office of the Attorney General and Regulation Review Committee for formal review and approval. Department staff will continue to meet to identify necessary changes to the family day care home licensing regulations. These activities will result in the regulations being more closely aligned with nationally recognized guidelines.

3. The Department will continue to pursue efforts to increase the frequency of licensing inspections to child day care centers, group day care homes and family day care homes. Increasing the frequency of licensing inspections has been linked to improved regulatory compliance, will lead to earlier identification of deficiencies before children are negatively impacted, would provide more opportunities for technical assistance to bring about regulatory compliance and would be more consistent with what is being done in other states. Increasing the frequency of inspections will also improve the baseline standard for licensed programs and would support the Governor's SFY08 and 09 budget proposal that included the establishment of a Quality Rating Scale (QRS) for early care and education center-based programs.
4. Enhance data systems. The Department has begun efforts to develop a new licensing system for all of its existing regulatory programs, including child day care licensing. In or about November 2007, the Department began intensive work with an identified a vendor to conduct an assessment of its business needs, the first step in developing a new system.
5. DPH has hired a nurse consultant who will focus on investigating complaints and reported accidents, injuries and reportable illnesses at licensed child day care facilities.

Appendix A, Data Development Agenda

The databases supporting the Child Day Care Licensing program are antiquated, and subject to data loss and corruption. The Department has begun efforts to develop a new licensing system for all of its existing regulatory programs throughout the agency, including child day care licensing. In or about November 2007, the Department identified a vendor to conduct an assessment of its business needs. The Department will be clear in its desire for the new system to be supportive of a web-based system that would provide on-line access to consumers.

Appendix B, Link to Budget

The estimated cost to increase the frequency of spot inspections to licensed family day care homes to annual inspections is \$1,092,393. The estimated cost to increase the frequency of spot inspections to licensed group day care homes and child day care centers to annual inspections is \$632,091. Annual inspections will facilitate more timely correction of safety and health hazards that may exist, and give the department's licensing specialists the opportunity to provide on-site technical assistance on a regular basis. The National Association for the Education of Young Children, (NAEYC) as well as **Caring For Our Children, National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care**, Second Edition (Recommendations 9.017 and 9.018, p. 390), recommend annual inspections to licensed facilities. It is recognized that "initial inspection and consultation often lead to full compliance with health, safety, and program standards, but over time, compliance may slip. Supervision and monitoring of child care facilities are critical to facilitate compliance with the rules in order to prevent or correct problems before they become serious." (**Caring For Our Children**, p. 390). The majority of states require at least annual site visits to licensed family day care homes.

Appendix C, Information and Research Agenda

The Child Day Care Licensing program is a regulatory program and has not conducted research on the impact of the program on individual children's progress to be ready to learn by age 5. Licensing establishes the minimum standards that programs must meet in order to be allowed to operate by law. Our focus is on assuring that programs that are required by state statute to be licensed meet the requirements for licensure and comply with the regulations for program operation so that children who

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attend these programs are healthy and ready to learn. The development of licensing regulations is linked to established health and safety practices, staffing patterns and ratios, and programmatic administration and are developed in collaboration with such entities as Healthy Child Care Connecticut and the Child Day Care Council.

The Department is collaborating with Yale School of Nursing to conduct a study of violations found during licensing inspections.

Appendix D, Partners (Optional)

Appendix E, What Works (Optional)