

**COMMITTEE ON LICENSING STANDARDS**

**Report for the Texas Legislature and DFPS**

**December 2008**

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## **Background**

Senate Bill 758, passed by the 80<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature and signed by Governor Rick Perry, created the Committee on Licensing Standards to make recommendations to the Legislature and the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) for policy and statutory changes relating to licensing standards and facility inspections. Specifically, the Committee on Licensing Standards is charged with reviewing and analyzing information provided by DFPS and Committee members, including a review and analysis of the deaths of children in substitute care, types of licensing violations by risk, details of administrative reviews and appeals, and the type and quality of technical assistance provided.

The Committee on Licensing Standards is composed of seven members appointed by the Governor and membership is varied across a comprehensive range of disciplines as outlined in statute. The Committee is to meet at the call of the presiding officer and report its findings and recommendations on December 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

## **Statute**

With the passage of Senate Bill 758, Human Resources Code, Chapter 42, was amended by adding Section 42.0221 to read as follows:

Sec. 42.0221 Committee on Licensing Standards.

- (a) The committee on licensing standards is composed of seven members appointed by the governor as follows:
- (1) one member who operates a residential child-care facility licensed by the department;
  - (2) one member who operates a child-placing agency licensed by the department;
  - (3) one member who operates a licensed child-care facility that provides care for children for less than 24 hours a day;
  - (4) one member who is a parent, guardian, or custodian of a child who uses a facility licensed by the department;
  - (5) one member who is an expert in the field of child care development; and
  - (6) two members employed by the department who work with facilities licensed by the department.
- (b) Members of the committee serve two-year terms, with the terms of three or four members, as appropriate, expiring February 1 of each year.
- (c) The governor shall designate a member of the committee to serve as the presiding officer.

- (d) The committee shall meet twice a year at the call of the presiding officer.
- (e) The committee shall review and analyze the information provided by the department and committee members and shall make recommendations for policy and statutory changes relating to licensing standards and facility inspections. The review and analysis by the committee shall include the analysis of:
  - (1) the deaths of children who are in substitute care, including reports and findings of child fatality review teams under Subchapter F, Chapter 264, Family Code;
  - (2) the types of licensing violations for each weighted risk and region;
  - (3) the details of administrative reviews and appeals; and
  - (4) the type of technical assistance provided and the qualifications of those providing technical assistance.
- (f) The committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the department and the legislature not later than December 1 of each year.

## **Membership**

Members of the Committee on Licensing Standards were appointed on September 24, 2008, and include the following individuals:

### ***Karyn Purvis, Ph.D.***

Karyn Purvis, Ph.D., was appointed Chair of the Committee on Licensing Standards. She is the Director of the Texas Christian University Institute of Child Development in Ft. Worth, Texas, and serves on the Texas Association of Infant Mental Health (TAIMH) Advisory Board. Dr. Purvis is a member of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) and the Association for Treatment and Training in the Attachment of Children (ATTACH). She earned her bachelor's degree, master's degree, and Ph.D. from Texas Christian University.

### ***Dan Adams***

Dan Adams is the President and CEO of Cal Farley's Boys Ranch and Cal Farley's Boys Ranch Foundation in Amarillo, Texas. He is a member of the Child Welfare League of America and the Texas Network of Youth Services and serves on the Board of the Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services. Mr. Adams earned a bachelor's degree from Texas State University and master's degrees from both West Texas A&M University and the University of Texas at Austin.

### ***Adriene J. Driggers***

Adriene J. Driggers is the DFPS District Director for day care licensing in San Antonio, Texas. She is the Awana and Wee Worship Leader at Churchill Baptist and also volunteers at the San Antonio North East Independent School District. Ms. Driggers earned a bachelor's degree from Texas State University.

**Kimberley B. Kofron**

Kimberley B. Kofron is the Education Specialist with The Children's Courtyard in Round Rock, Texas. She serves on the Austin Community College Child Development Advisory Board and on the Board for the Austin Association for the Education of Young Children. Ms. Kofron earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a master's degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

**Sasha Rasco**

Sasha Rasco is the DFPS Director of Policy and Program Operations in Child Care Licensing in Austin, Texas. She was the recipient of the Robert S. Strauss Merit Scholarship and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Ms. Rasco earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin and a master's degree from the University of Texas at Austin, LBJ School of Public Affairs.

**Ann Stanley**

Ann Stanley is the Senior Director for Casey Family Programs in Austin, Texas, and is the Chair for Children's Partnership. She is a member of Leadership Austin, and also volunteers for Habitat for Humanity and Safe Place. Ms. Stanley earned two bachelor's degrees from the University of Washington and a master's degree from Lesley College in Cambridge.

The member appointed to the Committee on Licensing Standards to represent a parent, guardian, or custodian of a child who uses a facility licensed by DFPS, was unable to serve in this capacity. The search for a replacement Committee member meeting this criterion began on November 17, 2008, and it is anticipated this new member will be present for the Committee's second meeting and those following.

**Scope**

The Committee on Licensing Standards will analyze and review information in order to make recommendations to the Legislature and DFPS regarding policy and statutory changes relating to licensing standards and facility inspections. At minimum, the Committee will review and analyze information on the deaths of children in substitute care, types of licensing violations by risk, details of administrative reviews and appeals, and the type and quality of technical assistance provided. The Committee will also bring issues to the forefront as they evolve in order to improve the outcomes for children, families, and other consumers of child care programs and services in Texas.

In keeping with the areas for review and analysis as outlined in statute, discussion topics will be identified at the initial Committee meeting scheduled for November 25, 2008, and refined as needed during subsequent meetings called by the Committee Chair. Open communication and partnership between Committee members is vital to the success and efforts to identify and recommend key changes that may be needed to licensing policy and/or statute.

As the scope and discussion topics are further developed in upcoming meetings, this information will be presented in the Committee's subsequent reports. The Committee on Licensing Standards will submit an interim report in the spring of 2009 and will submit its full recommendations with the Committee report due to the Legislature and DFPS on December 1, 2009.

## **Meeting Protocol and Schedule**

The Committee on Licensing Standards is required to meet twice a year at the call of the Committee Chair. It is anticipated the Committee will meet with more regularity and in the range of three to four meetings during this first year. The initial meeting is scheduled for November 25, 2008, and will lay the foundation for scope, prioritization of issues, and subsequent meeting format.

During this initial meeting, information on the DFPS Child Care Licensing division will be provided to Committee members as well as data on child deaths in substitute care, related minimum standards violations, administrative reviews, waivers and variances requested by child care operations, and the provision of technical assistance by Licensing staff. All Committee members will be encouraged to share information related to their areas of expertise and supported in their collaborative work as the Committee moves forward in its analysis and development of recommendations during this first year.

## **Conclusion**

The Committee on Licensing Standards is beginning its work with members being appointed and currently reviewing relevant information and data in preparation for the Committee's first meeting on November 25, 2008. Members have a shared sense of enthusiasm related to serving on the Committee and for the opportunity to analyze data and develop recommendations for licensing policy and statutory changes to enhance outcomes for children, families, and others served by child care programs in Texas.