

Quarterly Update

FALL 2019

CHILD CARE LICENSING UPDATE

Child Care Licensing Program Mission:

The core mission of the Child Care Licensing Program is to ensure the health and safety of children in care. We strive to provide preventive, protective, and quality services to children in care by ensuring that licensed facilities meet established health and safety standards through monitoring facilities, providing technical assistance, and establishing partnerships with providers, parents, and the child care community.

A Note from Pamela Dickfoss, Deputy Director

Governor Gavin Newsom has recently made several key appointments that will positively impact early care and education policy moving forward.

- [Dr. Mark Ghaly](#) is the Secretary for the California Health and Human Services Agency. Dr. Ghaly is a physician and expert in public health. His work focuses on whole-person care, ensuring California's most vulnerable populations have access to health resources.
- [Kris Perry](#) is the Deputy Secretary of the California Health and Services Agency for Early Childhood Development, as well as Senior Advisor to the Governor on Implementation of Early Childhood Development Initiatives. Ms. Perry is a nationally recognized advocate for policies related to early childhood development.
- [Dr. Nadine Burke Harris](#) is California's first Surgeon General. Dr. Harris' research and work experience include a focus on health issues associated with adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and their lifelong health effects.

I am pleased to announce [Kim Johnson](#) as the new Director of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). Prior to joining CDSS, Ms. Johnson served as public policy director at the Child Care Resource and Referral Network, where she led several legislative and budget proposals, including increased inspections in licensed child care facilities.

In 2015, she joined CDSS as the Branch Chief of Child Care and Refugee Programs. She served as the Branch Chief of CalWORKs and Child Care from 2017 to 2018, and most recently as the Deputy Director for the Family Engagement and Empowerment Division.

We are excited to have leadership that understands both the complexity and importance of California's early childhood education system. Each of these key figures will be a valuable advocate for the licensing program and providers.

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Increase in Sleep-Related Infant Deaths

In 2019 there has been an increase in sleep-related deaths in child care facilities located throughout California. Learning about safe sleep and following best practices is imperative to reducing the risk of sleep-related deaths such as Sudden Unexplained Infant Death (SUID) and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

Please take the time to review the resources below for more information regarding SUIDS and SIDS. This information can be printed and shared with parents and other caregivers as well:

- [Safe Sleep Awareness Campaign – Provider Information Notice \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Safe to Sleep Campaign - National Institute of Child Health and Human Development](#)
- [A Parent's Guide to Safe Sleep - American Academy of Pediatrics](#)

An additional best practice is to know what infant devices have been recalled. You can visit the [United States Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) to check for recalled devices. There are Provider Information Notices (PINs) for specific items recently recalled:

- [PIN 19-06-CCP - Fisher Price and Kids II Infant Sleepers Recall](#)
- [PIN 19-10-CCP - Fisher-Price Infant Equipment Recall](#)

Trauma Awareness in Child Care

Trauma is defined by the [National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#) (NCTSN) as a child feeling intensely threatened by an event he or she is involved in or witnesses. Sadly, there have been many recent tragic events, including fires, active shooters, and infant deaths throughout California. Awareness of the effects of trauma in children is the first step for providers and licensing staff to help affected children.

For more information, please review the following resources on trauma-informed care and adverse childhood experiences.

- [Helping Children Cope with Emergencies](#)
- [Children in Disasters: Teachers and Childcare](#)
- [Adverse Childhood Experiences](#)

Earthquake Preparedness Resources

According to the [United States Geological Survey](#), there are hundreds of earthquakes in California each year. Many of them are too small to be felt; however, some can cause damage, so it is best to be prepared. Most hazards in an earthquake are caused by loose objects in and around homes and buildings. The [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#) has developed a guide about [earthquake preparedness](#) for child care providers. This guide has recommendations for how to prepare for an earthquake, what to do in the event of an earthquake, and what to do afterward. For general information about disaster resources, please visit our [Disaster Resources webpage](#). Also, the [California Child Care Disaster Plan 2016](#) has resources for earthquake preparedness and response.

Where Does Your Drinking Water Come From?

Public water utility companies are required to regularly test water for contaminants to meet safe drinking water standards. Each year, the water company must prepare a “Consumer Confidence Report” to explain its water quality to customers. You can find this report online or ask your water company for a copy to see the water test results and any possible recommendations.

Keep in mind...

Some pipes and fixtures may contain lead, copper, or other chemicals that contaminate drinking water as it travels through the pipes in the house to the faucet. Consider replacing drinking water faucets older than 2010, as they might be a potential source of lead.

All Child Care Centers will be required to test their water for excessive levels of lead between January 1, 2020, and January 1, 2023. Please see [PIN 19-04-CCP](#) for more information. Resources and guidance on lead testing will be provided to all Child Care Centers over the next few months.

If you get your drinking water from a private well...

The water needs to be tested for contaminants to make sure it is safe to drink. Places and activities near a child care site, such as farming or industrial practices, can contaminate private well water. Water can be contaminated even if it looks, smells, and tastes good. For guidance on what to test for, how often to test, and how to treat well water, read about recommended [best practices for well owners](#).



A Not So Little Hero

On the afternoon of August 21, 2019, while having snacks with six children she had in care at her Family Child Care Home, Licensee Denise Durrett heard a noise in the back of her home. Denise went to investigate and discovered the entire back of the house was on fire.

Denise and her 11-year old daughter Elsa immediately evacuated all six children to safety at a neighbor's home across the street. While Denise returned to home to rescue her pets, Elsa remained with the children and ensured that they remained calm. The children were between the age of five months old to three years old. Neighbors also helped to keep the children in a safe area. Elsa's courage was astonishing. She was able to keep herself and the group of children composed. The local Fire Department will honor Elsa for her bravery in keeping the children safe, calm and together in an emergency situation.

Quality Child Care

Research shows that quality child care is essential for a child's development. Child care providers are entrusted with providing healthy, safe accommodations and ensuring the personal rights of children are met. Licensees strive to create an environment that fosters the physical, social, cognitive, and emotional development of the children in their care.

Many licensees, in addition to meeting minimum requirements, choose to participate in ongoing workshops and trainings. They work closely with [Resource and Referral Agencies](#), join professional groups, continue their early childhood training, and participate in their county or region's [Quality Rating and Improvement System \(QRIS\)](#) to offer a quality program.

The beginning of the school year can be a good time for providers to re-evaluate their plan of operation, from maintaining compliance with regulations to improving the quality of care. The past [Quarterly Updates](#) include articles that are helpful for self-assessment, resources that can be helpful when [managing children with behavioral challenges](#), and [videos for parents and providers](#).



A New Way to Subscribe for Updates

Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) regularly sends important information to providers and stakeholders by way of Provider Information Notices (PIN), Quarterly Update Newsletters and other communications. Have you registered to receive these updates? Anyone can subscribe to be on the distribution list to receive information from any of the licensing programs (Adult and Senior Care, Child Care Advocate Program, and Children's Residential Program).

To sign up, go directly to [CCLD website](#) and click on [Receive Important Updates](#). There, you can register to receive updates by inputting your email address and make the selection of which program(s) from which you are interested in obtaining information. You may also refer to [PIN 19-09-CCLD](#) for more information.

New Inspection Process Project Updates

The Child Care Inspection Process Project Pilot of the standard and domain-focused tools began in mid-May and ended in mid-August. The Department has partnered with California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) to complete an in-depth analysis of the findings from the pilot to identify key performance indicators and provide recommendations for future development.

In the next few months, the Department will review and analyze the information collected from the pilot, including feedback received from Licensing Program Analysts (LPAs), licensee surveys, and planned focus groups. The preliminary feedback indicates that licensees find the revised inspection process helpful and are gaining a greater level of understanding of statutory and regulatory requirements compared to previous inspections. Overall, LPAs report that the inspections are more thorough and allow them to take a more holistic approach when conducting inspections. The Department will share the findings from the pilot once they are available. The inspection tools can be found on the [CDSS website](#).

California Early Care & Education Workforce Study

Beginning this fall, a random selection of center directors, center teachers and family child care providers will be contacted to participate in this important study, which will create a detailed portrait of the ECE workforce in California. Your participation is very important! View the [Child Care Resource and Referral Network webpage](#) for the full announcement and learn more about the study.

Management Information

Tashima Daniel is new to state service as an LPM I in the San Diego Child Care RO, effective 7/22/19.

Ana Chico promoted from LPA to LPM I in the Monterey Park Child Care RO, effective 7/31/19.

Kimberly Hall promoted from LPM I to Regional Manager of the San Diego North Child Care RO, effective 8/12/19.

Retirements:

Carolina Ramos, LPM I retired from the San Diego Child Care RO, effective 7/12/19.

Are you interested in becoming part of the Child Care Licensing team?



Please apply at: [CalCareers](#)

- Information on how to apply for a state job can be found at the [Cal Careers Website](#).

Helpful Reminders and Information

- Please remember to check out new PINs: [Provider Information Notices](#).
- Latest Recalls from the [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#).
- [Regional Office Locations and Numbers](#)
- [Short Child Care Videos](#) addressing common questions on licensed care for families and providers.
- [Free Online Mandated Reporter Training](#).
- [Resources for Preventing Suspension and Expulsion in Child Care Settings](#).
- [Healthy Schools Act Training, Department of Pesticide Regulation](#).

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Centralized Complaint & Information Bureau (CCIB)	1-844-538-8766
Child Care Advocate Program	1-916-654-1541
Child Protective Services	1-916-875-5437
Caregiver Background Check Bureau	1-888-422-5669
CA Child Care Resource and Referral Network	1-415-882-0234

Program Administrator:

Shanice Orum

Assistant Program Administrators:

Robert Garza- North

Maria Hendrix- South

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