Note from Pamela Dickfoss, Deputy Director

The Child Care Licensing Program (CCLP) mission is to ensure the health and safety of California’s children in care through compliance, enforcement, and prevention efforts. For decades, we have joined child care advocates and various stakeholders throughout the state to express the need for increased inspections of child care facilities. In January of 2017, California statute changed to increase inspections of child care facilities from every five years to a minimum of every three years.

This year, I am delighted to announce that we acquired federal funding to further support increased inspections of child care facilities, beginning in January 2019. More frequent inspections will allow Licensing Program Analysts more time with licensees to provide technical assistance and guidance on best practices.

The goal is to work with licensed facilities to prevent non-compliance and provide resources to better ensure the health, safety and quality of care for our children. Our hope is that the ability to work more closely and frequently with licensees will help prevent facility closures and contribute toward a much needed expansion of child care facilities.

Available and affordable licensed child care is essential for California’s working families and growing economy. In recent years, the Department has seen a decline in Family Child Care Homes and the number of Child Care Centers remain stagnant. While there may be various reasons for this trend, we are confident that more frequent opportunities to provide licensees with guidance and assistance will help expand the child care industry and ultimately provide families more options for quality child care.
Be Alert! It is Fire Season

According to drought.ca.gov, California has been experiencing extreme drought conditions for the past six years. With these bone-dry conditions, wildfires have been raging and affecting regions across the state. There are a number of things you can do to prepare yourself if a fire threatens your home or center:

- Have an evacuation plan. Practice evacuating your facility with your children. Everyone in the home/center should be aware of what to do in case there is a need to evacuate. Staff must be well equipped and ready to provide whatever assistance is necessary to each child in care. For more information on preparing your home/center, go to Preparing Your Home For Wild Fires.
- Have your emergency plan in place as to where you would relocate children if necessary. Plan two ways out of your neighborhood in case a fire is threatening one of your evacuation routes.
- Prepare an emergency kit in case of evacuation and keep all important documents, medications, personal identification, and responsible party contact information handy.
- Make sure that fire suppression systems, along with required smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, are in place and working at all times.
- Create a defensible space around your facility by clearing away dead branches, wood piles and vegetation from your roof, patio furniture and recreation equipment. Keep your rain gutters free of debris.
- Monitor current fires to ensure you are aware of the proximity of the fires that may be in your area at Cal Fire.
- Notify your Licensing Program Analyst as soon as possible if you do have to relocate. Have a current LIC 9040, Child Care Facility Roster, available to assist in tracking who is in care and where they have been relocated.

Community Care Licensing tracks fires that may pose a danger to our facilities on a seven day a week, 24-hour basis. By notifying us if you have to relocate, we can assist you to ensure that your staff and children are safe and get the services they need.
Active Shooter – Emergency Resources

One emergency that no child care provider wants to think about is that of an active shooter. Child care providers are required to conduct emergency drills for disasters every six months. As a best practice, you may want to consider an active shooter drill. Many schools across the country are conducting these drills. Since most child care providers are caring for very young children, it can be challenging to conduct this type of drill without scaring young children, particularly since children of this age are learning to distinguish what is real from what is pretend. One suggestion is to not tell children it is an active shooter drill, but a stinky skunk drill. An article in the Fresno Bee features a kindergarten teacher sharing her strategy.

The website childcareaware.org offers many tools for active shooter drills in a child care setting. A no cost email sign up is available and covers such topics such as creating emergency disaster plans, communication with families, supporting young children’s emotional needs, and protecting child care business records. There are four webinars that discuss emergency preparedness and active shooting. There are also videos that provide prevention training to prepare for an active shooter.

Please remember that if the information on your Emergency Disaster Plan has changed, submit an updated copy to your Regional Office.

To learn more about the Title 22 regulations that address emergency disaster plans and drills, you can refer to the following sections:

- For CCCs, Title 22, Section 101174, Disaster and Mass Casualty Plan, Form LIC 610
- For FCCHs, Title 22, Section 102417(g)(9) (Spanish) Form LIC 610A

Additional information:
- Caring for Children in a Disaster
- Office of Homeland Security

Safe Sleep

New Safe Sleep Regulations for all licensed child care providers are anticipated to take effect during November 2018. These regulations are consistent with the American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines to ensure infants in licensed care are provided the safest sleeping environments. For the most current regulation information visit our Child Care Licensing Program Homepage and scroll down to Safe Sleep Regulations, where you may also Quick Link to our Safe Sleep Resource Webpage for best practices and resources.
**Lead Exposure and Prevention**

Lead toxicity is caused by exposure to high levels of lead and can have severe effects over time. Lead can be found in our water, soil and even the air we breathe. One exceedingly common source of hazardous exposure is lead-based paint. Many still live in homes with lead-based paint that is deteriorating and can be putting many families at risk.

For young children it is especially important to find out if they might be exposed to lead. Their smaller growing bodies absorb and retain lead more easily and long term exposure may cause serious health problems.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), there are simple things that can be done to help protect children against lead poisoning:

- Encourage blood lead testing: Because lead poisoning often occurs with no obvious symptoms, it frequently goes unrecognized.
- Reduce the risk from lead paint: Lead paint is still present in millions of homes, sometimes under layers of newer paint, so be wary of any chipping paint.
- Keep it clean: Clean frequently to minimize dust, which can contain lead and use a High Efficiency Particulate Arrestance (HEPA) vacuum cleaner.
- Don’t remove lead paint yourself: Hire a professional.
- Be careful of dirt: Dirt can be a source of lead, so encourage children to play in sand or grassy areas instead of dirt which sticks to fingers and toys.
- Test your drinking water: Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula.
- Eat right: A child who gets enough iron and calcium will absorb less lead.

See additional information regarding [Lead Poisoning](#) or call: 1-800-424-LEAD

**Screen Time Fun**

Spending quality time with children is encouraged. Screen time can be a fun and valuable tool for children if used in moderation. [Child Trends 5](#) lists five ways screen time can be beneficial for children.

- Certain kinds of digital tools can support family interactions.
- Support children's healthy development through co-viewing and co-playing.
- Parents can choose high-quality digital content for their child’s viewing.
- Digital tools can promote school readiness.
- Digital tools can support parent and child togetherness.
Healthy Habits – Good Oral Health

The Centers for Disease Control notes that cavities are one of the most common chronic diseases of childhood in the United States. Parents and childcare providers can help promote healthy oral health in the following ways:

- Have children brush teeth twice a day with toothpaste
- Clean between teeth daily
- Limit sugary beverages and snacks
- See a dentist regularly for prevention and treatment of oral disease

Tips for making brushing fun for kids can be found at Mouth Healthy from the American Dental Association.

New Inspection Process Project Updates

To coincide with the shift to annual inspections in January of 2019, CCLD is developing interim Standard tools for Child Care facilities based upon the current Key Indicator Tools and other national inspection tools as well as data from the Senior Care Pilot. We look forward to working with you in the development and implementation of these interim Standard tools in the next few months.

More information can be found on the Inspection Process Project website.

Management Information

Darryl Jefferson promoted to Assistant Program Administrator, effective 7/2/18.
Regional Manager Bertha Manzanares transferred from Monterey Park to Orange County Child Care, effective 6/1/18.
Monica Filice was promoted to Bureau Chief, Centralized Complaint & Information Bureau, effective 7/1/18.
Cecelia Asher-Falk was promoted to SSM I Policy Unit, effective 7/5/18.

George Mingle was promoted to LPM I, Santa Barbara Regional Office, effective 7/23/18.
Erin Virrueta was promoted to LPM I, Chico Regional Office, effective 5/22/18.
Barbara Brown Regional Manager Oakland Office is retiring, effective 8/31/18.
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
- Short Child Care Videos addressing common questions on licensed care for families and providers.
- Free Online Mandated Reporter Training

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<tr>
<th>IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Centralized Complaint &amp; Information Bureau (CCIB)</td>
<td>1-844-538-8766</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Care Advocate Program</td>
<td>1-916-654-1541</td>
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<td>Child Protective Services</td>
<td>1-916-875-5437</td>
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<td>Caregiver Background Check Bureau</td>
<td>1-888-422-5669</td>
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<tr>
<td>CA Child Care Resource and Referral Network</td>
<td>1-415-882-0234</td>
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Program Administrator- Shanice Orum
Assistant Program Administrators:
Darryl Jefferson- North
Robert Garza- North
Maria Hendrix- South