



THE CHILDCARE QUALITY RATING AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE QRIS

- **PIECES** SELECTED THE QRIS AS A PRIOTIY AFTER THE POLICY MATTERS AUDIT;
- QRIS LEGISLATION WAS PASSED IN 2009; AND
- THE QRIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS CREATED IN 2010. THE COMMITTEE HAS COMPLETELY DEVELOPED THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING ITS STANDARDS FOR EACH TYPE OF CARE AND HOW IT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED; AND DHHR HAS FILED AND HAD ACCEPTED LEGISLATIVE RULES FOR THE QRIS.

WHAT WE FOUND IN THE AUDIT

- OUR LOWEST RATINGS WERE IN PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY; ECE PLANNING; ADEQUATE COMPENSATION AND ADEQUATE FACILITIES; AND
- OUR STRENGTHS WERE IN PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN FIVE AND OVER.

THE CURRENT CHILDCARE QUALITY PICTURE

- **THE QUALITY OF CHILDCARE IS FAIR TO POOR.**
- **ONLY 7 PERCENT OF CHILDCARE PROGRAMS ARE NATIONALLY ACCREDITED.**
- ALL OF THE WEAKNESSES IDENTIFIED IN THE POLICY AUDIT REMAIN:
 - FACILITIES AND COMPENSATION ARE STILL NOT ADEQUATE;
 - WE ARE NOT HOLDING OURSELVES ACCOUNTABLE;
 - WE HAVE NO COORDINATED PLAN THAT'S BEEN ACCEPTED BY ALL;

CONTINUED

HOW THE QRIS IS AN ECD SYSTEM

- THE QRIS HAS BEEN CREATED IN PART FROM THE QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS WE'VE HAD ABOUT THE NEED FOR A SYSTEM;
- **THE QRIS ANSWERS** HAS A VISION, INCLUDING STANDARDS AND INCENTIVES FOR QUALITY AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT; WAGE SUPPLEMENTS; GRANTS TO IMPROVE FACILITIES; A DATA SYSTEM AND PARENT INVOLVEMENT; AND
- RECENTLY THE STATE'S "RACE TO THE TOP" GRANT APPLICATION USED THE QRIS AS A FRAMEWORK FOR AN ECD SYSTEM.

THE CHALLENGE

- PROVIDERS WOULD HAVE NO CHILDREN IN THEIR PROGRAMS IF THEY CHARGED WHAT QUALITY COSTS, AND NO PARENT COULD AFFORD IT.
- **A STATE-FUNDED QRIS WOULD ENSURE** A WELL-TRAINED ATTENTIVE TEACHER; A SAFE, CLEAN, WELL-EQUIPPED FACILITY; PARENTS WHO ARE INVOLVED AND EDUCATED ABOUT THEIR ROLE IN THEIR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT; SMALL CLASSROOMS; AND TEACHERS WHO UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS OF EVERY CHILD.
- **WHAT STANDS IN THE WAY OF BETTER CHILDCARE IN WV IS THE LACK OF FUNDING FOR THE QRIS.**