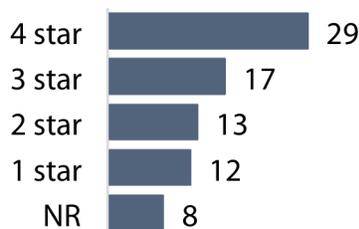


Key Questions

1. How do providers understand the revised and new language describing standards, indicators, and evidence?
2. How do providers react to the new indicators and evidence required?
3. What are providers currently doing to meet the indicators?
4. What do providers recommend Parent Aware accepts as evidence?

12 focus groups with 79 participants

Participants' Star Rating



Upcoming Rubric Updates

A glossary will be added to offer further context surrounding indicators and evidence. It will also include additional examples that providers could consider for evidence.

Templates will be created to demonstrate acceptable evidence and the submission process. This will provide clarity and expedite paperwork.

Additional clarity will be provided to specify when there is a wide range of evidence that could be accepted for an indicator.

In September 2016, Child Care Aware of Minnesota asked The Improve Group (TIG) to conduct focus groups with child care providers in Minnesota. These focus groups were used to inform the Quality Documentation Portfolio, updated and adapted in 2015-2016 based on the development of new Parent Aware Indicators. The goal of this study was to ensure that the evidence in the guide aligned with child care providers' reality, and to solicit feedback on the level of challenge and clarity of expectation in the document. Eight indicators were selected for focus group review based on having been recently updated and/or were potentially confusing.

Overall Findings

Family and center-based providers face unique experiences, which in turn means their evidence should be differentiated according to setting. For example, while many center-based providers feel that group goal-setting is achievable, family-based providers are concerned that grouping the wide age range of infants and toddlers they serve into one goal is unrealistic.

Providers face time restrictions, and need a system that accommodates their demanding schedules. Many providers discuss feeling overburdened with paperwork in addition to a full-time schedule of having children in their care, and were wary of adding more paperwork and requirements for their Star Rating.

Providers currently value and schedule parent interactions to meet parent needs. They feel that many parents face busy schedules that limit their ability to be regularly involved with providers or complete at-home activities. This could present a unique challenge if requiring parents to complete activities or come to scheduled events.