DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Investigations

Kulani Moti, Inspector General

CCAP Investigations

CCAP Investigations:

- Exists to ensure that the \$283 million in annual program funds are used to the benefit of eligible children & families
- Strives to strengthen program integrity by ensuring the approximately 4,500 child care providers who receive CCAP payments meet compliance requirements by:

Identifying errors related to payments issued by CCAP

Investigating alleged or suspected financial misconduct by providers

- Utilizes standardized processes & data to drive decision making
- Takes administrative actions and/or imposes sanctions in response to violations
- Refers suspected criminal misconduct to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension for further investigation for potential criminal prosecution

Multi-Disciplinary Investigation Team

- 1 manager, 2 supervisors, 10 investigators & 1 investigative assistant
- <u>Experience</u> administrative investigation, banking financial fraud prevention and/or investigation, law enforcement, financial intelligence, financial auditing, investigation coordination, surveillance operations
- <u>Education/Training</u> law enforcement, criminal justice, communications, strategic leadership & sociology

On-Going Collaboration

- OIG Licensing Division
- DHS Children and Family Services Administration Child Care Services Division

Early & Often Philosophy:

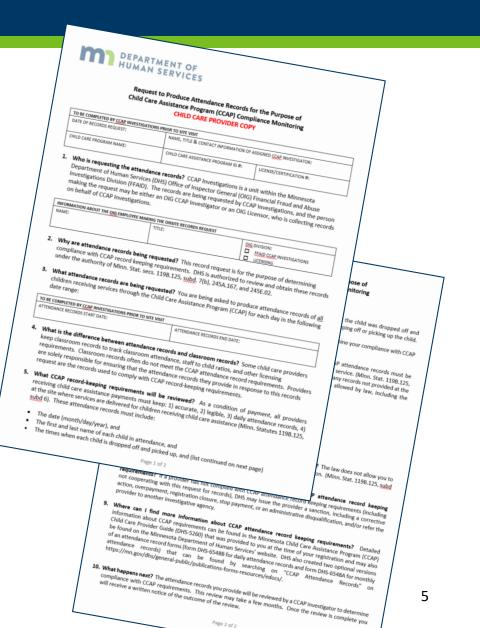
Earlier contact with new providers will result in fewer errors in the future

Early & Often Implementation

- Established as a result of 2019 bipartisan legislation
- Implementation delayed due to Covid-19 Peacetime Emergency
- Provides Licensing & CCAP Investigations (Early & Often Investigator) support to new child care providers in the 1st year after opening, including:
 - Education & technical assistance to new centers on provider compliance
 - Licensing visits quarterly
 - Joint Licensing and Early & Often Investigator visit in 3rd quarter
 - Early & Often Investigator conducts a 3rd quarter attendance record review

Enhanced Provider Communication & Engagement

- Provide & review written information during site visits that detail:
 - Who is requesting records, including name & contact information
 - Why records are being requested
 - What specific records are being sought
 - · What record-keeping requirements will be reviewed
 - Potential consequences if requested records:
 - Are not available when requested
 - Do not comply with record-keeping requirements
 - Where to find more information about CCAP attendance record-keeping requirements
- Written receipt of records signed by provider & person collecting record
- Notify & recognize providers when attendance record review identifies no compliance violations



2/10/2022

Enhanced Quality Assurance

- Established new unit in Division in December 2021
- Building on the success of the CCAP Investigations Continuous Improvement Project
 - Ensures division-wide investigations are consistent, timely & decisions are data driven
 - Develops & oversees process for routine review of metrics & measures to determine quality/quantity outputs
 - Identifies corrective action & training needs

COVID-19 Child Care Grant Compliance

- Forming & staffing new unit
- Investigating and/or auditing provider compliance with multiple Covid-19 related child care grants, including:
 - Peace Time Emergency Child Care Grants
 - Covid-19 Public Health Funds for Child Care
 - Child Care Stabilization grants
- Each grant has specific eligibility requirements
- Conducts proactive auditing for compliance & reactive investigation in response to a tip, referral, or other identified compliance concern

COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH SUPPORT FUNDS FOR MN CHILD CARE PROVIDERS!

RESPONSE



Enhanced Surveillance Capability

- Procured integrated video management & content analysis tools
 - Move away minute-by-minute video review & manual tracking
 - Able to pinpoint people & objects of interest with speed and precision
 - A forensic product that preserves evidence
- For investigations involving alleged or suspected financial misconduct by providers
- Improves the efficiency, effectiveness & organization of post-event investigation productivity





Thank You!