

# What's New From The Bureau of Child Care

CareFinderIndiana  
[www.childcarefinder.IN.gov](http://www.childcarefinder.IN.gov)



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## A. Message from the Child Care Administrator Michelle Thomas

The end of 2007 brings reflection on last years' accomplishments. The beginning of 2008 comes with plans for continued successes.

Our most notable achievements in 2007 include:

- ✓ Increased the income eligibility of families served from 140% to 170% of FPL
- ✓ Served over 2500 more CCDF voucher children
- ✓ Increased voucher dollars paid to accredited child care centers from 11.4% to 16.2% of total direct services
- ✓ Increased voucher children being cared for in licensed child care settings by 4%
- ✓ Finalized our plan to implement our Quality Rating System - Paths to QUALITY. Approximately 400 providers in pilot counties are now being transitioned to the new, statewide system.

In 2008, we will make continuous quality improvements in all of our systems, as well as to generate new initiatives that have the potential to move Indiana further ahead in local, state and national child care communities.

Notable plans for 2008 include:

- Combine the CCDF voucher payment swipe card with the TANF and Food Stamp program. Clients will be better able to use technology to access their benefits.
- Clarify CCDF voucher rules for provider and parent participation. Public and provider input will be sought during this process. Initial internal discussions have only just begun.
- Develop better and more efficient administrative procedures for child care situations that are a serious danger to children. Our basic responsibility is the protection of our most vulnerable citizens.



## B. Quality Development - Janet Deahl



### Paths to QUALITY™ Launched!

On December 4th, the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Family Resources, Bureau of Child Care, announced the launch of Paths to QUALITY™, Indiana's Quality Rating System. PTQ as it is known, is a free and voluntary system that provides technical support and incentives for eligible child care providers that focuses on health and safety, learning environments, curriculum, and accreditation.

Visit Care Finder at [www.childcarefinder.in.gov](http://www.childcarefinder.in.gov) to read more about PTQ

#### What's new on CareFinder?

**We continue to look for ways to improve communication with providers and families.** Have you ever not known who to contact with a child care related question? Have you ever wanted to contact a Bureau of Child Care (BCC) consultant only to find that you've lost or misplaced their business card and you don't even know where to begin to find the information? Your search is over. A new feature has been added to the "Contact Us" page on CareFinder that will allow you to retrieve this information with just a click of the mouse. Try it yourself. Go to [www.childcarefinder.in.gov](http://www.childcarefinder.in.gov), click on the "Contact Us" button; scroll down the page and click on the Bureau of Child Care county contacts' link; select a county from the dropdown list; click the "Go" button. *It's that easy!* You will get a list of the centers, homes, ministries, health, and CCDF consultants for that county, including their phone numbers, e-mail addresses, **AND** contact information for central office staff. *It's that convenient!*



## C. CCDF Program Update - Linda Kolbus



### Tax Form 1099

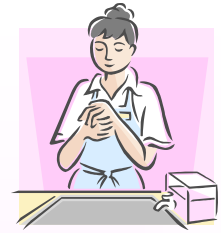
If you are a Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) provider your IRS 1099s will be mailed by January 31. If you have not received a 1099 by February 7, call the Provider Help Desk at (800) 422-0850 and request a replacement 1099. Be sure to give your current address; **address changes are the most common reason for not getting your 1099.**

Please do not call before February 7.



## D. Licensed Child Care Centers Update - Lisa Clifford

### APPROPRIATE USE OF HAND SANITIZERS IN THE CHILDCARE SETTING



The use of hand sanitizers has become more and more common in our society. We have them on our desks and in our pockets and purses. We see them in hospitals, doctor's offices, dental offices, grocery stores, virtually everywhere! Should we see them in the out of home child care centers that care for our children? Much depends on how they are used there.

The effective ingredient of hand sanitizer is Ethyl Alcohol. Most contain 62% or more. Ingesting as little as 1 ounce of these could be fatal to a toddler. While bottles of hand sanitizer do carry warnings to keep out of the reach of children so do many of the other common household goods that we commonly keep on night stands, bathroom sinks, etc. Why would a child want to ingest such a foul tasting thing anyway? Children learn through the use of taste, touch, and smell. What could have a better feel than the ooey gooey feel of a gel? Most have an inviting sweet smell so it is great to feel this smooth gel with the good smell on the child's tongue.

When at child care we want our children to learn proper social skills as well as proper hygienic skills. Hand gels are not meant to replace hand washing. They are just an adjunct to hand washing. Children should be taught the proper method and the proper time to wash hands. Hand gels should only be used when it is not possible to wash the hands. While out on the playground or in an area where there are not facilities to properly wash the hands would be examples. Children should never be allowed to use hand gels unsupervised or have access to them. If there is a sink, soap and water there should not be a hand gel.

#### Sources:

Brayden, R.M. "Behavioral Antecedents of Pediatric Poisonings."  
*Clinical Pediatrics*. January 1993 (pp. 30-35)

Nishikawa, Maya. "Hand Sanitizer Hazards."  
*WCCO-TV [Minneapolis]*. January 20, 2007

Verhoeven, Jace. "Hand Sanitizer Makes Girl Drunk".  
*FOX 23 [Tulsa]*. May 14, 2007



## E. Licensed Child Care Homes Update - Debbie Sampson

### New Licensing Consultant

Charity Colter is our newest licensing consultant. Charity's territory includes Tippecanoe County, Montgomery County, Clinton County, Boone County, and the northwest section of Marion County. Charity is based in Marion County. Her office phone number is (317) 544-3983. Her e-mail address is [Charity.Colter@fssa.in.gov](mailto:Charity.Colter@fssa.in.gov).

Charity comes to us with lots of valuable experience. She is a former licensed child care home provider, a family casemanager with the Department of Child Services, and most recently worked in Central Office with the Department of Child Services in the Youth Connections Program.

#### BUREAU OF CHILD

#### CARE MISSION

To provide all parents with informed child care choices that promote their children's health, safety and future success in school.

## F. Operations Update- Randy Wagner



### CCDF Improper Payment Initiative

The Federal Government paid Indiana a visit recently and congratulated us on our efforts in implementing the Improper Payment Initiative. Indiana has been noted as a valuable resource for other states seeking to implement and improve their Quality Assurance and Monitoring processes.

BCC Operations and Policy Staff are to be commended for their ongoing collaboration and efforts at continuous quality improvement. As a result, Indiana is able to demonstrate efficient use of taxpayer dollars that support our neediest, hard working families.

### Retirement



Sue Claphan, Operations Consultant has been devoted to providing quality service for Indiana's children and families for 16 years. She began her state career as a Public Assistance Caseworker. Six years ago she came to BCC as a licensing consultant in Fort Wayne. The past three years she has worked in our Quality Assurance and Automation Units. Sue is always ready to step up when needed and lend a helping hand. She somehow manages to keep up with all the equipment requests and repairs and keeps smiling. When asked what she would miss most about working in BCC, Sue replied that she liked the variety of her job and that no two days are alike. She also said that most of all, she would miss the people she works with. Although we are very sad that Sue is leaving, we are happy that she has the opportunity to spend more time with her family, doing the things she loves most.

### Happy Retirement Sue!

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