



**Department of
Job and Family Services**

John R. Kasich, Governor
Cynthia C. Dungey, Director

July 31, 2015

Pam Perrino, Chair
262 Youngs Run Dr., NW
Warren Ohio 44483

Dear Ms. Perrino:

Last Spring Chairwoman Ward, sent a letter regarding the affordability and availability of quality child care in Ohio. As the new Chair I wanted to let you know that the Department has reviewed these recommendations, and believes they will serve as a starting point for the work required as a result of the state fiscal year (SFY) 2016/2017 biennial budget.

As you know, the SFY 2016/2017 budget requires the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to identify ways to accelerate programs to higher tiers in the Step Up To Quality program and to identify strategies for the appropriate ratings of type B homes. As you suggested, this work will be done in conjunction with the Early Childhood Advisory Council.

In regard to your concerns and recommendations regarding the market rate survey, it is important to note that federal law requires states to do a market rate study every two years. As a result, Office of Family Assistance staff continues to look for new, simpler ways to gather this data. In addition, we continue to utilize and review the data from the 2014 survey to establish the cost and necessary resources required for any simplification to the child care payment structure. Staff is currently working to implement two payment changes that should ease the administrative burden on providers: 1. the waiver of copayments to those at or below 100% of the federal poverty level; and 2. the rounding of copays to the nearest dollar.

On behalf of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services I would like to thank the members of the Child Care Advisory Council for the dedication and the expertise you bring to the field of child care throughout Ohio. I appreciate the council's recommendations and look forward to a continued partnership to promote affordable, quality child care for Ohio's children.

Sincerely,



Cynthia C. Dungey, Director

30 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
jfs.ohio.gov

An Equal Opportunity Employer and Service Provider