

Model Licensing Standards Workgroup Recommendations/ Discussion

1. Age i. Changing minimum age for fostering to 18 from 21 – **Voted YES to align**
 - The more we start Family Finding, kinship and other things, we are tapping into populations that we haven't yet approached, we may get more and more of these cases.
 - We must do this without sacrificing safety, still need to assess the whole situation (maturity, income, stability, housing, etc.)
2. Language iii. Ensuring that it does not have barriers for non-English speakers **Voted YES to align**
3. Literacy iv. Add some language around “the ability to read medication labels” and “if they are able to participate in their community” **Voted YES to align**
 - There should be a consideration for people who are deaf or blind
4. Physical and mental Health (Exams Required for applicants but not for people in the household) – **Voted YES to align**
 - This Model standards doesn't apply to others in the household only the applicant
 - Page 1 would gather health information on all household members Page 2 would be for applicants only, signed by doctor
 - Some examples were given about family member disclosing health information about other people in the household. Sometimes they disclose but not always. If they do, an assessment (exam, documentation, etc.) can be requested from a doctor, as it can now
5. Physical and mental health (Immunization)— **Voted YES to align**
 - Revised code from ODE allows exemption for religion and reasons of conscience in addition to the medical
 - Some discussion around the rights of biological parents currently as it relates to immunizations
 - There is a need to have a doctor or medical professional assist with assessing the documents to ensure the children are up to date.
 - Add a section / statement where a physician has to sign off to say all immunizations are up to date (first page of form) for children
 - Perhaps, instead of family submitting immunization records, they instead have a doctor approve all are up to date.
6. Physical and Mental Health (Whooping Cough Vaccine for applicants looking to foster Infants (birth to 18 months) and other adults in the home for looking to fostering) – **Voted YES to align**
 - There needs to be additional considerations for emergency placements, when parents weren't planning to care for infants
 - Should the state require all foster parents to get this vaccine not just the ones fostering infants. Additional discussion about this will happen later
7. Physical and Mental health (Flu shot)— **Voted YES to align**

- How to know which “medical reason” warrant exemption from vaccines? Physician would have to verify
 - Ballpark number of families that would disapprove of flu shots – 50%. Strong feeling especially in rural Appalachia.
 - Access to flu shots is another problem for people in rural areas.
 - Putting this in law and requiring it for incoming foster parents will be the easy part. It will be more difficult with the veteran foster parents. Would need to give ample time to foster parents to catch up.
 - Model standards are about initial licensure not recertification, but some like this carry over.
 - What does “special medical needs” actually mean?
8. Criminal Records Check i.— **Voted YES to align**
- What are the implications if Ohio decides to be more strict than the federal standards?
 - The way the code is currently outlined in the state, it is actually a restriction for kinship caregivers
 - Comment made on rule review website to change Misdemeanors to 5 years from 3 years, but in the current standards, misdemeanors are not listed at all.
 - If foster care decides to be less restrictive, the kinship and adoption programs will align.
 - Add rehabilitation language for help in assessing other convictions
9. Criminal Records Check— **Will not Align (unable to because of CAPTA requirements)**
- Deciding not to align with the second part that only require applicants as we will require all household members to be fingerprinted (per CAPTA regulations)
10. Interviews (in home) – **Voted YES to align**
- Interviews are already happening in the home just not specified in rule
11. Interviews (Every household member with discretion to homestudy agency) – **Voted YES to align**
12. References – **Voted YES to align**
- Ohio currently requires interviews/references with adult children- still will
 - Minimum of 3 personal references for each applicant (1 will have to be from a relative)
13. Foster Home Safety (Living space) - **Voted YES to align**
14. Foster Home Safety (Kitchen) – **Voted YES to align**
15. Foster Home Safety (Rodents)— **Voted YES to align**
16. Foster Home Safety (Water Heater) – **Voted YES to align**
- What is the recommended temperature? 120 Degrees (Department of Energy), 120 – 130 F (American Academy of Pediatrics)
 - This is more work for the assessor. How can we ensure assessors know how to do this during the safety audit? Currently assessors are checking the water but not with thermometers.
 - There is some benefit to leaving the language vague.

17. Foster Home Safety (Prevent Access to medications, cleaning supplies, alcohol, etc.) – **Voted YES to align**
- Ohio currently aligns with the federal standards except for the alcohol.
 - This is difficult for rural areas where they have barns and sheds. What we are asking people to do does not necessarily mirror real ‘normal’ life.
 - Some of the rules are too restrictive. “If we are trying to take children out of residential, why are we treat homes like residential”
18. Home Safety (Swimming Pools, hot tubs, etc.)— **Voted YES to align**
- Seems the language is written for middle class
 - Consider the difference between in ground or above ground pools.
 - Define wading and kiddie pools, as these do not apply
19. Capacity (Number of Children in home) – **Technically already align (5 is no more than 6)**
- Ohio currently allows 5 foster children in a home, technically aligns with standard as written.
20. Capacity (Special Training to care for children with Disabilities) – **Voted YES to align**
- Add exception for special training to meet severe disability- for only one additional child not multiple
21. Sleeping Arrangements— **Voted YES to align**
- Ohio’s rules don’t currently mention co-sleeping technically.
22. Emergency Preparedness Fire Safety/Evacuation Plans (Smoke Detectors)— **Voted YES to align**
- Safety audit change but not a practice change
23. Emergency Preparedness Fire Safety and Evacuation Plans (Carbon Monoxide) - **Voted YES to align**
- Keep this under safety
24. Emergency Preparedness Fire Safety and Evacuation Plans (First Aid Supplies) — **Voted YES to align**
- This should be vague and not extremely prescriptive.
25. Transportation— **Already aligned under RPPS**
- How do you monitor this? Model standard states foster parent ensures compliance.
 - Make sure doesn’t impede normalcy specifically for teenage driving
26. Training and Preservice Topics (CPR)— **Voted YES to align**
- Model standards just say training but not certification. We currently say that they need to be certified.
 - It is costly for RTCs to train rurally this may be a barrier- especially if certification required.
 - What does medication administration mean? Very different from residential. Because foster parents are acting in place of a parent, it is more about knowing how to read labels, don’t switch a medication without a doctor’s consent, etc.
 - If this is required in rule, ODJFS will work with OCWTP to ensure availability of training.

- Aligning without requiring certification just training. If the American Red Cross offers an option for training without certification, it should be good enough for us. Also, not really sure that the certification is extremely meaningful since don't know if anyone ever fails?
- There is no stipend/reimbursement available if foster parents take online.

27. Training and Preservice Topics (Meaningful Connections)— **Voted YES to align**

28. Assurances (Corporal Punishment)— **Voted YES to align**

- This is already a requirement. Add to list of assurances on the back of application

29. Assurances (Illegal Substances)— **Voted YES to align**

- This not spelled out in rule but are common sense. Add to list of assurances on the back of application.

30. Assurances (No Smoking)— **Voted YES to align**

- This is more restrictive than the current Ohio Rule, though foster parents are used to smoking outside, not in cars, when kids are present.

31. Assurances (RPPS)— **Voted YES to align**

- Already required but not in assurance statement.