TO: The Symposium Selection Committee

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FROM: Annette M. Mavec

DATE: August 1, 2016

SYMPOSIUM PROPOSAL

I hereby respectfully submit my proposal for a poster presentation addressing early childhood development including communities, systems, and the built environment.

RESEARCH QUESTION

How can facilities improve their health and safety practices to better protect children from harm?

METHODOLOGY

In 2014, empirical research was conducted, and teaching staff and environments of 14 DCFS-licensed facilities located in McHenry and Lake Counties in Illinois were observed for 19 hours.

FINDINGS

When applying Caring for Our Children’s *National Health and Safety Performance Standards,* Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, Standards 2.2.0.1 Methods of Supervision and 5.1.4.4 Locks:

* 64.3% of facilities supervised young children by sight AND hearing at all times (observed liberally; i.e., teaching staff was in the same room with the children at all times, but not always watching them).
* 35.7% of facilities supervised young children by sight OR hearing at all times.
* 100% of the staff at facilities did not consistently watch all the children all the time, and when silent hazards arise and teaching staff is not watching young children, even for a moment, children’s safety is at risk.
* 78.6% of facilities do not regularly count children (name to face on a scheduled basis).
* 100% of centers and large family child care homes did not have written supervision policies.
* 100% of facilities did not have alarms or other signaling devices on exit doors to alert staff in case a child attempts to leave through an emergency exit which leads to a potentially unsafe area for children (such as a busy street).

In addition, each year in the United States, 98,000 young children under the age of five visit urgent care or emergency rooms due to medication error, medication misuse, or medication abuse.

CONCLUSION

Action research paper was a success because author has a better understanding of how facilities can make improvements to better protect children from harm. Author would like to help inform decision makers on how they can implement changes procedurally, structurally, through staff training, and by involving families and children to better protect children from harm.

Based upon the high-level of significance the above-referenced Findings and Conclusion has on children’s health and safety, please see attached poster presentation for your consideration.

Attachments

cc: Dr. Leslie Katch, Director of Early Childhood Administration Master’s Degree Program, National Louis University, Chicago, Illinois