



Continuous Quality Improvement in PA

Promoting an Environment for Healthy Children/Families/Practitioners (K7)

The purpose of this form is to provide information about initiatives that could support programs in addressing CQI after needs are identified through examination of relevant sources of evidence.

Title of initiative:	Strengthening Health & Safety Policy and Practice
Purpose, goal and expected outcomes of the initiative. How is this activity important to program quality?	<p>Health and safety are key components of quality care to ensure school readiness. Health and safety improves with professional development, technical assistance and an ongoing relationship with a Child Care Health Consultant. These are proven strategies to reduce risk of injury and illness and promote healthy behaviors in group care settings. A key staff member who has learned to perform the role of a Child Care Health Advocate further improves quality.</p> <p>Specific Outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved practitioner health and safety knowledge, e.g., safe food handling practices; 2. Improved practitioner health and safety practice, e.g., improved hand washing and sanitizing practices; 3. Improved program health and safety policy and procedures, e.g., Special Care Plans for children with life-threatening allergies.
Description of initiative and any component parts (Technical assistance available, professional development, program assessment inventories, etc.)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Better Kid Care</u>, a division of Penn State Better Kid Care Program provides educational materials, learning experiences and programs to child care providers, parents, and employers throughout the state of Pennsylvania. The goal of the Better Kid Care Program is to improve the availability, accessibility and quality of child care. This is accomplished in several ways, including this Web site, DVD workshops, distance education units, and a toll-free telephone mentoring line 2. <u>ECELS Health and Safety Services</u>, Technical Assistance, <i>Health Link Online/Health Capsules/Email Alert</i>, Self-Learning Modules, Workshops, Website, Safety Checklist and Reference Document www.ecels-healthychildcarepa.org ECELS helps practitioners manage child health records, sharing strategies to document preventive health services. See WellCareTracker™ for more information. 3. <u>Child Care Health Advocate Course at Northampton Community College</u> This 3 credit course at Northampton Community College is available either On-Campus or Online. A Child Care Health Advocate is a designated staff member who makes sure that best practice in health, safety, and nutrition are integrated into program policies and procedures. A Child Care Health Advocate coordinates a program's operations with external sources of health expertise such as a Child Care Health Consultant and other health professionals who provide technical assistance and education. ECELS developed the Child Care Health Advocate Course and a Pediatric Advisor works closely with the Northampton faculty to deliver the course. 4. <u>Child Care Health Consultation</u>, Arranging for ongoing consultation from a Child Care Health Consultant will promote health and safety of children, families and caregivers in child care. Both the Caring for Our Children Standards and NAEYC Accreditation Standards recommend ongoing Child Care Health Consultant visits. To learn more about reasons and rationale for arranging for the services of a Child Care Health Consultant, request the ECELS Self-Learning Module: How to Choose and Use A Child Care Health Consultant.. A Child Care Health Consultant can assess the program using the ECELS Health and Safety Checklist and Reference Document. The Child Care Health Consultant, director and staff collaborate to make improvement plans. The Checklist is a 167 item

	<p>observational tool for health professionals who provide child care health consultation. It was developed to: 1) assess health and safety in the facilities and practices of early care and education (ECE) programs based on compliance with key National Health and Safety Performance Standards and 2) help users develop indicated interventions. The References document guides the user to the appropriate health and safety standard(s) and other references that are related to each Checklist item. To access the Checklist on the ECELS website, select "Health Consultant Role" and then select "Health and Safety Checklist and Reference Document."</p>
Program eligibility criteria or recommended programs for initiative	<p>Age Group Serving: Infant/Toddler Pre-K SACC X All Program Type: X All (different components focused on specific age groups) X Head Start X Early Head Start X PA Pre-K Counts X Early Intervention Providers X School District X PCHP X NFP Child Care: X All STAR 1 STAR 2 STAR 3 STAR 4 Center Group Family</p>
Website(s) for initiative	<p>Better Kid Care www.betterkidcare.psu.edu/ ECELS www.ecels-healthychildcarepa.org</p>
Identify focus areas the initiative addresses	<p>X Administrative Competencies Best Practice in Teaching and Learning Cultural Competence and Supporting Diversity X Engaging Families X Healthy Children/Families/Practitioners X Social Emotional Competence and Challenging Behavior Other (list): _____</p>
Other initiatives, resources, organizations or professional development that support or enhance the initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Academy of Pediatrics www.aap.org • <i>Caring for Our Children</i> Standards available electronically at www.nrckids.org • Healthy Child Care America website www.healthychildcare.org • National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care website www.nrckids.org • National Training Institute for Child Care Health Consultants website http://nti.unc.edu • National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) Child Care Special Interest Group http://www.napnap.org/index.aspx • PA Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics website www.paaap.org • WellCareTracker™, www.wellcaretracker.org • Keystone STARS, www.pakeys.org
Audiences for direct participation in the initiative, list all that apply	<p>X Directors X Management/Leadership Teams X Teachers X Assistant Teachers X All Staff X Parents x Board Members x Community Stakeholders</p>

	<p>x Children</p> <p>Is a component of the initiative that information be brought back to the program and intentionally shared with others?</p> <p>X Yes Not necessarily</p>
<p>Research or national context to support the initiative</p>	<p>Alkon, A, To, K, Mackie, J et al. (2010). <i>Health and Safety Needs in Early Care and Education Programs: What Do Directors, Child Health Records and National Standards Tell Us?</i> Public Health Nursing 27:1, 3-16.</p> <p>Ramler, M, Nakatsukasa-Ono, W, Loe, C et al. (2006). <i>The Influence of Child Care Health Consultants in Promoting Children’s Health and Well-Being: A Report on Selected Resources.</i> The Healthy Child Care Consultant Network Support Center.</p> <p>Washington State Department of Health. (2009). <i>Healthy Child Care Washington Evaluation Report.</i> Everett, WA: Author.</p>
<p>Keystone STARS or Program Standards addressed and CBK Topic Codes (if applicable)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keystone STARS Performance Standards: Director Qualifications (child abuse mandated reporter PD); Staff Development (pediatric first aid instruction, 2 hours health & safety PD annually); Environment Rating (scores & written improvement plans); Community Resources/Family Involvement (parent & staff information about health and human services, wellness, nutrition and fitness, and/or child development; request for IEP/IFSP, special needs assessments; referral procedures); CQI (illness & injury tracking, site safety review, corresponding plans of action to prevent further occurrences Illness and Injury Tracking, Children with Disabilities, Common Illnesses and subsequent health and safety PD. • Core Body of Knowledge (CBK) K7 Health, Safety and Nutrition Topic Codes 76-80, 82, 84 and 86 • Core Body of Knowledge (CBK) K8 Program Organization and Administration Topic Codes 91, 96, and 98
<p>Other clarification or information about the activity</p>	<p>Better Kid Care information can be accessed by calling In Pennsylvania Only: 800-452-9108, Outside Pennsylvania: 814-863-0339 or emailing betterkidcare@psu.edu</p> <p>Childcare Health Advocate Course information can be accessed by calling 610-332-6585 or e-mailing che@northampton.edu.</p> <p>ECELS Services Information can be accessed by calling 800-243-2357 or emailing ecels@paaap.org.</p>
<p>Contact persons for questions about this Initiative</p>	<p>Michele Walsh, PA Key micwal@berksiu.org</p>