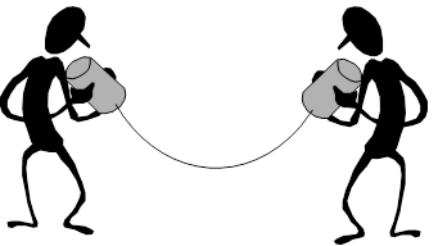# Let's Talk

Host - Debi Mathias

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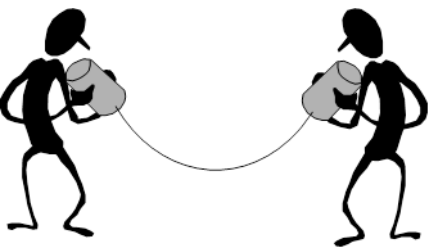www.qrisnetwork.org

Let's Talk about…

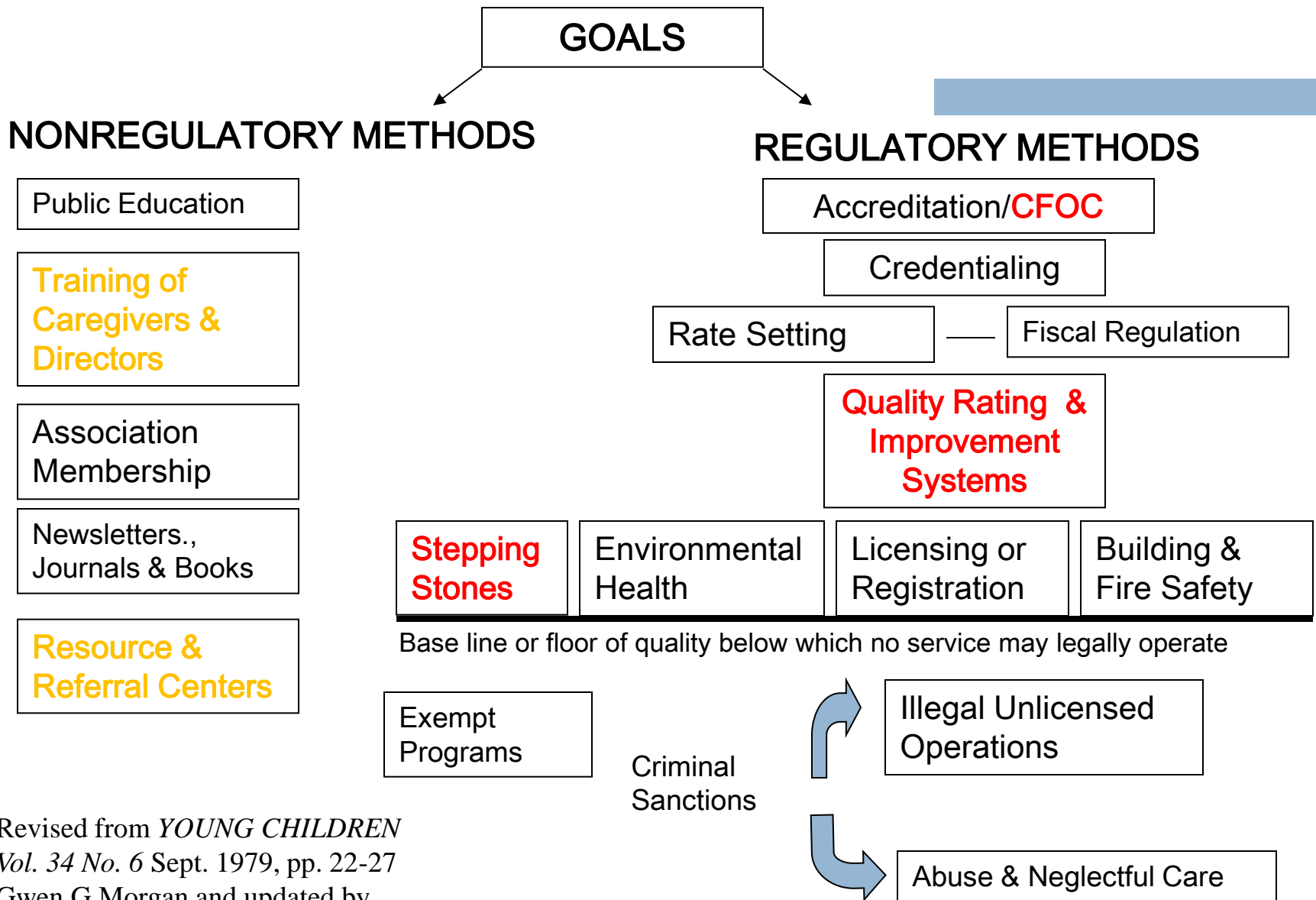# VALIDATION OF PROGRAM COMPLIANCE AND QUALITY IN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

with

Bentley Ponder, Ph.D. & Richard Fiene, Ph.D.

February 26, 2014
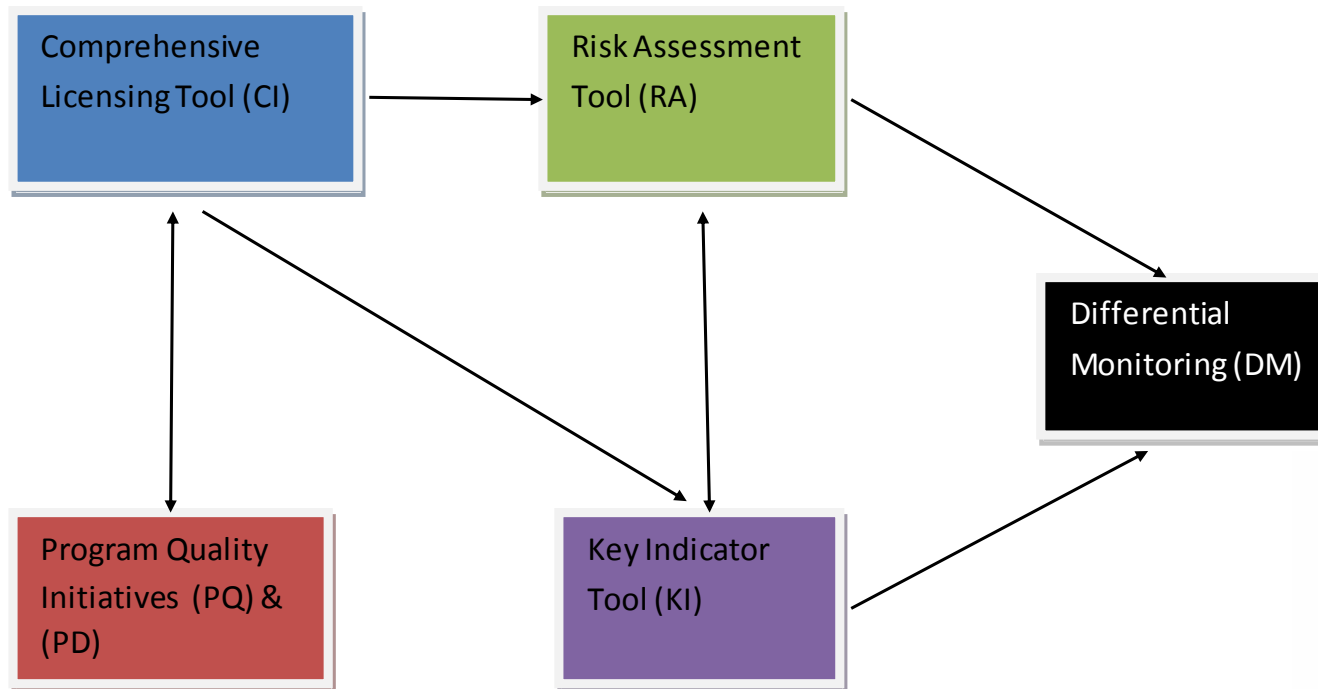
Methods for Achieving Quality Child Care

GOALS

NONREGULATORY METHODS

REGULATORY METHODS

Public Education

Training of Caregivers & Directors

Association Membership

Newsletters., Journals & Books

Resource & Referral Centers

Accreditation/CFOC

Credentialing

Rate Setting — Fiscal Regulation

Quality Rating & Improvement Systems

Stepping Stones	Environmental Health	Licensing or Registration	Building & Fire Safety

Base line or floor of quality below which no service may legally operate

Exempt Programs

Criminal Sanctions

Illegal Unlicensed Operations

Abuse & Neglectful Care

DIFFERENTIAL MONITORING LOGIC MODEL & ALGORITHM (DMLMA©) (Fiene, 2014): A 4th Generation ECPQIM – Early Childhood Program Quality Indicator Model

CI x PQ(PD) => RA + KI => DM => CO

Definitions of Key Elements:

CI = Comprehensive Licensing Tool (Health and Safety)(*Caring for Our Children*)(Structural Quality)
PQ = Program Quality Initiatives *(ECERS-R, FDCRS-R, CLASS, CDPES, QRIS, Accreditation)* (Process Quality)
PD = Program Quality Initiatives (cont) - Professional Development/Technical Assistance/Training
RA = Risk Assessment, (High Risk Rules/Standards)(*Stepping Stones*)
KI = Key Indicators (Predictor Rules/Standards)*(13 Key Indicators of Quality Child Care*)
DM = Differential Monitoring, (How often to visit and what to review)
CO = Child Outcomes (Developmental, Health, & Safety Outcomes)

Comprehensive Licensing Tool (CI)

Risk Assessment Tool (RA)

Differential Monitoring (DM)

Program Quality Initiatives (PQ) & (PD)

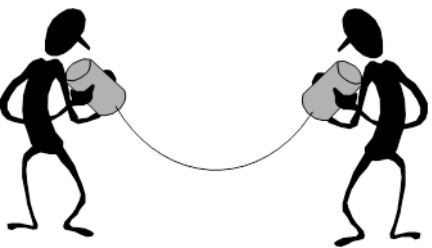Key Indicator Tool (KI)

Zellman & Fiene Validation Framework (2012)

- **First Approach (Standards)**
  - **CI x *Caring for Our Children/Stepping Stones/13 Key Indicators of Quality Child Care***
- **Second Approach (Measures)**
  - **CI x RA + KI x DM**
- **Third Approach (Outputs)**
  - **PQ x CI**
- **Fourth Approach (Outcomes)**
  - **CO = PD + PQ + CI + RA + KI**

Let's Talk

State Example: Georgia

Current Use of Validation Methodology

- **Commissioned study to examine validity of licensing compliance determination.**
  - All licensed child care centers and family child care homes are given an annual compliance determination.
  - Compliance determination is used for eligibility purposes in many of the state's early care and education initiatives.
- Zellman and Fiene's methodology is used to guide Georgia's Quality Rated validation model.
- All validation activities are paired with interrater reliability activities.

Current Compliance Determination System

- Compliance determination is based on "core rules."
  - Subset of licensing rules that are "theoretical" determinants
  - Observed multiple times during the year
  - When a core rule is cited, a severity level (low, medium, high, extreme) is assigned

Current Compliance Determination System

- A program compliance status is computed by counting the number of core rule **categories** cited and weighting the level of risk.
  - An annual compliance determination worksheet is used to compute a program's compliance status.
  - The formula is complex and not always easy to communicate.
  - All programs receive their compliance determination on July 1 and the determination remains in effect for the next fiscal year.
- In FY13, approximately 8% of programs were determined to be non-compliant.

Compliance Determination Validity Study

- Examined a subset of programs' licensing history data for a four-year period.

- Extracted key indicators from licensing history data. Correlated to Georgia Core Rules and to program quality data.

  – From 2007-2009, Georgia commissioned an independent study to measure quality among a representative statewide sample.

  – This data was correlated with the licensing data for validity study.

Specific Research Questions

- Do the core rules for child care centers and family child care homes serve as overall key indicators of compliance?

- Does the annual compliance determination worksheet appropriately designate programs as compliant or non-compliant related to health and safety?

- Are the core rules for child care centers and family child care homes related to program quality?

Research Questions
Not Addressed in Study

- Does "compliance" truly indicate the overall health and safety of programs?
    - Since most programs are "compliant," data set is skewed.
    - Need a large sample of programs with injury/fatality data. This requires many years of longitudinal licensing data.
- Should core rules or core rule categories be used in determining compliance?
    - Study did not test out different models of compliance determination.
- How should multiple visits be computed in a compliance determination system?

Key Indicator Development

	Providers In Compliance on Rule	Programs Out of Compliance on Rule	Row Total
High Group**	A	B	Y
Low Group***	C	D	Z
Column Total	W	X	Grand Total

A = High Group + Programs in Compliance on Specific Rule.
B = High Group + Programs out of Compliance on Specific Rule.
C = Low Group + Programs in Compliance on Specific Rule.
D = Low Group + Programs out of Compliance on Specific Rule.
W = Total Number of Programs in Compliance on Specific Rule.
X = Total Number of Programs out of Compliance on Specific Rule.

Y = Total Number of Programs in High Group.
Z = Total Number of Programs in Low Group
**High Group = Top 25% of Programs in Compliance with all Rules.
***Low Group = Bottom 25% of Programs in Compliance with all Rules.

General Conclusions of Compliance Validity Study

- "Statistical" key indicators correlate with "theoretical" core rules.

- "Statistical" key indicators correlate with compliance determination.

- Some correlations were found with quality data. Like much good research, this raised as many questions as answers.

Recommendations

- Use key indicators with core rules.
  - "Using both risk assessment and key indicator rules together is an ideal differential monitoring approach. Most states use one or the other but generally not together." (Fiene, 2014, p. 10)
- Simplify the annual compliance determination worksheet.
- Utilize recent quality data for family child care homes to re-analyze the relationship between compliance and quality.
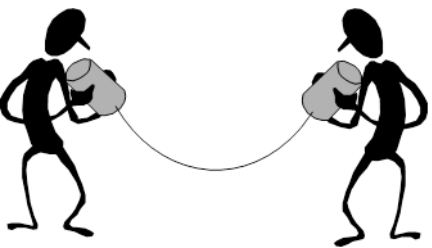
Next Steps

- Review core rules.

- Review compliance determination formula.

- Continue interrater reliability.

- Streamline compliance determination validity with Quality Rated validity.
  - Is "compliance" an appropriate entry point?
  - Combine licensing data with portfolio and observation data from Quality Rated.
  - Connect both compliance and Quality Rated data with Pre-K data.

Questions, Reflections, Comments?

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Thank You

The PowerPoint and related materials will be posted on the QRIS NLN website under Webinars:
http://qrisnetwork.org/webinars

Follow-up Contacts:

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