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BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES

RE: 2014-2015 CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND
STATE PLAN

PUBLIC HEARING

Taken at the instance of the Mississippi
Department of Human Services
at the Hinds County Extension Office,
1735 Wilson Boulevard,
Jackson, Mississippi,
on Thursday, September 26, 2013,
beginning at approximately 12:00 p.m.

APPEARANCES:

MS. JENNIFER BOLER
Mississippi Department of Human Services
Post Office Box 352
Jackson, Mississippi 39216

REPORTED BY: Cathy M. White, CSR #1309
Brooks Court Reporting, Inc.
12 Lakeland Circle, Suite A
Jackson, Mississippi 39216

1 MS. BOLER: Okay. It is 12 o'clock.
2 Good afternoon. I'm Jennifer Boler with
3 the Department of Human Services. I am
4 here today to collect comments for the
5 Child Care Development Fund State Plan for
6 federal fiscal year 2014 and 2015.

7 The collected questions and/or
8 comments will be recorded by the court
9 reporter. Questions and comments will be
10 read and considered before the final plan
11 is submitted to the Administration for
12 Children and Families. If anyone would
13 like to review the comments made on this
14 Rule from the hearing conducted on
15 September 23rd, they will be made available
16 in the next few days on DECCD's website at
17 www.childcareinfo.ms. You will then have
18 10 days to email additional questions to
19 deccd@mdhs.ms.gov.

20 At this time we don't have any
21 attendees to speak, so we will go off the
22 record until they arrive.

23 (Recess from 12:01 until 12:15.)

24 MS. BOLER: We are going to go back on
25 record. It is 12:15. Good afternoon. I

1 am Jennifer Boler, Mississippi Department
2 of Human Services. I am here today to
3 collect comments for the Child Care
4 Development Fund State Plan for federal
5 fiscal year 2014 and 2015.

6 The collected questions and/or
7 comments will be recorded by the court
8 reporter. Questions and comments will be
9 read and considered before the final plan
10 is submitted to the Administration for
11 Children and Families.

12 If anyone would like to review the
13 documents made on this Rule from the
14 hearing conducted on September 23rd, they
15 will be made available in the next few days
16 on DECCD's website at
17 www.childcareinfo.ms. You will then have
18 10 days to email additional comments to
19 deccd@mdhs.ms.gov.

20 You will have five minutes to state
21 your comments, for those who are speaking,
22 and audience, please hold your applause so
23 the court reporter can accurately record
24 the comments of the person speaking.

25 I will now call the names of those

1 that have signed in to make their comments.
2 You will need to come to the front, state
3 your name, and organization.

4 Ms. Jane Boykin.

5 MS. JANE BOYKIN: Okay. I'll stand
6 over here.

7 I'm Jane Boykin, president of the
8 Mississippi Forum on Children and
9 Families.

10 Continuing to fund a failed quality
11 improvement agenda makes no sense,
12 particularly under the new Rules that
13 provide states up to three years to develop
14 the QRIS. Under those Rules, states are
15 encouraged to use contracts to improve the
16 quality of child care.

17 For example, states seeking to improve
18 the quality of infant and toddler care
19 could contract with providers and provide
20 the equipment and staff needed to provide
21 high quality care instead of investing
22 those funds in activities such as the
23 questionable Nurturing Homes Program.

24 Further, contracts with services
25 providers are an opportunity to address and

1 correct the disparate impact of the quality
2 improvement activities on low-income
3 providers in low-income communities.

4 I raise objections to the continued
5 funding of the failed QRS System and point
6 out, that to transform it to a QRIS, it
7 will be necessary to file under the APA.

8 I raise objections to the State's
9 failure to establish a contract program to
10 improve the quality of care, particularly
11 care for infants and toddlers that
12 low-income child care businesses provide
13 low-income neighborhoods and communities.

14 I raise objection to the State taking
15 liberty with Judge Owens' order and
16 including contracts in echildcare when such
17 is clearly prohibited, and to the absence
18 of an economic impact statement.

19 I think I read it word for word. I'll
20 help you there.

21 I reserve my other three minutes to
22 ask questions. How's that?

23 MS. BOLER: Okay. Sounds great.

24 Thank you, Ms. Boykin.

25 Okay. Mrs. Deloris Suel.

1 MS. DELORIS SUEL: How's everybody?

2 Okay. Under 1.41, it said, describe
3 how the lead agency consulted with agencies
4 to develop a plan, and the agencies that
5 were indicated, I don't remember any of
6 them being child care providers. And I do
7 have concern about child care providers
8 being left out, although this may appear to
9 be being included, but we've not normally
10 received any comments back.

11 Okay. I'm trying to get them all
12 together. I left my iPad. Okay.

13 We still object to the people on the
14 CCAF council also receiving funds from
15 DHS. We feel it's a conflict of interest.

16 We have concerns about the hearing
17 notice date. It seems to be some time
18 limit in there that may have been a little
19 less than required.

20 I have concerns about the fact that
21 there were no economic impact statement,
22 and that is because included in the
23 Secretary of State's application, you have
24 what Xerox will do to echildcare, and that
25 goes back to the previous concern where it

1 would be over the amount that's required to
2 do an economic impact statement. And,
3 again, it was stated that no economic
4 impact statement is necessary.

5 Then also, on the Department of Human
6 Services website, you have some information
7 that's not -- that has not been transformed
8 to that application, and there have been
9 some talk about it, but there have been no
10 changes. And to my understanding, I
11 believe what's in that application is what
12 is going to become law, not what's on
13 the -- just what's on the Department of
14 Human Services website, because they're two
15 different things placed there, just like
16 the two dates for the hearing, which seems
17 to cause a negative impact on providers
18 because you don't know what to do.

19 And I think maybe the Attorney
20 General's Office and DHS need to get
21 together on many things, because when we
22 contact them, they don't know what's going
23 on, and then we go to DHS. They say that
24 they're not -- they don't know what's going
25 on.

1 The other thing in the State plan, it
2 indicates that a child that turns 12 and 11
3 months would automatically be terminated
4 from the program. Well, in the proposed
5 rules by the President, it recommends that
6 children not be terminated until after the
7 school year. That makes sense to me
8 because it disrupts a household.

9 It also recommends that the children
10 that are on service, that consideration be
11 given to the facts that they're in the
12 school year, because sometimes that one
13 thing can harm learning, and it's all about
14 a child learning, not about just having
15 somewhere to go.

16 So there are many things in the
17 proposed regulations by the President that
18 I think should have been incorporated in
19 this plan because it's going to be
20 required, and if you don't include it in
21 the State plan, then we're back to
22 amendments and all that, and that tends to
23 get us in trouble.

24 But if it's there, why not put it
25 there? Because it's for 2013-2015, and his

1 proposed plans -- in fact, I'm supposed to
2 be working on a committee that would be
3 looking at that. So it's going to cause a
4 lot of problems down the road, and I really
5 think someone should have been looking at
6 those proposed rules.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. BOLER: Okay. Thank you,
9 Ms. Suel.

10 Okay. Now, we're going to have
11 Eulonda Garry.

12 MS. EULONDA GARRY: Ms. Suel pretty
13 much said everything. She said pretty much
14 said it all.

15 MS. BOLER: So you don't have any
16 further comments? Does anybody else have
17 any comments?

18 We're going to keep the hearing open
19 until 2, so --

20 MS. SUEL: Well, I would like to add
21 one thing. I do object to the fact that
22 DHS has not changed information on the
23 Secretary's website. I would like that
24 noted as an objection to them doing it,
25 because they went back and changed the date

1 when they saw that the date on the
2 Secretary's website was wrong for the 26th,
3 and put the 23rd, but they did not go back
4 and change anything else.

5 And they're saying now that the pilots
6 and contractors are supposed to do the
7 echildcare, and I think you still need to
8 look at the Judge's order, because that's
9 not totally correct, either.

10 MS. BOLER: Okay. And that was stated
11 by Ms. Deloris Suel.

12 Anybody else have any other comments?

13 MS. BOYKIN: I'll take my other
14 minutes, too.

15 MS. BOLER: Your other three minutes?
16 Okay. Ms. Jane Boykin.

17 MS. BOYKIN: Under the law for
18 administrative procedures, there is a
19 section for what -- how you can throw out
20 -- what makes an administrative procedure a
21 flawed one, and it is when the policy
22 adopted is different from the policy posted
23 on the Secretary of State's website, and if
24 that policy adopted is unexpected, you
25 know, a reasonable person couldn't expect

1 that result, then it's all over.

2 And, you know, we're continuing to
3 deal with the nuances of the law and ignore
4 the children of the State of Mississippi
5 and their needs. And, you know, they do
6 not need these quality rating and
7 improvement systems when that hasn't been
8 through the process it went through, you
9 know, the first time back in, what, 2008, I
10 think, or '7. But they've changed it, and
11 all those changes haven't gone through the
12 Administrative Procedures Act.

13 They've -- you know, we have this
14 whole situation here with, now, created,
15 self-made, of posting -- I didn't -- one
16 thing on the Secretary of State's and
17 another on the DHS website. And the
18 Secretary of State's stance, it is what's
19 there.

20 So why are we doing this? Why is it
21 so hard to just -- everybody needs to say
22 mistakes have been made, we're starting
23 over. And go back and come up with a plan
24 that everybody can buy into when there's
25 never enough money. There's never enough.

1 So what is it we're going to do that's
2 going to help our children, our providers,
3 you know?

4 And it's just not that hard. And the
5 leadership has to come from the State that,
6 you know, you can change all day on the DHS
7 website, but unless you change what's
8 filed, if you adopt something different,
9 you've opened another can of worms. I'd
10 much rather raise money for children and
11 families than lawsuits, lawyers. And, you
12 know, it's -- the message to take back is,
13 can we not all be big enough to say this
14 has gotten way out of hand, and we need to
15 come back together and come up with what's
16 going to really help.

17 And, you know, I'm -- I think that's
18 my message, because we're in for another
19 round, and we have a federal plan that's
20 due. So we need to be about the business
21 of shaping it to meet their needs and
22 letting the people that have enjoyed
23 millions of dollars with no results,
24 they're going to have to do something else,
25 you know. And it won't kill them, didn't

1 hurt any of us.

2 So that's the end of my little speech
3 there, my three minutes.

4 MS. BOLER: Thank you, Ms. Boykin.

5 Anybody else have any comments? If
6 you do have comments, please identify your
7 name again for the court reporter.

8 MS. SUEL: Well, I have several, but
9 I'm just waiting, for the record, that I
10 did send a list of comments in, and I'd
11 just like that on the record, that I sent
12 -- let me see what date was it. I sent
13 comments to Dr. Dent, and that was June
14 26th, and I would like that to be on the
15 record.

16 There were several that would take a
17 good while to read, so I won't do that.

18 But I do -- and I know the young man
19 don't mean no harm sitting there, but I do
20 take objection to having Program Integrity
21 here, because it makes us feel as though
22 someone thinks we're going to do something
23 wrong, and I object to that on the record
24 because I don't think there's a reason for
25 him to be here. We've never done anything

1 to disrupt a group, and I don't think we
2 would ever do that.

3 MS. BOLER: Okay. That was
4 Ms. Deloris Suel.

5 Okay. It's 12:30. We're going to go
6 off the record for a few more minutes.

7 (Recess from 12:30 until 12:45.)

8 MS. BOLER: All right, ladies. At
9 this time we're going to go back on
10 record. So if there's anybody that has any
11 additional comments, you may state those at
12 this time. And please address your name
13 and organization for the court reporter,
14 please.

15 MS. SHIRLEY HAMPTON: I am interested
16 in --

17 (Multiple audience members speaking,
18 indiscernible.)

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You didn't give your
20 name.

21 MS. HAMPTON: I'm interested in
22 finding out how this -- and I don't know.
23 You-all may have already talked about the
24 scan that's in the --

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah, you have a

1 right to --

2 MS. HAMPTON: Because I'm interested
3 in finding out how this --

4 MS. BOLER: What's your name, ma'am?

5 MS. HAMPTON: I'm sorry. Shirley
6 Hampton.

7 MS. BOLER: Okay. What organization
8 are you with?

9 MS. HAMPTON: Jamboree Child
10 Development Center.

11 MS. BOLER: Okay.

12 MS. HAMPTON: On page 29, where it
13 have who issues payments, and in "Other,"
14 they have lead agency contracts with Xerox
15 for electronic child care attendance
16 systems based on attendance recorded by the
17 MS echildcare system, the lead agency
18 approves payment that is issued by direct
19 deposit to providers from Xerox, and I'm
20 trying to find out how if this going to
21 affect the outcome of the lawsuit, because
22 there was a lawsuit, and as far as
23 echildcare was concerned, you know, the
24 judge ruled, well, you might say in our
25 favor.

1 So we're trying to see how this in the
2 child care plan, and this in here is not a
3 direct contradiction with the judge's
4 ruling, and how that is going to affect the
5 child care providers.

6 And the next step, I guess, that we
7 need to hear from, I don't know if you-all
8 were aware of that or if there is an
9 update, because when I printed out the
10 plan, what, about a week or so ago, couple
11 of weeks ago, this was in there.

12 MS. SUEL: It's on there today.

13 MS. HAMPTON: Yeah. So it's still on
14 there. So we're trying to find out how it
15 is going to affect the child care
16 providers, in-home and centers.

17 MS. BOLER: Okay. Thank you. Anybody
18 else have any additional comments?

19 Okay. We're going to go back off
20 record and give it a few more minutes, and
21 we'll pick it back up.

22 (Off the record from 12:48 until
23 1:00.)

24 MS. BOLER: It's 1:00, so we're going
25 to go back on the record.

1 Is there anyone that wishes to make
2 any more comments?

3 MS. SUEL: I know I could keep
4 commenting, if you want me to. I got a
5 lot. That was one of the things.

6 (Multiple audience members speaking to
7 each other, indiscernible.)

8 MS. BOLER: State your name.

9 MS. LUTAYA STEWART: Lutaya Stewart.

10 Our concern is --

11 (Audience members speaking to each
12 other, indiscernible.)

13 MS. BOLER: Excuse me one second.

14 Excuse me. Can we please be quiet so
15 we can hear her? Thank you.

16 MS. STEWART: Okay. We're only
17 allotted 15 days per school -- well, no,
18 per year, 12-month period, that the kids
19 can be absent, and, of course, no, it does
20 not include the -- it does not include the
21 holidays, some of the holidays that we
22 don't even take. Like, Columbus Day, I
23 think we were paid for that, regardless.
24 But we don't even close, school don't even
25 close for that day.

1 But when we were with the PDDs and,
2 you know, of course, the PDDs were
3 following, at that time, DHS guidelines,
4 they allowed us to -- like, this year,
5 Christmas falls on a what, a Wednesday or
6 Thursday? Most centers close Christmas
7 Eve, Christmas Day, and the day after. And
8 we were allowed to use those insignificant
9 days that we didn't close as days to close
10 during the more significant holidays that
11 we utilize.

12 So I think DHS needs to look back at
13 that, because they don't allow us to do
14 that anymore, last I read and last we met
15 with Dr. Dent, that we were not allowed to
16 use those days anymore as other holidays.

17 And then 15 days a year, if you look
18 at that, that's crazy, because when you're
19 talking about children, right now we got
20 the hands, mouth -- I don't know if
21 you-all, but the hands -- what is it?
22 Hands, mouth and -- impetigo. Of course, I
23 didn't know what impetigo was. This is the
24 first year I've ever any dealings with it,
25 but the kids, some kids are out just two

1 days, some kids have to be out two weeks,
2 because it just depends on how progressed
3 it is.

4 So -- and then, you know, my policy
5 states, whether you come or not, you still
6 have to pay me. So what I've done to the
7 parents now, if they miss over those days,
8 you got to pay me because DHS said you only
9 get 15 days a year, and if you use all
10 those 15 days after a surgery, hernias. I
11 mean, it's just so many different things,
12 if you have children, you know that they're
13 exposed to, especially when they've never
14 been in child care.

15 So 15 days a year -- since they were
16 following Louisiana so hard, Louisiana gave
17 them 10 days a month, if I'm not mistaken,
18 because they knew. And I may be wrong, but
19 I do vaguely remember my friend with a
20 center in Louisiana that was doing the
21 finger scanning at that time, she said they
22 were given 10 days per month that the kids
23 could miss or whatever, and they would
24 still be paid. And I think that's -- I
25 think that's pretty much it.

1 But 15 days a year -- and I'm not
2 saying give us 10 days a month, but 15 days
3 a year is just a bit much. It's like
4 they're making it hard for the smaller
5 centers, and putting the expense back on
6 the parents, and that's the whole point of
7 them being on the system, is that they
8 can't afford it.

9 And I do think -- and I know this is
10 probably a long shot. I do think they need
11 to relook at the rates. The rates have not
12 been changed since, what, '04? And minimum
13 wage has gone up to 7.25. It's gone up
14 twice. I charge 105 for an infant, which
15 means \$86 is what they're still paying, and
16 those parents are still paying \$20 a
17 month. No, it's not a lot, but if you have
18 two kids and you're only making \$800 a
19 month, it could add up. So if you're
20 supposed to be there to assist the parents,
21 I think at least come up to \$96 a month.
22 I'm not saying pay my whole thing, but I
23 think they need to relook at the fees and
24 make it comparable more to what everything
25 is costing now.

1 The minimum wage, they're talking
2 about it going up again, and, you know,
3 don't get me wrong, I think everybody
4 should be making more, because I couldn't
5 live off 7.25 an hour. I couldn't. I
6 couldn't live off \$8 an hour.

7 (Audience member comment,
8 indiscernible.)

9 MS. STEWART: So I just think it needs
10 to be looked at. That's it.

11 MS. BOLER: Okay. Thank you.

12 Anybody else have any comments?

13 What's your name again?

14 MS. HAMPTON: Shirley Hampton.

15 One of the things that I would like to
16 see DHS do is to make the overage, over and
17 above what they pay, to make it mandatory.
18 It would be much easier to charge this fee
19 and to get paid if it's mandatory, as
20 opposed to losing children out of your
21 centers, if you're going to do the overage,
22 and then they go find a center that's not
23 doing the overage.

24 So until it gets to be uniform, it's
25 kind of hard to charge the over and above

1 what they pay, because what DHS pays is,
2 you know, it's keeping us -- as a matter of
3 fact, I have a little grant with CDBG, and
4 my center is deemed as being in the poverty
5 level because of the income level.

6 So, you know, there's just going to
7 have to be some things that we just can't
8 tell the parent, "You need to pay me," and
9 then when they come to get a withdrawal to
10 transfer, you're just going to do it,
11 because the overage is not anything that
12 you're looking for as long as they paid,
13 you know, the regular copay.

14 So if that can go, you know, on the
15 record, that they would go to making it
16 mandatory that everyone would have to --
17 you know, would have to pay the overage,
18 and it would be much easier on us.

19 MS. BOLER: Thank you.

20 Ms. Garry, you have something?

21 MS. GARRY: Yes.

22 MS. BOLER: Okay.

23 MS. GARRY: Eulonda Garry.

24 I think -- and they may have kind of
25 mentioned it -- this income scale that is

1 used should be current, and -- because even
2 though right now, they're serving
3 parents --

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Working parents.

5 MS. GARRY: -- working parents, still
6 at some point, we pray that maybe they'll
7 take some money from, I guess, the program,
8 the -- being implemented, that are
9 utilizing this money, that they will be
10 able to qualify. Because if the current
11 scale was being used, they would qualify.
12 I don't think they should be punished
13 because they had -- minimum wage went up
14 and it made them over income.

15 And also, we don't discriminate based
16 on race, creed, color, origin, religion,
17 and we've always been taught that we have
18 to treat everybody the same. We have to
19 treat our paying parents just like we treat
20 our children that are on subsidized child
21 care. And when our parents enroll, they
22 enter into a contract with us, and our
23 contract states that we are paid regardless
24 of attendance, with some exceptions.

25 We know, that if they're out for

1 several days, we have to be given a
2 two-weeks' notice, but I think, if we have
3 to enforce our policies to the paying
4 parent, then the same should be applied to
5 the parents that are on voucher. I don't
6 think there should be any separation
7 because the State is paying when we've
8 always been taught, and we have to post, we
9 have to put on everything, that we don't
10 discriminate, you know, and I think that
11 that rule should be changed as far as the
12 payment.

13 MS. BOLER: Thank you, Ms. Garry.

14 MS. STEWART: I have one. Lutaya
15 Stewart again.

16 Another thing that needs to be looked
17 at, nontraditional centers. I'm a
18 nontraditional center. I'm open until
19 midnight. One of the things that I'm
20 running into is I'm having to turn -- if
21 parents don't need my services past 8:00, I
22 won't let them stay, because the guidelines
23 state, that for six hours -- for less than
24 -- like, five-and-a-half hours, I'm still
25 going to be paid after-school rates, which

1 is only \$46. And that's, like, from 2 to,
2 like, 12.

3 So if they have to -- if a parent
4 wants to stay until 7:30 or 7:00, I'm,
5 like, no, because they can't afford to pay
6 me the difference, DHS won't pay me
7 full-time rate, although my policy states,
8 to my cash-paying parents as well as
9 supposedly to my certificate parents, after
10 6:00, it's full time. So if you're there
11 'til 6:30, it's full time. But if my -- my
12 sign-in sheets have to reflect that, so if
13 they don't need services up until 8:00,
14 they can't stay past 6:00, because I'm
15 still just going to get just \$46. It's
16 just not financially feasible for me.

17 So I think that DHS also -- that goes
18 back to the rates. They need to go back
19 and assess their rates, and look at what
20 they are paying us for the amount of
21 hours. Because if you go \$46 for six
22 hours, that's not even minimum wage for
23 me. And then I'm supposed to pay people
24 from that.

25 So I do think that DHS needs to adhere

1 to our policies when it comes to that,
2 especially nontraditional centers that are
3 open past 6:00, that are providing services
4 to these parents who work nighttime jobs,
5 that six hours is too long for 46 -- I'm
6 sorry, 5.9 hours is just crazy, unless I'm
7 misreading something. And, hey, if I'm
8 wrong, email me. I need to know. All
9 right.

10 MS. BOLER: Okay. Thank you.

11 MS. SUEL: I'm going to read my stuff
12 and those in the record.

13 Okay. We've already talked about the
14 15 paid days that need to be clarified as
15 to what days, does it include sick days,
16 death, vacation, and so forth.

17 The lead agency did not respond to
18 3.2.1 and through A-5.1, and where you
19 provide assessment information, goals and
20 objectives for the year, nothing was
21 included in the plan as to what the goals
22 and objectives would be for these years,
23 2013 through '15, nor was there anything to
24 show what outcomes were available in the
25 previous years.

1 Again, I restate that some of the
2 money that may be going to some of the
3 contractors could go to help provide more
4 certificates, because we've lost so many
5 children, and there's nobody to train.

6 So you have these agencies that have
7 this training money, and you go in -- if
8 you even were in a contracted program, if
9 they contracted with you, and you've got 15
10 children, and they're still getting this
11 same rate of money, you could take some of
12 that money and give it to the children that
13 they lost rather than to continue to pour
14 that money into their contract.

15 The market rate survey, I did not
16 receive one. I've checked with the other
17 centers. Nobody received a market rate
18 survey, and it states in the plan that a
19 market rate survey was submitted, I think,
20 in March or sometime. It was not submitted
21 to me. We've checked with other centers.
22 They have not received it.

23 Not only that, when the market rate
24 survey is done, they do not compare our
25 rates with other private centers that may

1 pay other rates, and to be honest, they do
2 not compare the rates with black and white
3 centers. We've checked with some centers,
4 that for a baby, they pay \$140. We can't
5 do it because they won't give us that.
6 Therefore, it denied us, a lot of our
7 children, equal access to the kind of
8 quality education that those children get.

9 We're trying to get quality teachers,
10 but we cannot pay them. And if they cannot
11 compare the rates within the state, it's
12 not fair, just because somebody down in
13 Tchumasuma (phonetic,) and they don't
14 charge that area, they charge -- in that
15 area, they charge more in Jackson. So how
16 can you compare our rates to that area to
17 them and hold our rates down?

18 Because when you look at parents on
19 the street of one of my centers, they have
20 gone and they have decreased their rates to
21 take my children. So this is what's going
22 on, and that's because they're not doing
23 fair market rates.

24 Wait a minute. Let me get my phone
25 right, y'all. You know, these new iPhones,

1 these -- my grandson had to keep it
2 straight for me.

3 Okay. So the other thing is, it says
4 also that direct deposits are being made to
5 child care centers. That's not true. For
6 those centers that are scanning, they are,
7 but not for all child care centers. We did
8 at one time, when we were with the PDD, but
9 that's not being done now.

10 And it says that there is no -- what
11 was it -- disbarment? And there has been.
12 Any time that you send a letter out telling
13 a provider, that if you don't participate
14 in something, you will be terminated, that,
15 you know, regardless they need to look at
16 that, because they say that they're not
17 doing that in the State plan, and it has
18 been done.

19 And even with the TANF workers, I
20 called because I needed an employee, wanted
21 to get a TANF worker, and I asked about the
22 program where they volunteered, then you
23 hire them. I was told to everybody but
24 child care. And I asked why. They said,
25 "I only do what I'm told." So I never got

1 that employee.

2 In the past, what I would do is have
3 the TANF worker to come, and if they were a
4 good worker, I hired them. I never didn't
5 hire them. And even if there was a problem
6 with the TANF worker, and you contacted
7 TANF, they wouldn't do nothing. The people
8 sometimes wouldn't show back up, and we
9 would call in to say this person didn't
10 show up, we hear nothing.

11 So it would help, based on the law, if
12 I'm understanding, that child care was
13 supposed to be considered in one of those
14 groups as far as being able to have
15 volunteers. But I was told -- and I didn't
16 see anything in the plan that indicated
17 that would be effective.

18 And we just, you know -- and we -- but
19 I do ask that this information be used
20 because, in the past, it has not been
21 used. On the record, I'm asking that this
22 information be made available as well as
23 look and consider it to be in the State
24 Plan.

25 Another thing I saw where it says that

1 they are working to try and include
2 non-English-speaking people. I'd love to
3 get some Spanish children. I've never seen
4 anybody go to the TANF office. And I've
5 seen no indication in that plan where
6 they're trying to include these people.

7 Every year, it's saying we are working
8 on trying to get that. They're not working
9 on it, because that one section of Jackson,
10 they're just like falling out of trees, and
11 those kids need somewhere to go. We had
12 someone to come that tried to get a
13 certificate. The mother and father could
14 not even speak English. The child had to
15 speak for the -- the little child had to
16 interpret for the parents. When they went
17 to get a certificate, they didn't get it.

18 MS. BOLER: Okay. Thank you,
19 Ms. Suel.

20 Yes, ma'am, Ms. Boykin?

21 MS. BOYKIN: That just reminded me. I
22 understand that they're not paying people
23 registration fees. That really has
24 bothered me, because they're supposed to do
25 that. And I start asking people, and they

1 go, "Well, no, I've never gotten it."

2 They're supposed to. Do y'all get yours?

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: A registration fee?

4 MS. BOYKIN: Uh-huh, a registration
5 fee.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: No, they don't pay
7 it anymore.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The parents have to
9 pay it.

10 MS. BOYKIN: And it's a policy and has
11 been for a long time. And those are the
12 kinds of things that, you know -- somebody
13 has to have noticed that they're not doing
14 that. It means that the paying parents are
15 subsidizing the cost of supplies for the
16 others, and that's wrong.

17 And in terms of the survey on quality,
18 you know, cost to quality, the market rate
19 study, they're supposed to get the market
20 rate of the centers that do not provide
21 subsidy. And I can send you the federal
22 citation piece on that where that, if they
23 don't do that, they're only measuring that
24 the subsidy has established the market
25 rate, and that's wrong, too. It's just

1 basic.

2 MS. BOLER: Thank you, Ms. Boykin.

3 MS. BOYKIN: Everybody can read and
4 find out.

5 MS. BOLER: Anybody else have any
6 comments they'd like to make before we go
7 back off record for a few minutes?

8 Okay. Well, at this time, we're going
9 to go back off record, and we'll pick back
10 up in a few minutes.

11 (Recess from 1:18 until 2:00.)

12 MS. BOLER: We're going to go back on
13 record at this time. We don't have any
14 more attendees to speak to, so this
15 concludes the hearing.

16 (Whereupon the hearing was concluded
17 at 2:00 p.m., the same day.)

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19 ORIGINAL: Ms. Jennifer Boler

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1 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

2 I, Catherine M. White, CSR, and Notary Public
3 in and for the County of Hinds, State of Mississippi,
4 hereby certify that the foregoing pages, and including
5 this page, contain a true and correct transcript of
6 the testimony of the witness, as taken by me at the
7 time and place heretofore stated, and later reduced to
8 typewritten form by computer-aided transcription under
9 my supervision and to the best of my skill and
10 ability.

11 I further certify that I placed the witness
12 under oath to truthfully answer the questions in this
13 matter under the power vested in me by the State of
14 Mississippi. I further certify that I am not in the
15 employ of or related to any counsel or party in this
16 matter, and have no interest, monetary or otherwise,
17 in the final outcome of the proceedings.

18 Witness my signature and seal this the _____
19 day of _____, 201__.

20

21

CATHERINE M. WHITE, CSR No. 1309

22

My Commission Expires:
23 February 1, 2014

24

25

