

From: Julie Price <JuliePrice@scsenate.gov>
To: Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov
Date: 4/24/2014 2:19:57 PM
Subject: FW: Nanas Daycare

From: Kathy Sprayberry
Sent: Thursday, April 24, 2014 2:19 PM
To: Julie Price
Subject: FW: Nanas Daycare

From: Bolick, Leigh [<mailto:Leigh.Bolick@dss.sc.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2014 1:18 PM
To: brookf1103@yahoo.com
Cc: Kathy Sprayberry; Lara, Cynthia; Allen, Linda
Subject: FW: Nanas Daycare

Ms. Fowler:

Thank you for your interest and expressed concern about the closing of Nana's Daycare. I wanted to provide you with publicly available information about Nana's Daycare so you can have a complete picture of the issues involved and a better understanding about why DSS closed Nana's Daycare in order to protect the children in their care.

In less than a 2-year period, the following occurred at this facility, operated by Sandra Slater:

- Was cited for 52 violations, including not labelling baby bottles, leaving prescription medications and toxic chemicals out in the open, having improper cribs and not having cribs for all of the infants in their care, not having staff with CPR/First Aid certification, staff/child ratio violations, having unqualified caregivers who had no proper background checks, a staff person working on-site with no proof that she was clear of Tuberculosis, practicing unsafe sleep habits for infants in their care, and other violations.
- Had difficulty finding time to meet with DSS staff to develop and discuss corrective action plans to improve the care in the facility.
- Violated the corrective action plans, established to help them get better, 6 times.
- Was assigned a Child Care Resource and Referral worker to help them with specific issues so that they could improve.
- Was repeatedly unable to provide DSS with the paperwork to be relicensed at the appropriate time, resulting in expiration of their license.
- Did not appeal the revocation of their license within the 30-day period required by law. DSS has not been provided any proof that Ms. Slater made an attempt to appeal the revocation within that time period.

Other facts:

- Ms. Slater was recently found by DSS to be operating an illegal family home out of her residence. She also was caring for 10 children. The law only allows for 6 children for those family home providers who are legally operating. Also, Ms. Slater is allowed to care for one unrelated child without being registered by DSS.

- Tracey Nichols, the DSS worker, is an excellent worker who has done outstanding work on this case.
- The charge of Child Care Licensing in SC is to protect children. We work with providers at every opportunity to help them do the best possible job and keep their licenses, which we absolutely did with Nana's Daycare and Sandra Slater.

To help you know what some of these violations listed above mean, here are the problems that we often see resulting from providers who are not following these laws:

- Not labelling infant bottles could mean that a baby could be fed milk he is allergic to and is injured or dies.
- Not properly securing chemicals and medications could mean that a child ingests a poisonous substance or medication and is injured or dies.
- Staff without CPR and First Aid certification could mean that a child is injured and dies because no one present knew how to help in an emergency.
- Cribs that don't meet requirements could mean that a baby gets caught in a slat and dies (and children have died this way).
- Being out of staff/child ratio could mean that a child escapes a classroom, or escapes a center, and is found wandering in the road (this happens frequently).
- Not having an attendance/tracking record is so very serious, and could mean that a child is left outside alone or on a bus unattended (and children have died this way).
- Staff not having criminal or other background checks could mean that a sexual predator or drug criminal could be at the facility caring for these kids.
- Having an infant asleep on his stomach (or any unsafe sleep practice could result in a child dying. Inappropriate sleeping arrangements result in child deaths frequently.
- Having a child outside of a fire-rated infant room could mean that a fire breaks out and a child is unable to get out, as they can't get themselves out of a burning building. Having inadequate numbers of unqualified staff exacerbates this issue, because staff can only carry so many babies at a time.

Please let me know if you need any further information about why DSS had no choice but to close this center to protect the children in their care.

Leigh

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: brookf1103@yahoo.com <brookf1103@yahoo.com>
Date: Wed, Apr 23, 2014 at 9:57 AM
Subject: Nanas Daycare
To: "harvey@harveypeeler.com" <harvey@harveypeeler.com>

Senator Harvey Peeler:

I am writing to request your intervention on behalf of Nana's Daycare located on Parris Bridge Road in Boiling Springs, SC. My daughter has been staying there for going on 3 years, and they also care for my cousin's two children and my nephew and a coworkers child. It is my understanding that the SC Department of Social Services has declined to renew their license based upon a violation regarding paperwork that was not properly filed with the agency.

I strongly encourage you to intervene in whatever manner may be appropriate to see that this daycare is re-licensed as quickly as possible.

Sandy Slater, the director of the daycare, and her staff take excellent care of all of the children who stay there, I have never witnessed anything that causes me any concern for the welfare of my daughter. In addition, they offer school pick-up services that my daughter needs, and that no other daycare in that area offers.

It's about more than a mix-up in paperwork. Children who stay at Nana's Daycare would suffer by being separated from the caretakers they have become accustomed to, and the friends they have made at the daycare. As a parent, it gives me peace of mind to know that my daughter is being taken care of by competent individuals who tend to her needs and promptly notify me of any issues with my child. Having to find a new daycare would cause undue stress for both my daughter and myself. I'm sure you can see that putting parents and children through this over a clerical error would be an injustice.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Brook Fowler