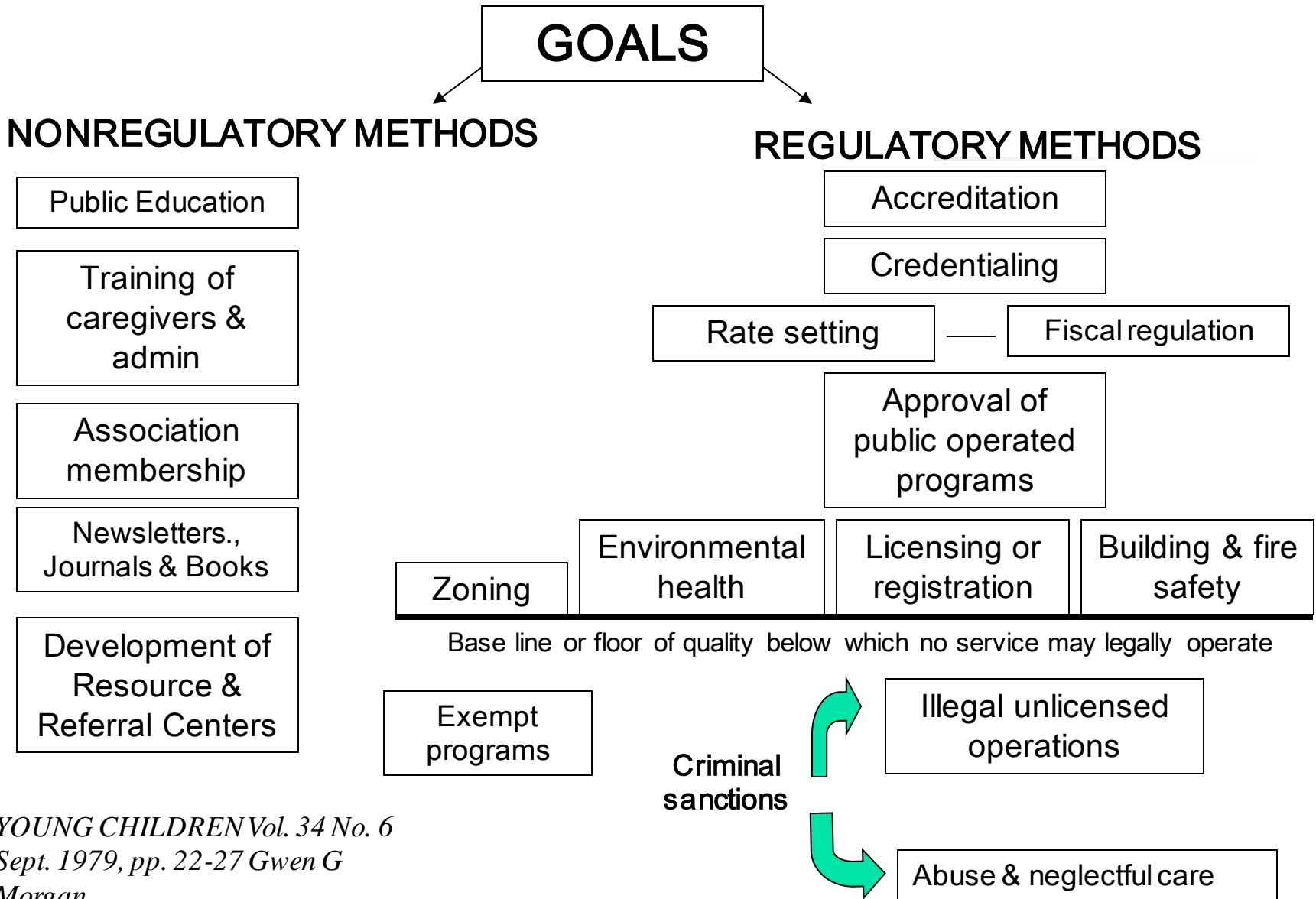


Evaluation of Keystone STARS Quality Rating System: Part of a Multi-Dimensional Model for Improving Child Care Quality*

Richard Fiene, Ph.D.
Penn State University

* Paper presented at NAEYC Research Symposium,
June 9, 2007, University of Pittsburgh

Methods for Achieving Quality Child Care



YOUNG CHILDREN Vol. 34 No. 6
 Sept. 1979, pp. 22-27 Gwen G
 Morgan



Regulatory Approaches toward Achieving Quality

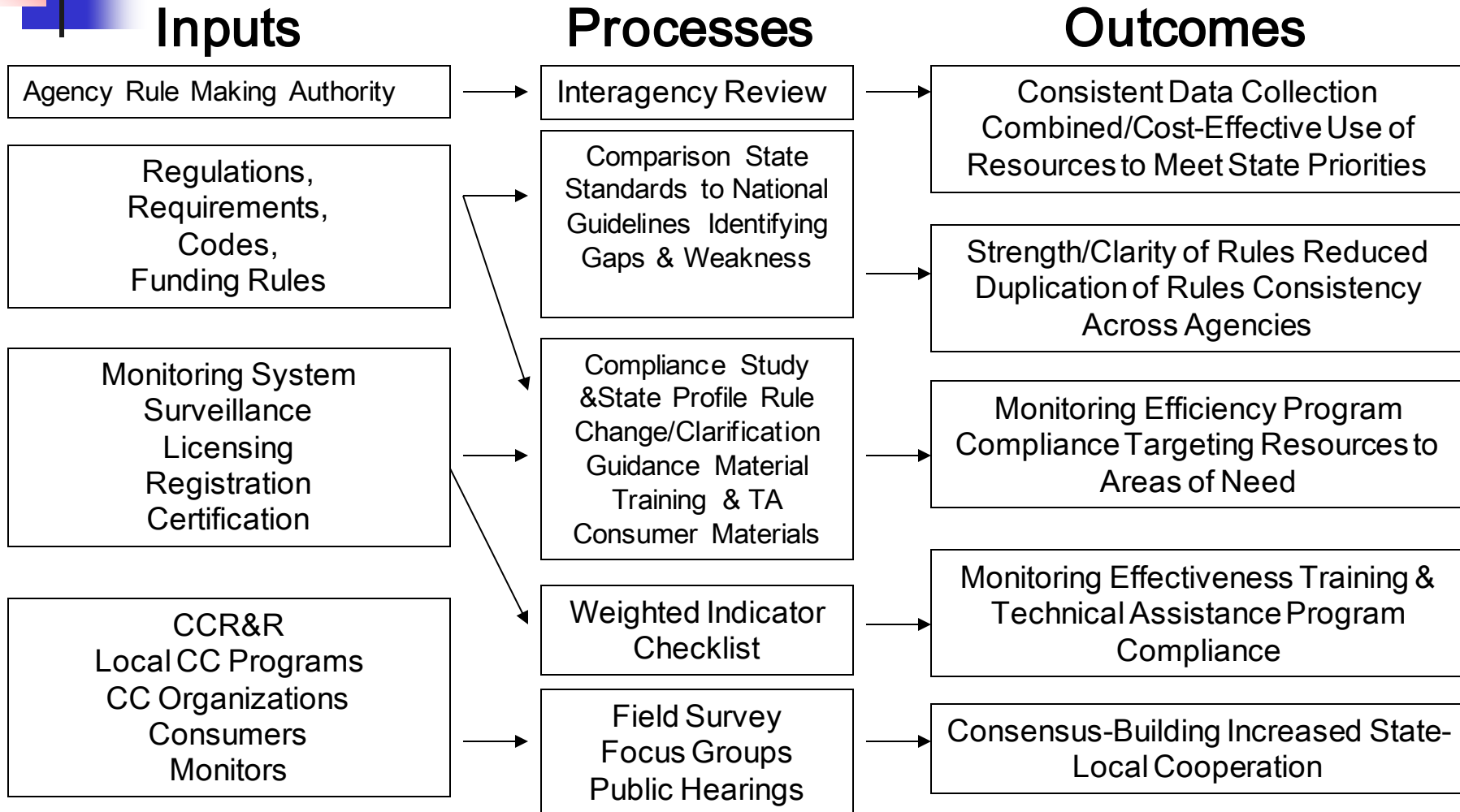
- **Credentialing:** A formally recognized process of certifying an individual as having fulfilled certain criteria or requisites.
- **Contracts:** Regulation by contract in which performance standards are imposed as a contractual obligation.
- **Accreditation:** The formal recognition that an agency or organization has compiled with the requisites for accreditation by an accrediting body. Accreditation usually requires the organization seeking this form of recognition to pay for the cost of the process. The organization bestowing the accreditation has no legal authority to compel compliance. It can only remove accreditation standing.
- **Best Practices:** Through affiliation with professional organizations, an agency becomes aware of “best practices” and establishes its own goals to achieve a higher level of care services.



Non-Regulatory Approaches to Achieving Quality Care in Child Care Programs

- **Consultation**
- **Consumer Education**
- **Peer Support Associations**
- **Professional Organizations**
- **Resource and Referral**
- **Technical Assistance**
- **Training-Staff Development**
- **Quality Rating Systems**

ZERO TO THREE's Better Care for the Babies Project: A System's Approach to State Child Care Planning—Griffin/Fiene, 1995





Pennsylvania Early Childhood Quality Studies

- 2006 = Barnard, Etheridge Smith, Fiene, & Swanson (2006)
- 2002 = Fiene, Greenberg, Bergsten, Fegley, Carl, & Gibbons (2002)
- 1996 = Iutcovich, Fiene, Johnson, Koppel, & Langan (1998, 2001)
- 1990 = Melnick & Fiene (1990)
- 1984 = Kontos & Fiene (1986, 1987)
- 1978 = Fiene & Aronson (1979)



2006 ECE Quality Study (Keystone STARS) Methodology

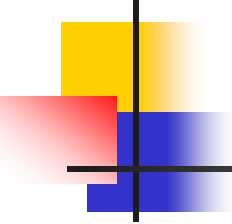
- 572 programs
- 356 Child Care Centers
- 135 Family Child Care Homes
- 81 Group Child Care Homes

- ECERS/FDCRS Assessments



Key Findings from 2006 ECE Quality Study (Keystone STARS)

- Child care quality is improving
- Keystone STARS centers show higher quality
- Programs with a defined curriculum have higher quality
- Teachers with college degrees provide higher quality early education



Early Childhood Quality Data (2006): ECERS Scores by STAR Level

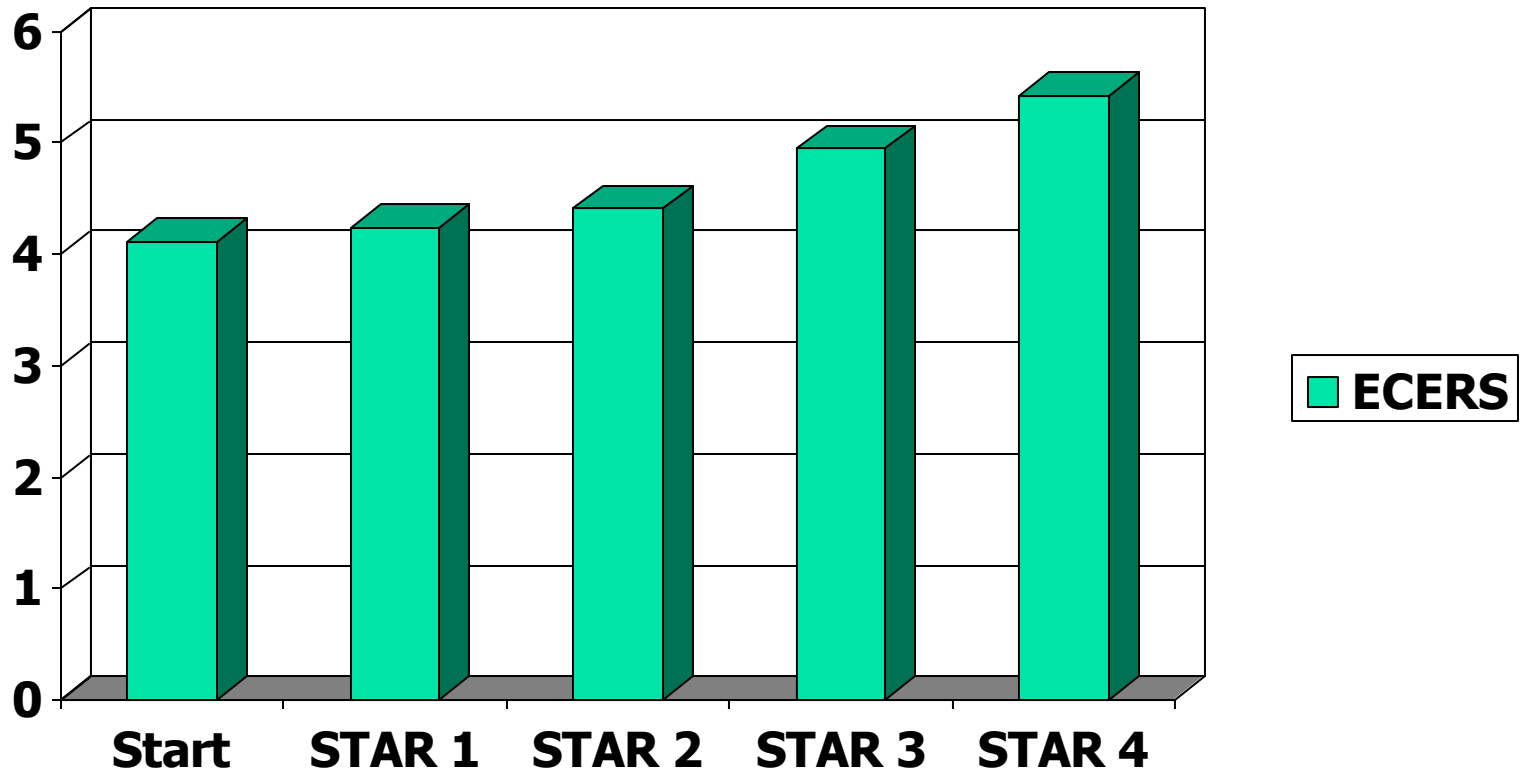
<u>STAR Level</u>	<u>ECERS Scores</u>
■ <i>Not in STARS</i>	3.90
■ Start with STARS	4.08
■ STAR 1	4.20
■ STAR 2	4.45
■ STAR 3	4.95
■ STAR 4	5.42

Comparisons to Previous Early Childhood Quality Studies (1978-2006)

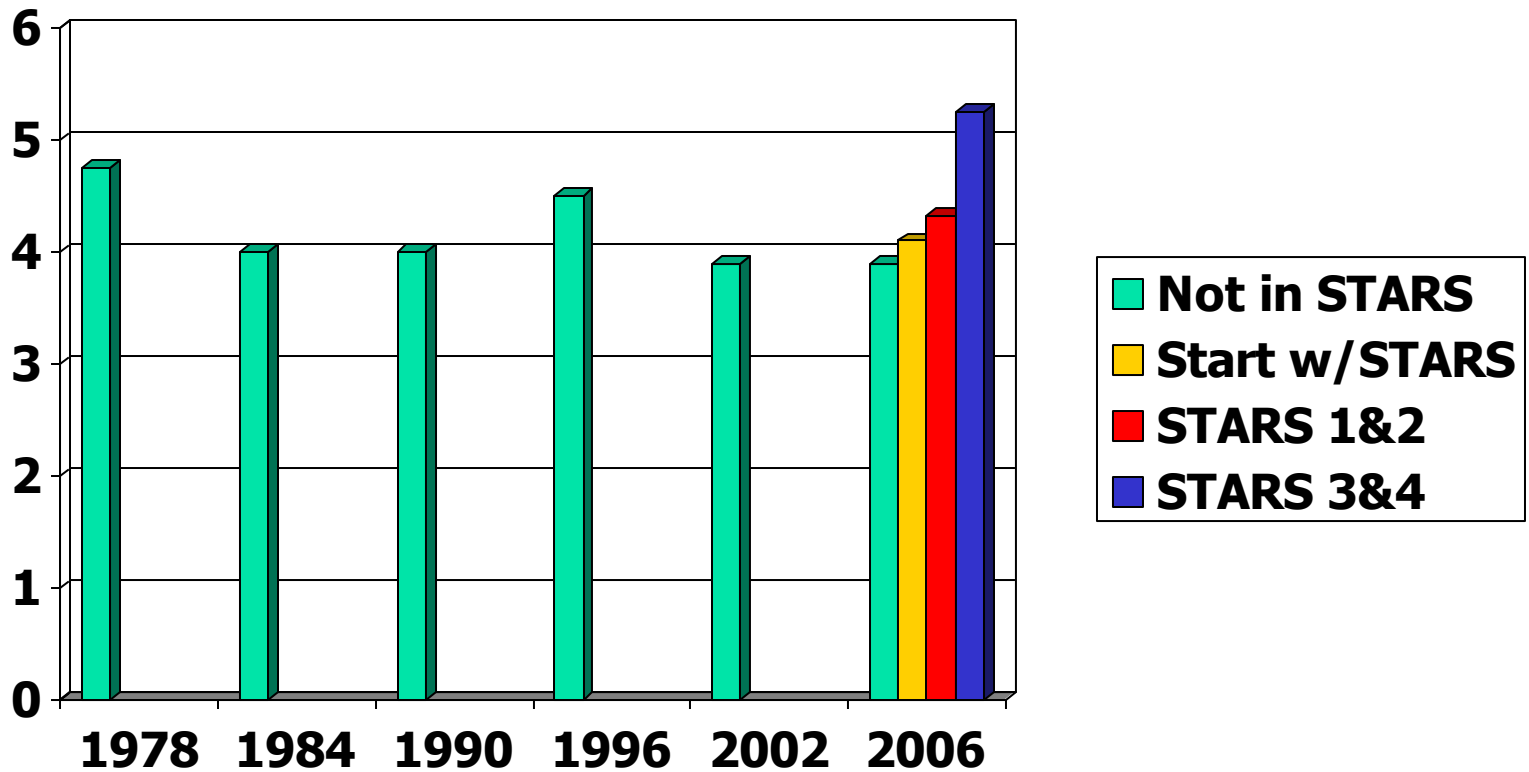
<u>Year</u>	<u>ECERS Scores</u>
■ 1978	4.75 (CDPES)
■ 1984	4.00
■ 1990	4.00
■ 1996	4.50
■ 2002	4.00
■ 2006	3.90 <i>Not in STARS</i>
■ 2006	4.11 <i>Start with STARS</i>
■ 2006	4.33 <i>STAR 1 & 2</i>
■ 2006	5.25 <i>STAR 3 & 4</i>



ECERS Scores by STAR Level



ECERS Comparisons to Previous Early Childhood Quality Studies





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