

Alberta Children's Services Early Learning and Child Care Licensing Key Indicator System Project

Early Childhood Development Branch
Early Childhood Services Division



Agenda

1. Targeted Measurement in Licensing
2. Partnership with the National Association for Regulatory Administration.
3. Key Indicator Use in Alberta
4. Project Development and Timelines
5. Question and Answer

Targeted Measurement in Licensing

Key Indicator Systems



“What are the key indicators that distinguish high quality programs?

It is not about finding more or less rules/regulations/standards, it is about finding the “**right**” rules/regulations/standards that help produce positive outcomes for children”.

<https://drfiene.files.wordpress.com/2016/11/trc-fiene-11-16a.pdf>

Targeted Measurement Tools

Targeted measurement tools are licensing inspection methods that increase the effectiveness and efficiency of a regulatory oversight agency without producing recurring operational costs.

Targeted Measurement (Continued)

Traditional Licensing involves measuring compliance with all regulations in all settings on a recurring basis.

Targeted Measurement – also called “Differential Monitoring” – uses a licensee’s history of regulatory compliance to determine how often inspections occur and/or what regulations are measured during inspections.

Key Indicator Systems (KIS)

Definition:

Key Indicator Systems are a kind of targeted measurement tool that identifies a subset of licensing regulations that statistically predict compliance with the entire set of regulations.

How KIS Work

In general, child care programs are either:

- High compliance settings, where few violations are found during inspections.

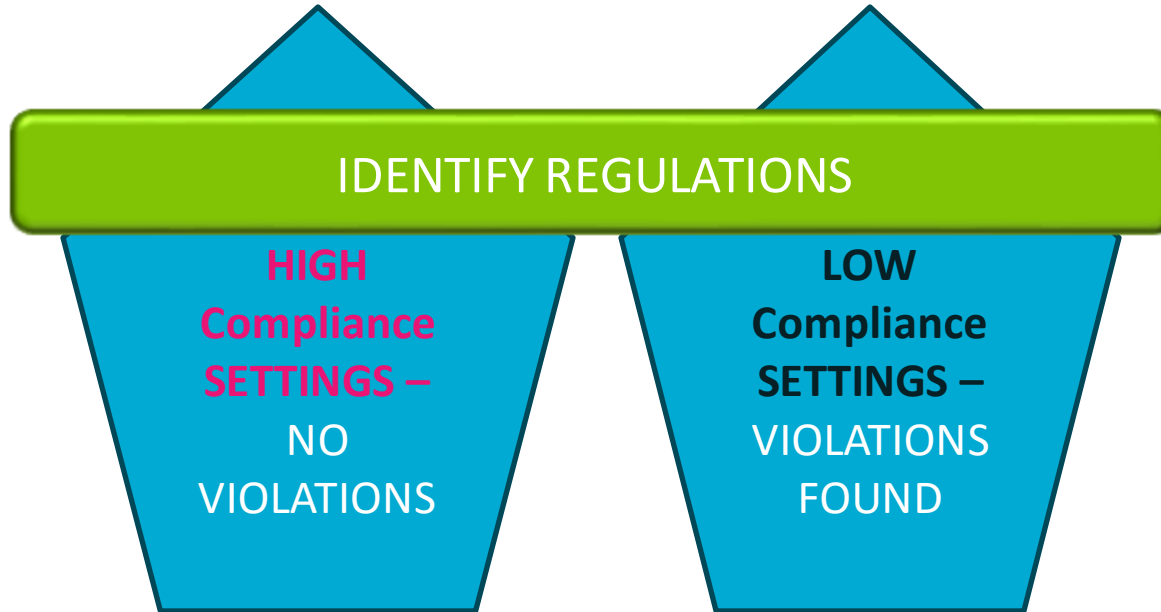
OR

- Low compliance settings, where many violations are found during inspections.

How KIS Work

- Research has shown that some violations are usually identified during all licensing inspections, regardless of the licensee's level of compliance.
- However, the **number** of violations found in high-compliance settings is **lower** than the number found in low-compliance settings.

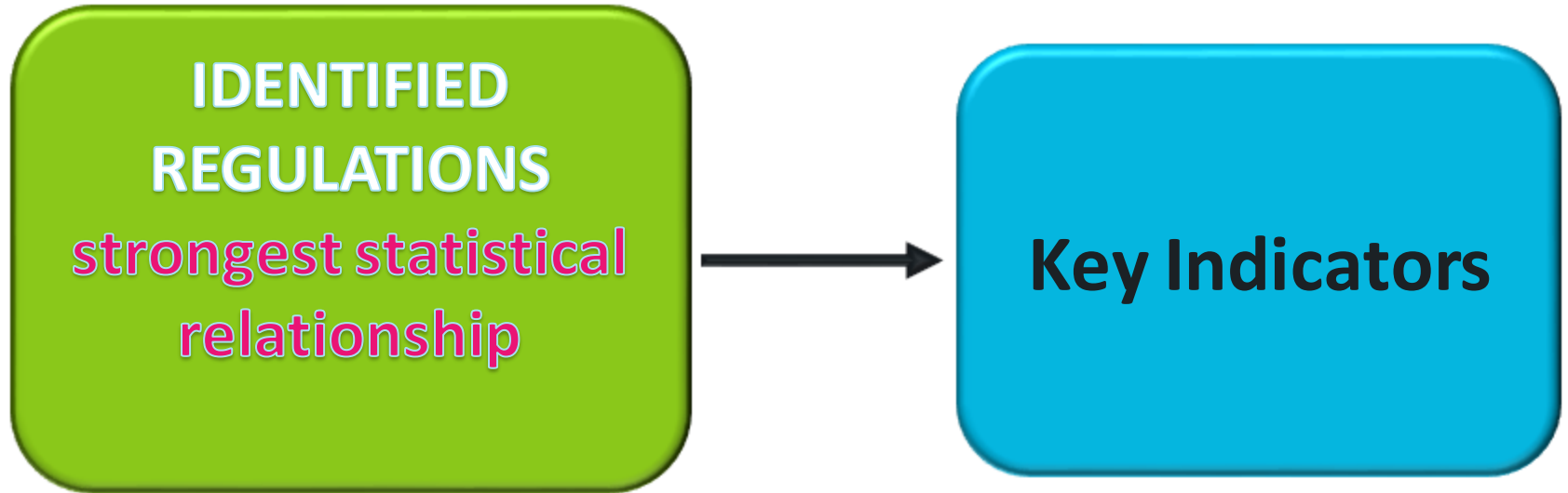
How KIS Works



How KIS Works cont.



How KIS works cont.



How KIS Work

By measuring compliance with the Key Indicators, we can be **very confident** that the setting is in compliance with all the other rules as well.

Example: Saskatchewan Ministry of Education

Rule: A licensee must ensure that the meals and snacks provided meet the nutritional needs of the children attending the facility

Example: Saskatchewan Ministry of Education

Rule: A licensee must obtain the signature of the parent of a child attending the facility to verify, on a monthly basis, the hours and days of the child's attendance.

Example: Saskatchewan Ministry of Education

Rule: A licensee must obtain, and maintain in force, an insurance policy with respect to the facility that includes comprehensive general liability coverage and personal injury coverage.

KIS Misconception

- KIS identify the most “serious” regulations
 - e.g. leaving children unattended or water temperatures that are too hot.

Misconception

Concern:

A Key Indicator System puts children at **increased** risk of harm because compliance is not measured with all regulations during a KIS Inspection.

How does a KIS Reduce Risk?

KIS reduces risk by allowing the licensing agency to:

- Devote more time and attention to monitoring low-compliance providers and ensuring that they achieve regulatory compliance, and
- Shift resources to quality management relating to positive outcomes in early childhood development.

Eligibility for KIS Inspections / Risk Reduction Failsafe Measures

- 3 “Safeguard” processes that reduce risk
 1. Exclusionary Criteria
 2. Expanding the inspection to include all rules in the event that a key indicator regulation is found to be noncompliant during an inspection.
 3. Identifying regulations that will **ALWAYS** be measured during every inspection, even if the regulation is not a key indicator

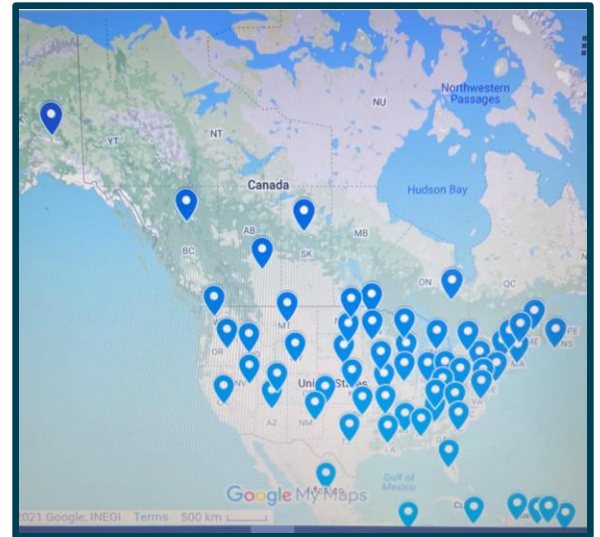
National Association of Regulatory Administration

NARA

The National Association for Regulatory Administration

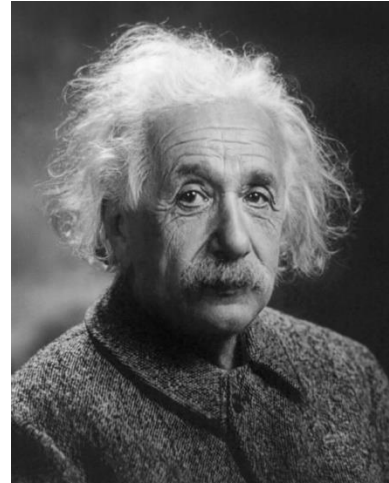
NARA

- Over 30+ years experience
- Used by dozens of states and provinces for
 - program-specific research,
 - **training** and technical assistance
- Settings:
 - Child day and residential care
 - Adult settings



Professionals

- Licensing Professionals
- Dr. Rick Fiene- Key Indicator System theory



NARA and Canada Landscape

- **Ontario, 2015/16**
 - A tiered licensing approach to child care licensing.
- **Saskatchewan, Current**
 - Research study and development of an abbreviated licensing tool
- **British Columbia, 2019**
 - research

Key Indicator System

For the Alberta Early Learning and Child
Care Sector

Why now?

- For Children's Services:
 - maximize resources and efficiency
 - continue to evaluate and reduce red tape;
- New ELCC Act and Regulations
 - Quality

Primary Benefit: A Culture of Quality

The primary benefit for Alberta is shifting our focus and resources to quality management.

New ELCC Act and Regulations

- Quality principles enshrined within the Act.

Primary Benefit: A Culture of Quality

- By reducing the amount of time spent measuring compliance with regulations that are not good predictors of overall compliance, we will be able to focus more on evaluating and encouraging quality care in all settings.
- Spending less time in high-compliance settings allows staff to spend more time in low-compliance settings or settings struggling with quality initiatives.
- Most of all, a KIS allows us to shift our emphasis from pure regulatory compliance to quality management without additional resources.

Other Benefits

1. Will continue to maintain oversight of children's safety, well-being and development in early learning and childcare centres.
2. ELCC providers benefit from shorter inspections by maintaining compliance,

Benefits cont.

3. Effective time and resource management:

Resources are directed to:

- monitoring,
- observations and
- conversations

“I was able to have more detailed discussion with staff about their programming and documentation methods, and also review in greater length their documentation binders and past observations. I was able to spend time with staff to talk about why they do the things they do with the children and how their program evolves rather than focusing so much on the “admin” side of things.”

~ Gov. of Ontario Licensing staff

Benefits continued

4. Improve provincial consistency in how we practice
5. Albertans (and parents) are assured that strong licensing continues even if resources (LO time) are reduced/redirected.

Key Indicator Development Process in Alberta with NARA



Next Steps

Timeline

- 19 month project
- Began in December, 2020
- Full implementation July, 2022



Timelines for Project

Task	12/20	1/21	2/21	3/21	4/21	5/21	6/21	7/21	8/21	9/21	10/21	11/21	12/21	1/22	2/22
Planning	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Focus Groups	X	X	X	X											
Data Collection	X	X	X	X	X	X									
Data Analysis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
Work Tools & Manual	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Policy Development	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Staff Training				X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Stakeholder Meetings							X	X	X	X	X				
Pilot Test & Validation									X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Staff Training															X
Full Implementation, Final Eval., Future Analysis & Application													X	X	X
Post Project Evaluation															

The Project Pieces

- Data Collection and Analysis
- Focus Groups
- Work Tools & Manual and Policy Development
- Staff Training
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Pilot Test & Validation
- Full Implementation
- Final Eval., Future Analysis & Application

Long-term Maintenance

- ~Every three years.
- Need to re-evaluate the Key Indicator Systems to see if still relevant to the Alberta sector.

How Does this Impact Practice?

- KIS will not replace practice
- Integration of Practice Framework
 - Using evidence-based tool(s)
 - LOs use their skills and knowledge in ECD

Next Steps

- Information session/PPS for LOs
 - To inform and support the Focus Group process
- Focus Groups implemented

Sources

- RIKI- Research Institute for Key Indicators
<https://rikinstitute.com/>
- National Association of Regulatory Administration
<https://www.naralicensing.org/>

Questions?

