

Name: Jennifer Perney, Child Care Resource and Referral Director

Organization: Family Enrichment Network, Inc.

Contact: [jperney@familyenrichment.org](mailto:jperney@familyenrichment.org) or (607) 723-8313 ext. 872

Position: Unpredictable work schedules negatively impacts workers and their families. Inconsistent employment hours makes child care difficult for families to obtain.

In Broome County within the last 6 years, 3 child care centers have closed due to financial reasons. One of the many reasons stated was the inconsistent payments from parents who work with inconsistent work hours. Inconsistent, unpredictable work hours is hurting working parents and make it difficult to find high quality child care.

As the CCR&R, we have a contract with the Office of Children and Family Services to offer resource and referral services for child care. We offer parents who are looking for child care referrals to programs that meet their needs. It is often difficult for parents who work inconsistent child care to find child care.

As the CCR&R, we also work with the child care programs within Broome, Chenango, and Tioga Counties offering training and assistance to meet regulations and offer high quality programming. The child care centers in the area struggle to make ends meet on the business side of the child care program. In order to operate a child care center, a program must count on filling their vacant child care slots. A private pay or higher income family may be asked to pay for the slot, whether their child attends program or not. Unfortunately, parents who work jobs with inconstant hours have inconsistent income and are more likely to be lower income and eligible for child care subsidy payments through the local Department of Social Services. Subsidy payments will not pay for a child care "slot". They will only pay for care done while the parent is working. If the hours are inconsistent and not regularly scheduled, then a child care center will have a difficult time allowing those children in their program. If they do save a slot for a child, then the child care center does not have consistent income and could struggle financially for doing the right thing for a family.

To support working families, we ask that you set standards on scheduling predictability and promote access to stable hours.