

Child Care Initiative (CCI) Open House Feedback Summary

January 23, 2019

Meeting Format and Attendance

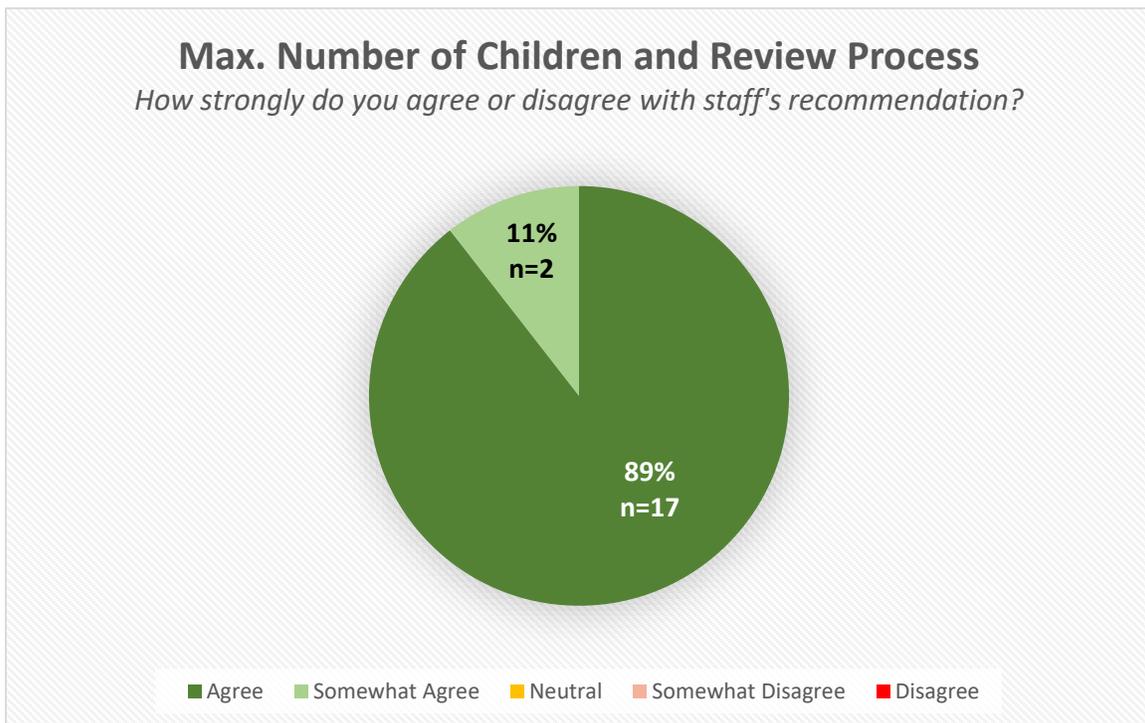
An open house seeking public feedback on proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance and local child care codes was held at the Department of Human Services in the lower level conference center on Thursday, January 17, 2019 from 7 – 9 p.m. Spanish, Urdu, and Amharic interpretation services were offered, and a Kids' Table with coloring activities was also available.

Attendees were encouraged to drop in at their convenience during the 2-hour window. There were eight stations set up in an open house style; no formal discussions or presentations took place. Attendees could move freely between stations at their own pace, spending as much time at each station as they wanted. At each station, attendees were encouraged to learn about the topic, ask questions, participate in a “dot exercise,” and provide additional feedback in writing.

Despite a threat of snow, there were 26 people in attendance: six parents, 15 child care program staff, three parents and child care program staff, and two interested community members.

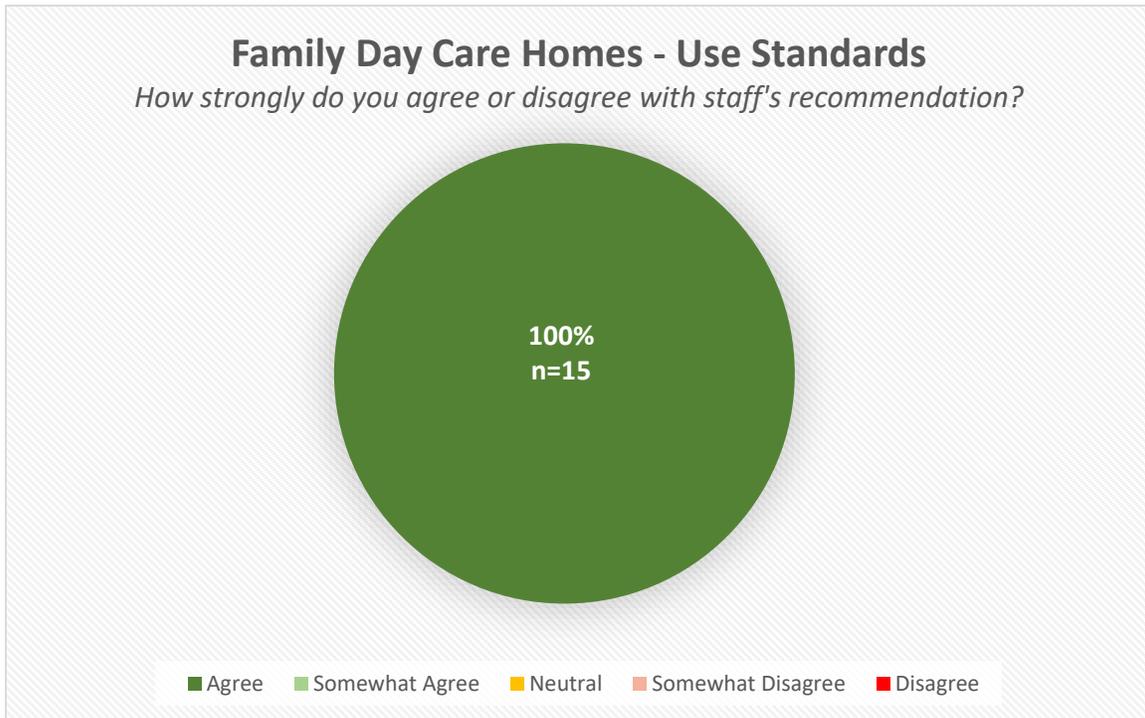
Family Day Care Homes – Maximum Number of Children and Development Review Process

Open House attendees were asked to indicate how strongly they agreed or disagreed with staff’s recommendation to increase the maximum number of children from nine to 12 and to amend the development review process for family day care homes. The levels of agreement/disagreement are presented in the chart below.



Family Day Care Homes – Use Standards

Open House attendees were asked to indicate how strongly they agreed or disagreed with staff’s recommendation to adopt use standards for family day care homes. The levels of agreement/disagreement are presented in the chart below.

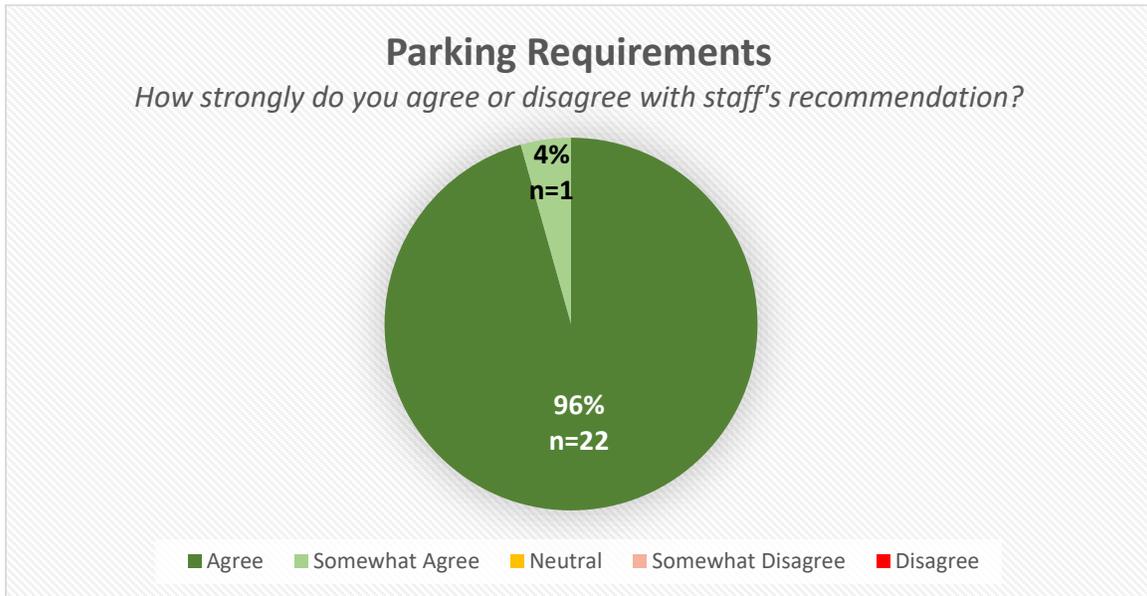


Two comments related to use standards were received at the meeting:

- *Who gets to decide how much “noise and visibility” must be reduce by a wall or fence? I don’t think noise or visibility should be categories included in any ordinance here. I am concerned that such broad language opens the door for complaints from neighbors that a day care center is too noisy, making the County intervene and inconveniencing the provider.*
- *Neighborhood liaison standard: 1) Will the provider still comply with the standard if the civic association president changes in the future? 2) Does the provider need to resend the contact info to the civic association every 1/3/5 years to remain in compliance with the standard?*

Parking Requirements

Open House attendees were asked to indicate how strongly they agreed or disagreed with staff’s recommendation to amend parking requirements for center-based and family-based programs as well as allow parking flexibility for center-based programs. The levels of agreement/disagreement are presented in the chart below.

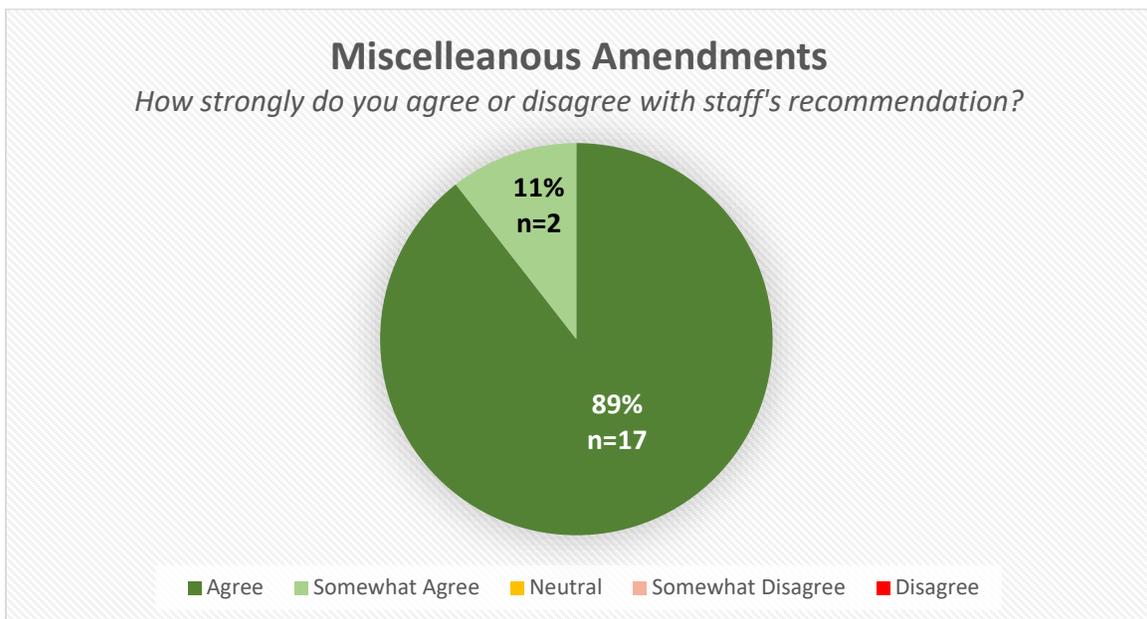


One comment related to parking was received at the meeting:

- *I would encourage you to be even more forward – looking to reduce parking requirements. Don't wait!*

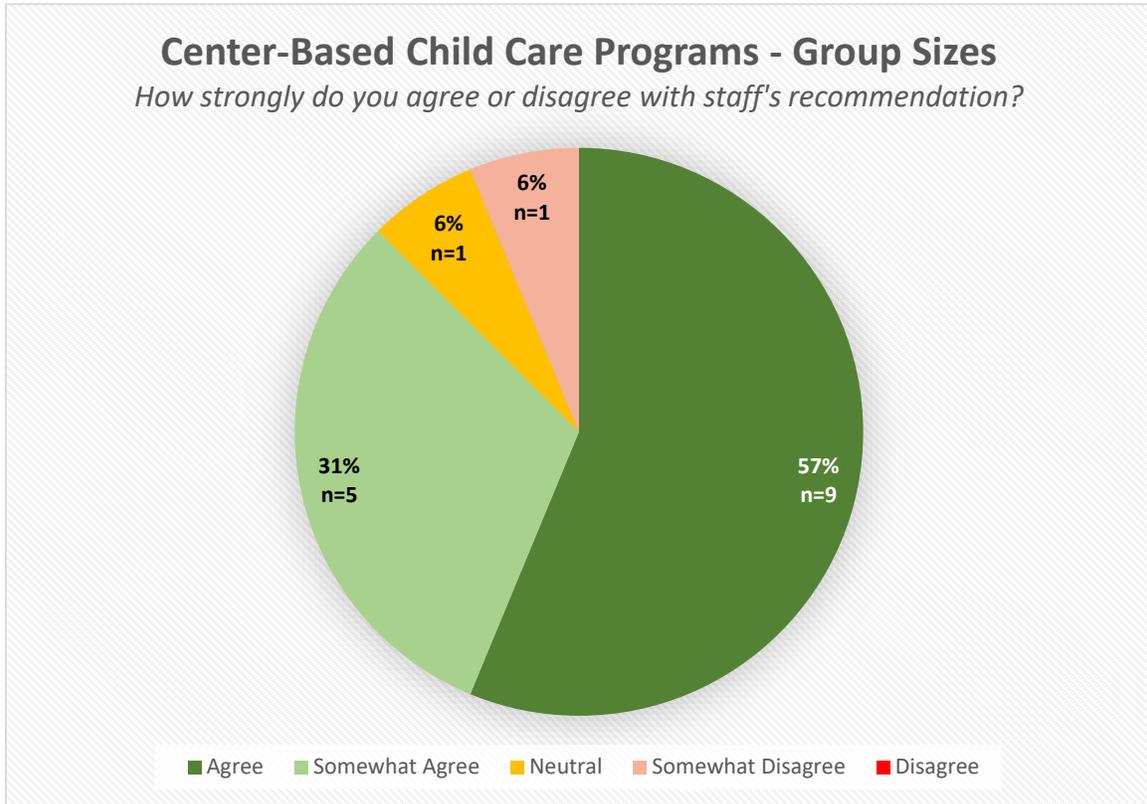
Miscellaneous Zoning/Land Use Amendments

Open House attendees were asked to indicate how strongly they agreed or disagreed with staff’s recommendation to amend the definitions for family day care homes and child care centers, create a definition for day camps (summer camps), allow family day care homes in the RA7-16 Multiple-Family Zoning District, and amend the use permit review process. The levels of agreement/disagreement are presented in the chart below.



Child Care Centers – Group Sizes

Open House attendees were asked to indicate how strongly they agreed or disagreed with staff’s recommendation to align with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)’s suggested group sizes for all ages except for children aged birth up to two-years-old. The levels of agreement/disagreement are presented in the chart below.

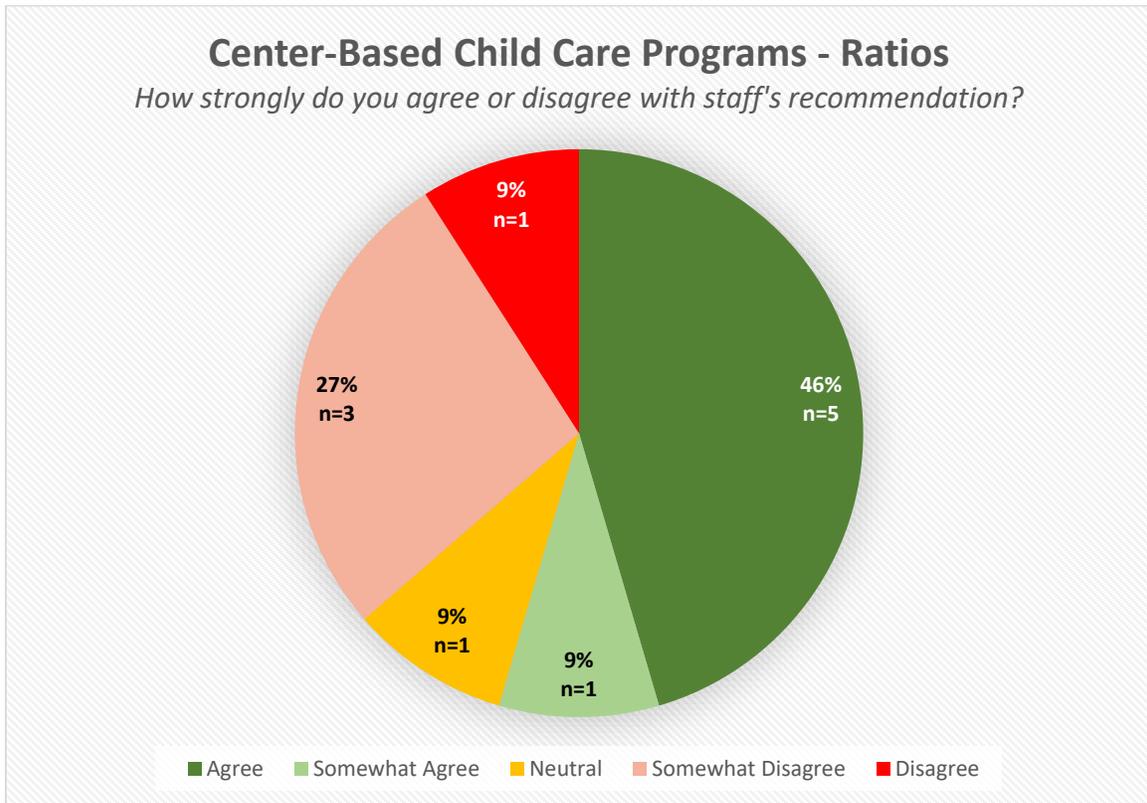


One written comment related to the group size recommendation was received at the meeting:

- *Thank you for all your work on behalf of Arlington’s children! The group sizes proposed at the infant age group in conjunction with the increased ratio of 1:4 is antithetical to claiming increased quality and excellence. The interrelated ratio increase PLUS group size increase is a double whammy to teacher-child relationships and ensuring safety and supervision.*

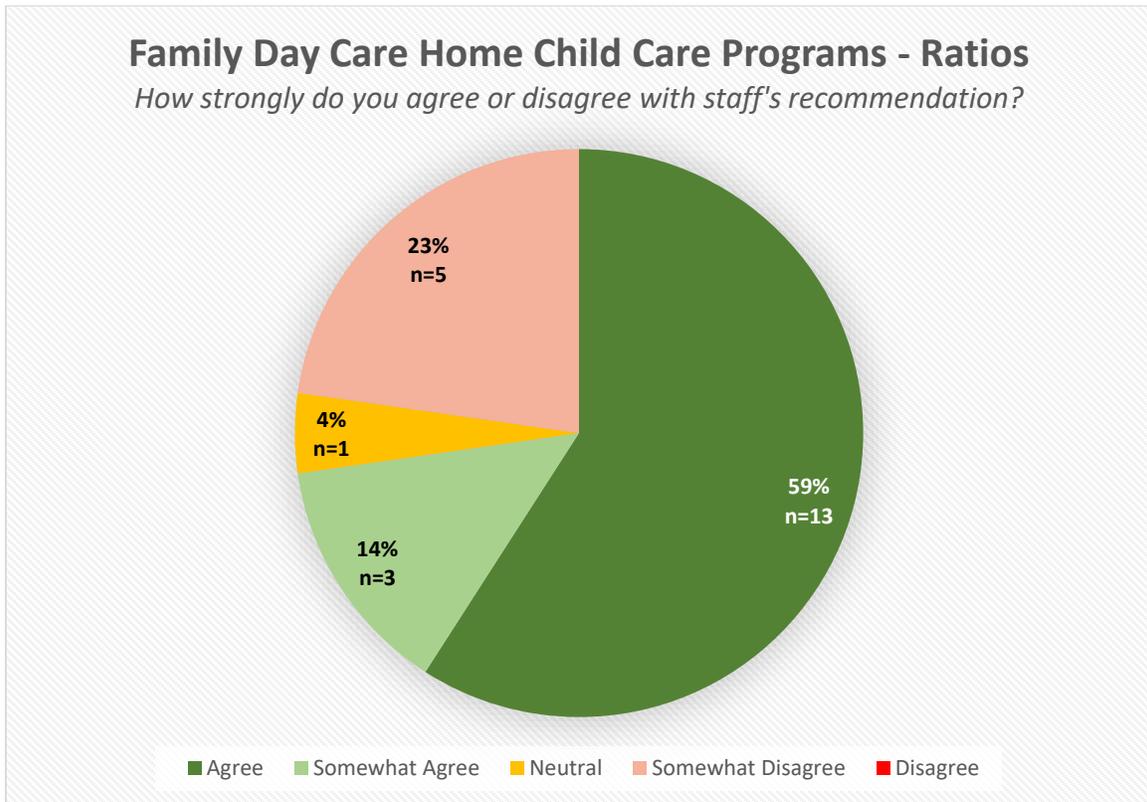
Teacher-to-Child Ratios

Open House attendees were asked to indicate how strongly they agreed or disagreed with staff's recommendation to align with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)'s suggested ratios for all ages except for children aged 6 – 12 years (for this age group, the staff recommendation aligns with VDSS). The levels of agreement/disagreement are presented in the charts below.



Family Day Care Home Child Care Programs - Ratios

How strongly do you agree or disagree with staff's recommendation?

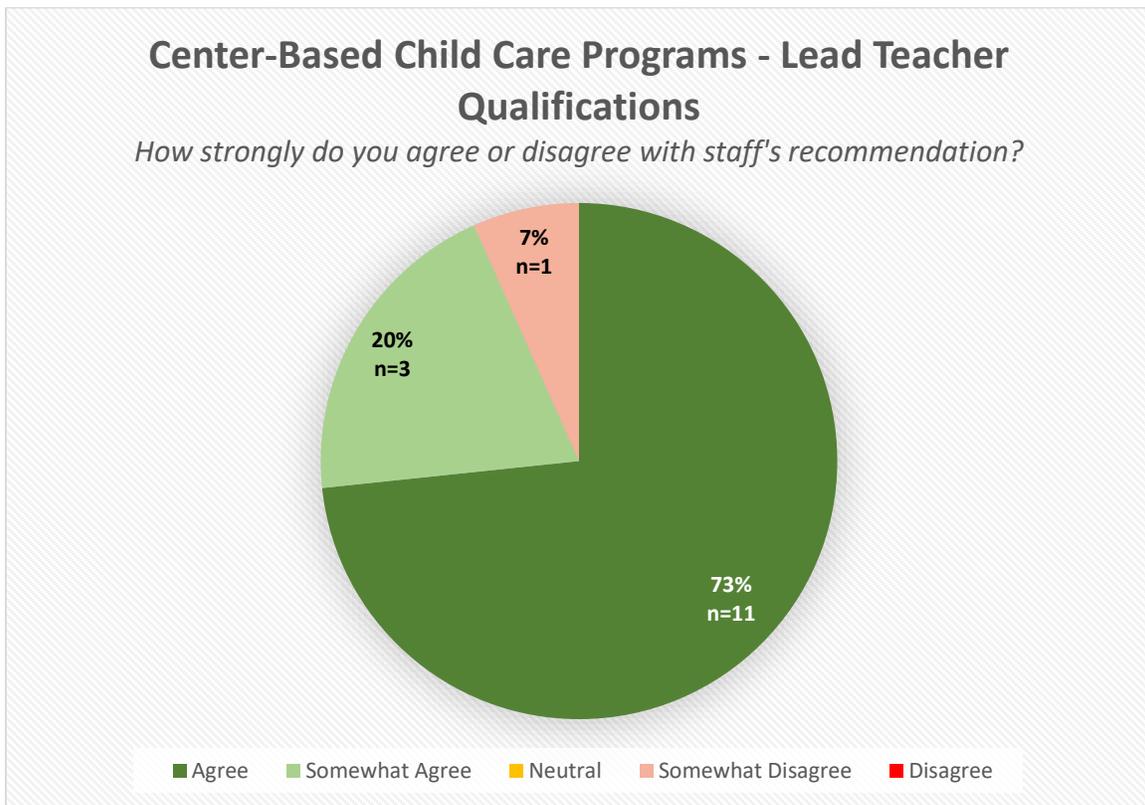


Eight written comments related to the ratio recommendations were received at the meeting:

- *I am worried about increasing number of children per teacher. The data shows that kids do best with a lower number of kids per adult so they can build strong relationships. Allowing an increase in students will reduce quality and cause more segregation between families that can afford better programs and those who cannot. Don't reduce Arlington's better standards and make them worse!!*
- *Thank you for pulling back from the earlier proposed changes to Chapter 52 to the NAEYC ratios. BUT it is hard to get behind "lowering" standards and quality as a crowning legislative achievement. Another look at the ratio from 1:6 at 2 years to 1:10 at 3 years seems a lot. Thank you.*
- *Very concerned about proposed change in teacher ratios. This will reduce high quality options for kids, particularly for less-advantaged children. Don't drop Arlington's high-quality standards!*
- *Can't support lowering standards! Low teacher-student ratios are better for kids and for Arlington!*
- *Overall I agree with ratios but I feel strongly children age 2 and under should be 1:4. So many developmental changes are happening and this is a critical time for identifying potential delays.*
- *Thank you for increasing the ratio! I appreciate knowing how this connects to NAEYC standards.*
- *Great job!*
- *Thank you.*

Child Care Centers – Lead Teacher Qualifications

Open House attendees were asked to indicate how strongly they agreed or disagreed with staff’s recommendation to require a Child Development Associate credential (CDA) coupled with one year of experience caring for children as well as CPR, First Aid, and 16 hours of annual training for lead teachers in Arlington’s center-based child care programs. The levels of agreement/disagreement are presented in the chart below.

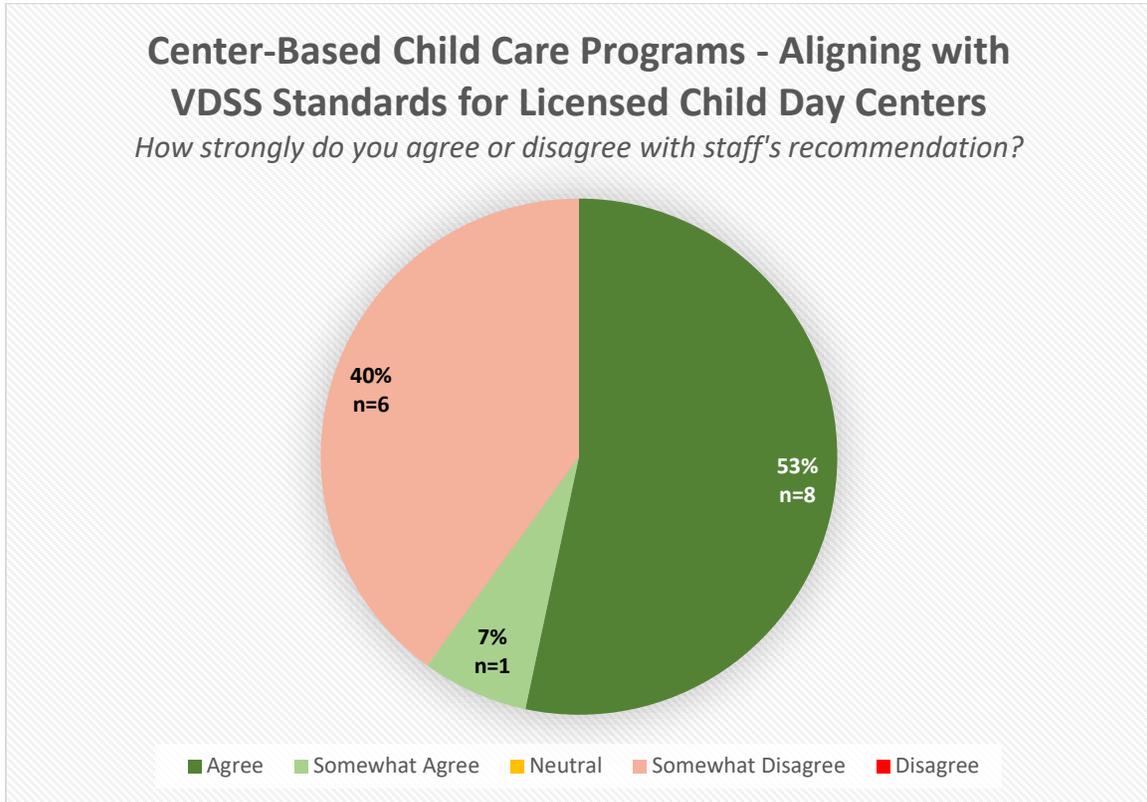


Two written comments related to the lead teacher qualification recommendation were received at the meeting:

- *I'm very concerned about reducing qualifications for lead teachers. While I like the idea of the CDA, I think it shouldn't be a stand-alone. Instead, consider adding it to another 2 years of college or 4 year degree in another topic.*
- *Losing staff to other jurisdictions with a CDA was very difficult. With the new changes proposed they can be promoted to Lead Teacher. College degree requirement did not make too much sense with infants to toddlers. Now a person with a CDA can be a Lead Teacher.*

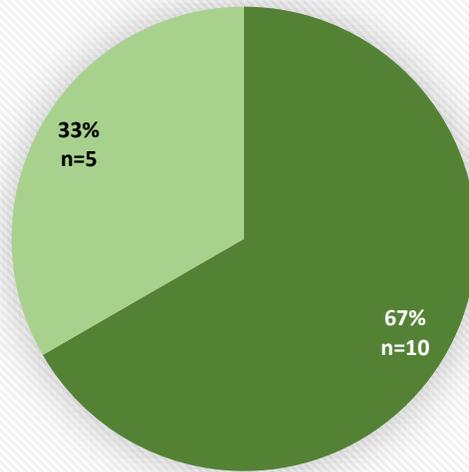
Aligning with State Standards

Open House attendees were asked to indicate how strongly they agreed or disagreed with staff's recommendation to (1) revise Chapter 52 to incorporate the VDSS Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers, with the notable exceptions of teacher-to-child ratio requirements, group size requirements, and lead teacher qualifications; and (2) revise Chapter 59 to incorporate the VDSS Standards for Licensed Family Day Homes, with the notable exception of teacher-to-child ratio requirements. The levels of agreement/disagreement are presented in the charts below.



Family Day Care Home Child Care Programs - Aligning with VDSS Standards for Licensed Family Day Homes

How strongly do you agree or disagree with staff's recommendation?



■ Agree ■ Somewhat Agree ■ Neutral ■ Somewhat Disagree ■ Disagree

One written comment related to aligning with state standards was received at the meeting:

- *Thank you for seeking clarity for County staff and program staff by looking at alignment. There seem to incidents of “lowering” standards though – even as benign as covered versus uncovered trash cans. In an effort to be easy are we sacrificing some of the quality indicators that we count on in Arlington? Thank you.*