Purpose of this presentation

What is Operating Criteria

Origins

Structure

Measuring Quality

Changes and Ongoing Development

Benefits

The Spin

What is it?

One of several tools for managing Toronto's Child Care System

City's expectations for child care programs

Origins

Need for accountability in purchased (community operated) child care programs

Issues of low quality programs in high need areas in late 1980's

Interpreting DNA language

Ensuring consistency

Structure

- Different OC for different type of program
  - Criteria for licensed child care centres was developed first and are most mature
  - Criteria for Special Needs Agencies, Home Child Care, and Family Resource Programs are in various stages of implementation
  - City run ARC programs (recreation-based program for school age children)
  - All Criteria are developed in consultation with the child care community and tested before release

Structure

Sections

- Introduction
- Age Specific Criteria separate Infant, Toddler, Preschool and School Age
- Playground
- Administration
- Nutrition
- Financial

Appendices clarifications, glossary etc.

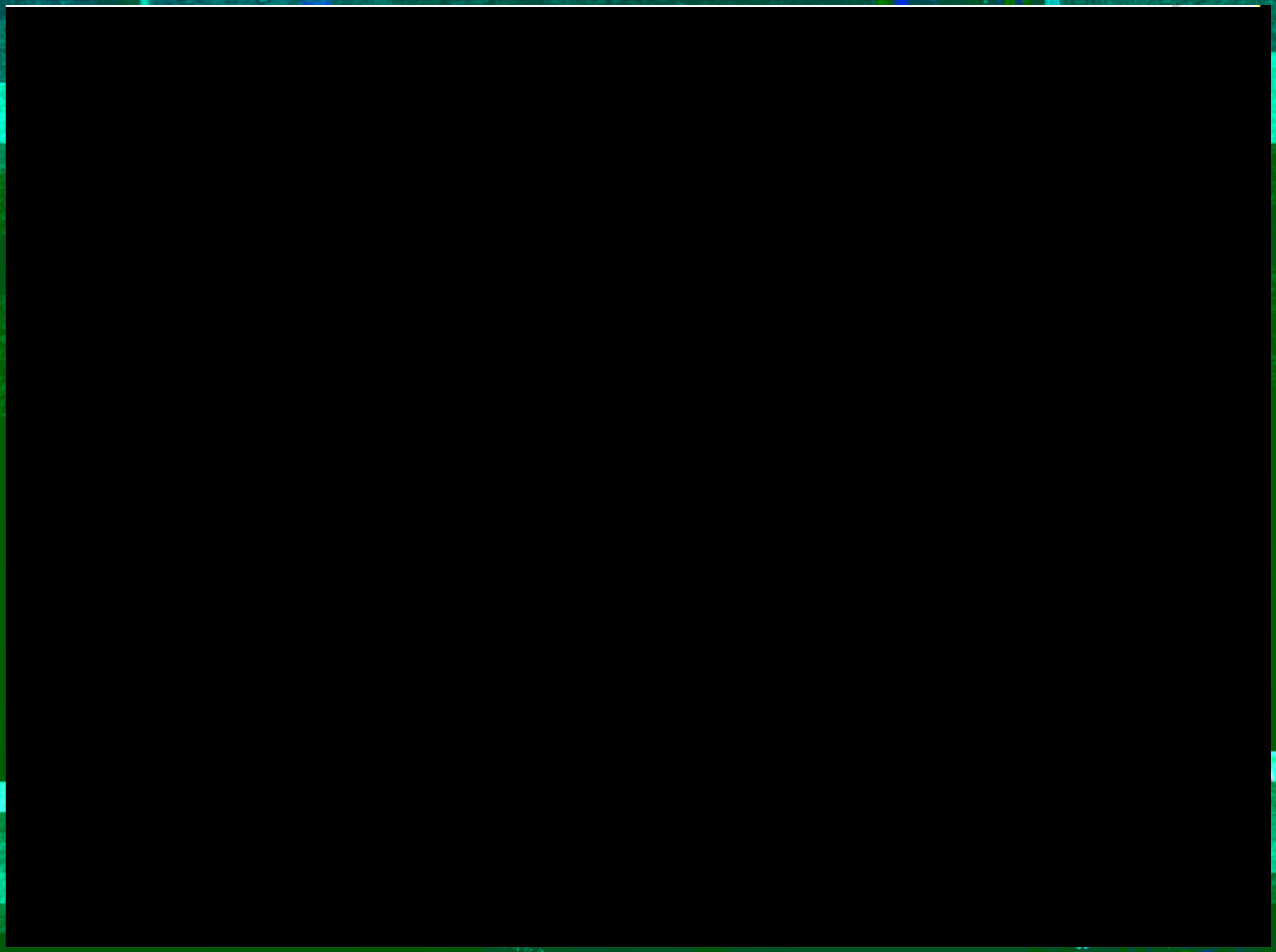
Components of Quality

Structural components are measured primarily in the Administration Section

- Ratios
- Proportion of fully trained staff
- Evidence of, and use of a curriculum

Process components are found primarily within the individual age group sections

- The age group assessment are the one currently published on City's website
- The data is published as an aggregate of rooms serving the same age group and compared to overall City results and previous assessment



Toronto Operating Criteria

Pre-School Rating by Criteria Subsection

[redacted]

Average Ratings for the Centre's 3 Pre-School Rooms compared to All Assessed Pre-School Rooms

[redacted]

29, 2010

Date: April

Subsection	2008		2009			
	Centre Average	City Average	Centre Average	City Average	Action Required by	Act Verifi
Pre-School Program Totals	**2.9**	**3.7**	**3.0**	**3.6**		
Activities and Experiences	**2.1**	**3.8**	**2.4**	**3.7**		
Daily Schedule	2.7	3.8	3.0	3.7	August 28, 2009	
[redacted]					August 27,	Septem
2.0	3.6	2.3	3.6	August 31, 2009	September 3, 2009	Activities And Experiences	

Validating Operating Criteria

City contracted with OISE (Dr. Perlman) to determine if the Criteria are capable of measuring Quality

Process integrity= responsibility of the City

Inter-

Ongoing Changes

- Improvements
  - Clarification of language

Benefits of Operating Criteria

Children and Families

Service Providers

- Self-assessment and evaluation
- Access to program supports, training opportunities and justification for future budget adjustments
- Posted data are used in program promotion

Child Care System Benefits

- Improved accountability
- Monitoring of change, e.g.
  - Impact of ELP
  - Base funding shortfalls
- Feedback to Service Planning and Policy Development

Cost of Quality Assessment

Approximately 2,500 rooms with 40,000 children

1.5 hrs per room (normally 2 rooms in 2 hours)

3,750 hours per year

Less than 3 FTE at 200 days per person

Remainder spent on training, evaluation etc.

At $100,000 per FTE assessor

Cost child/day = 2.8 cents, $7.31 per year

Future Challenges

Addressing the dual role of Children's Services Consultants

Conclusion

Formal, standardized program assessments are essential

Self-

More information?

www.toronto.ca/children

Toronto Operating Criteria for child care centres

Critères d'exploitation de la Ville de Toronto

pvarmuza@gmail.com