Child Care and Education Committee – Administrative Rule Summary

Title/OAR #: Rules for Quality Rating and Improvement System (Spark)   **Date:** May 11, 2017
Staff/Office: Dawn Woods, Child Care Director

☐ **Temporary Rule**   ☒ **New Rule**   ☐ **Amend Existing Rule**   ☐ **Repeal Rule**
Hearing Date: _____   ☐ **Hearings Officer Report Attached**
Prompted by: ☐ **State law changes**   ☐ **Federal law changes**   ☒ **Other**

Action Requested:
☐ **Adoption of Temporary Rule**
☒ **Adoption of Final Rule**

PROPOSED/AMENDED RULE RECOMMENDATION OPTIONS:

The Child Care and Education Committee will begin work on administrative rules governing the quality rating and improvement system created under ORS 329A.261.

Rules for Spark may cover:
- ✓ Entity responsible for final determination of Spark standards
- ✓ Entity responsible for final determination of Spark rating for a program
- ✓ Process for appealing a Spark rating
- ✓ Process for revoking a Spark rating
- ✓ Process for appealing a revocation of a Spark rating
- ✓ Role of health and safety standards in Spark
- ✓ Process for programs governed by tribal governments to participate in Spark.

BACKGROUND:

A quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) is a systemic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early and school-age care and education programs. Similar to rating systems for restaurants and hotels, QRIS award quality ratings to early and school-age care and education programs that meet a set of defined program standards. By participating in their State's QRIS, early and school-age care and education providers embark on a path of continuous quality improvement.

Currently the Division does not have a set of rules covering Spark. The rules need to cover the governance of Spark rather than the standards. An ad hoc workgroup will study and provide guidance to ELD staff in revising the standards. The Child Care and Education Committee, as with all other rule sets, will be advising the ELC on rules addressing governance of Spark.