

Child Care Advisory Council Meeting
1/28/2021

Call to Order..... Sarah Vanover

The Child Care Advisory Council meeting was duly called by Division of Child Care Director Sarah Vanover and held virtually via Zoom.

In Attendance

Brenda Brunner, Chuck Bradley, Bill Buchanan, Twylynn Edwards, Paula Goff, Amy Hood, Amy Neal, Patricia Porter, Kim Smart, Rebecca Thomas, Sarah Vanover, Sandra Woodall

Review of Minutes..... Open Discussion

Meeting minutes from October 2020 were approved.

DCC Updates..... Sarah Vanover

Sarah Vanover provided a PowerPoint presentation.

All the funds from the first round of the CARES act have been allocated. The majority of the funds went directly to child care programs. Only a small portion went to LDCs.

There were start-up grants available for Family Child Care homes and Registered Providers in November and December. These grants were funded by the Cabinet's CARES Act funding, not DCC's CARES allocation. A total of 42 providers were approved

There is a second round of federal funding. Kentucky has not received an official award letter but CLASP estimates we will receive \$192.5 million.

For the first quarter of 2021, CCAP will be billed based on enrollment, not attendance. DCC is unsure how long we can continue to sustain this payment change, but will evaluate this quarterly.

DCC received the results from our 2019 Federal Monitoring visit. The findings will require several regulation and policy updates such as a new emergency licensing/certification regulation; changes to the certified and registered provider regulations; .and system updates to CCAP to ensure a true 12-month eligibility and job search.

The following regulations are open and have proposed changes: 922 KARE 2:450E, 922 KAR 2:230, 922 KAR 2:240, 922 KAR 2:250. Any time a regulation is in the open comment phase, you can send comments to childcare.regulation@ky.gov.

Child Care Assistance Program..... Sarah Vanover

Amy Hood requested a conversation surrounding CCAP. Sarah Vanover opened the meeting for questions/discussion.

Amy Hood inquired if CCAP rates will increase. Sarah Vanover stated pre-pandemic DCC was planning to increase the provider rates. Currently, we are paying at the 40th percentile. Kentucky is proud of not have a waiting list. Sarah informed the members there are two ways to increase CCAP; the reimbursement rate or the Federal Poverty Level (FPL.) In 2016, the Office of Child Care indicated they wanted all states to get to the 75th percentile for provider reimbursement rates. In 2018, some states were put on a corrective action plan due to a low reimbursement rate. An increase in the reimbursement rate will enable providers to receive more funding which could potentially allow an increase in staff pay. An increase in FPL allows more families to qualify for CCAP. Kentucky cannot afford to increase the reimbursement rate and the FPL. Therefore, our goal is to increase the provider reimbursement rate to prevent a non-compliance mark from the federal government.

To view Kentucky's current market rate survey, visit <https://www.childcareawareky.org/kentucky-market-rate-study/>.

Sandy Woodall asked if the market rate studies affect reimbursement rates. Sarah stated the data from the survey would be evaluated. Providers have had to increase tuition due to the current pandemic.

Sandy Woodall inquired if we could contractually make providers increase staff salaries if reimbursement rates were increased. Sarah Vanover stated we could not.

Mike Hammons inquired if there are any extra funds from the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) to increase provider rates and what advocates could say to the general assembly to raise rates. Sarah Vanover stated due to the pandemic; we had to allocate the extra funds. This included covering parent co-pays, which benefited providers and families. DCC can inquire with the Division of Financial Management (DAFM) to rerun the data/numbers.

Sarah Vanover stated there is a bill asking to increase the FPL.

Members discussed the issues with COVID-19 vaccine availability.

Sarah Vanover has been working with the Department of Medicaid (DMS) DMS will be reaching out to child care providers and staff to enroll individuals through Kynect. This will increase health insurance availability for child care staff.

Community Updates.....Open Discussion

Amy Neal provided an update on GOEC.

ECAC's mission statement is to provide leadership and direction for the commonwealth by providing a comprehensive and sustainable prenatal to age five early childhood system to ensure a strong foundation for all children.

Last year, GOEC was a recipient of the Preschool Development Grant (PDG). GOEC will be using the work started by PDG as a roadmap and will be focusing on two initiatives: unification and accountability of the early childhood system and strengthening state and local partnerships.

Dr. Jaesook Gilbert was appointed to ECAC and will be chairing the PD Committee. The committee is working on the early childhood standards.

Brenda Hagan is leading the apprenticeship program.

GOEC is planning the Early Childhood Institute for 2021. Juanita Webb is in charge of planning.

ECAC has been hosting several webinars.

Bill Buchanan provided an update from the Department of Education.

The CDC released new guidance encouraging schools to reopen to in-person instruction, but only if communities are willing to impose restrictions on other settings.

KDE continues to focus on assisting schools with reopening to in-person instruction.

KDE also has federal funds coming from the stimulus package passed at the end of December estimated at \$928 million. These funds address any learning loss, parent engagement, tracking attendance, and improving student engagement. Additional guidance will be forthcoming.

With summer approaching, plans to support meal distribution are in progress. This is in partnership with USDA. Meal sites are often located in public settings.

KDE has been forming plans to support preschool program enrollment as programs move from virtual to in-person instruction.

KDE is implementing a state personnel development grant. This will focus on social/emotional/cultural development and support.

Bill posted in the chatbox Kentucky Preschool and Kindergarten PBIS Training Academy:
https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9to7KfWztGyns2x.

Members discussed the issues surrounding ensuring children are ready for Kindergarten. Members all agree there needs to be support regarding this transition, primarily due to the pandemic. Bill Buchanan stated these conversations are occurring.

Sarah Vanover asked if there were any other community updates.

Sandra Woodall reminded members of the equity conversation on the agenda. She stated she is having an issue gathering data on equity.

Sarah Vanover stated DCC is in discussions with a company called Bow Tie to fill in data gaps.

Dawn Thompson inquired if there was an amount of child care providers/staff that will need the COVID-19 vaccines. Sarah Vanover stated around 38,000, but there could be duplicates in this number.

Amy Hood addressed an issue with the Public Child Care search. Andrea Day stated Deloitte is aware of the problem, and it should be fixed soon.

Sarah Vanover stated she was a part of a child care crisis webinar. The webinar is available on The Gryphon House Books Facebook page.

DCC hosted a webinar on Paycheck Protection loans. A recorded meeting link was sent through the DCC ListServ.

Adjourn

Sarah Vanover made a call to adjourn the Child Care Advisory Council meeting.