

Child Care Advisory Council Meeting  
4/23/2020

**Call to Order..... Sarah Vanover**

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

**In Attendance**

Chuck Bradley for Mike Haney, Brenda Bruner, Bill Buchanan, Twylynn Edwards, Amy Hood, Patricia Porter, Kim Smart, Zachary Smith, Rebecca Thomas, Sarah Vanover, Juanita Webb, Sandra Woodall

**Introductions..... Sarah Vanover**

The agenda, on Senate Bill 45, planning for child care programs to reopen, and a copy of the January meeting minutes were sent virtually to all members. Sarah Vanover informed the audience members if they have any questions or comments to use the chat feature in Zoom.

**Review of Minutes..... Open Discussion**

Meeting minutes from January 2020 was approved.

**DCC Updates..... Sarah Vanover**

Due to the highly contagious nature of COVID-19, all child care programs are closed per the Governor's executive order. Sarah Vanover stressed centers are far away from opening and when centers do open, it will be a part of Phrase Two under the Governor's plan. Sarah Vanover informed members that child care looks different today, and therefore goals have shifted. The Division of Child Care (DCC) is working to support child care centers and make sure child care programs can open and not permanently close.

Sarah Vanover proceeded to present a PowerPoint concerning DCC updates. All of the funds DCC receives are from the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant. When centers were mandated to close, DCC reached out to our federal partners to ask if we could pay centers based upon enrollment and waive co-pays for CCAP recipients. Once this was approved, there were system challenges to make sure payments were distributed. Staff was having to issue payments manually. In addition, DCC has submitted a waiver so we can play the full tuition amount for CCAP children attending Limited Duration Centers (LDC) during the shutdown. Sarah Vanover informed members the Division of Regulated Child Care has been overseeing and approving LDC centers. The list of employees who can enroll their children in LDC centers has expanded to include grocery store employees. Children enrolled in LDCs have been less than expected; we assume this is because when the essential parent goes to work, a parent or guardian who is not

working or working from home watches the children in the household. Sarah Vanover informed everyone, all information concerning LDCs and up-to-date COVID-19 information can be found at [kycovid19.ky.gov](http://kycovid19.ky.gov).

Lastly, Sarah Vanover informed everyone as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act; Kentucky was awarded \$67.74 million for child care aid. This funding will be more flexible than typical CCDBG funding. A listserv message will be sent with more information concerning the usage of the funding. On the last slide of the PowerPoint, Sarah Vanover provided her contact information and informed members there is only one staff member in the office answering the phone; therefore, the best way to reach anyone from DCC is to use email.

Sarah Vanover asked if members had any questions concerning DCC updates.

Brenda Brunner inquired if the full tuition amount to be paid to LDC centers was for every child or just CCAP recipients and if DCC is worried about running out of funds. The total tuition amount is only for CCAP recipients and there are no worries about funding. The CARES funding is just a one-time award that DCC is looking to stretch.

Amy Hood stressed she is concerned about illegal in-home child care providers operating in this climate. Sarah Vanover stated she does believe this is occurring. Hopefully, the Expanding High Quality Family Child Care Project Kellogg Grant can look at recovery options and support for in-home child care providers. Sarah Vanover mentioned the Division of Protection and Permanency has the same concerns in regards to older children looking after younger children which increases the likelihood of injuries.

## **Discussion of Senate Bill 45..... Open Discussion**

### **I. Review of timeline**

Sarah Vanover invited Laura Begin from the Commissioner's Office to present the timeline for Senate Bill 45 (SB 45). From the middle of July, DCC will have 90 days to promulgate regulations to comply with Senate Bill 45. Early to mid-August, DCC must gather all recommendations from all parties referenced in SB 45. At the beginning of September, DCC will send a draft of the regulation within the division for approval. By mid-September, the regulation draft goes through a week-long review with all divisions of DCBS, cabinet departments, and the Commissioner's Office has approved the regulation. Between mid-September and mid-October, the regulation draft undergoes cabinet level review, legal review, Secretary review and signature, and then goes to the Governor's office for review and signature. After this, the regulation goes to the public comment period. Anyone can submit a comment. At the end of December 2020, the public comment period ends. If no public comments are received, amendments undergo legislative review in January and February. If reviews are conducted, amendment(s) becomes effective mid-February.

If public comments are received (most likely), DCC responds to those comments and may make additional amendments based on comments. In mid-February, DCC files their responses to public

comments and includes amendments to the regulation. In March and April of 2021, amendments undergo legislative review. If legislative reviews are conducted, the regulation amendments will go into effect immediately. If reviews are not performed, the regulation amendments will go into effect mid-July 2021. The earliest regulations will go into effect is in mid-April. Lastly, Laura Begin informed members the process is long, and our regulations undergo numerous reviews.

## II. Review of CCAC member feedback

Sarah Vanover informed members when we draft the regulation; the wording has to be specific. All the organizations the bill referred to, such as the YMCA, will not be in the regulation. Sarah Vanover then referred everyone to the handout titled notes for CCAC on Senate Bill 45. Sarah Vanover pointed out member comments on the handout and opened the floor for discussion. In addition, four members from the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) participated on the call to share input.

Amy Hood stated there are resources for implementing the physical education piece from the National Sports Education. Sarah Vanover said it would be hard to incorporate into regulation. Regulations are broad and cannot include specific wording. Amy Hood did suggest not allowing recess to be taken away from children as a punishment. Sarah Vanover stated this would align with food not being used as a reward or punishment.

Kimberly Davis from ECAC inquired if these regulations will also be for publicly funded preschool. Sarah Vanover stated they are only for licensed child care programs.

Kimberly Davis also inquired if the regulation means you can never serve cake or juice for birthday celebrations. Sarah Vanover stated this is only guidance for mealtimes.

Bill Buchanan inquired if the Department for Education could monitor if child care programs are aligning with the meal requirements in the regulation. Sarah Vanover stated, since child care programs are not enrolling in the federal food program and completing all the paperwork, it would be up to the Division of Regulated Child Care to monitor those programs. Sarah Vanover did state the Department for Education has shared training resources.

Sarah Vanover stated there would need to be two parts of the regulation in regards to the meal requirements. One section for centers that serve food and another for centers that do not provide meals.

## III. CCAC Vote on Recommendations for DCC

Sarah Vanover then opened the floor for voting regarding SB 45.

All members agreed to 30 minutes of exercise for half days programs and 60 minutes for a full-day programs.

All members agreed to mandated tummy time for infants.

All members agreed to eliminate screen time for children under two years old. For children over the age of two, limit screen time to less than 30 minutes per day for children in half-day programs and less than 1 hour per day for those in full-day programs.

All members agreed child care programs couldn't use recess or physical activity time as rewards and punishments.

### **Discussion on Plan to Reopen Child Care Programs.....Sarah Vanover/Open Discussion**

Sarah Vanover reiterated the state is far from opening child care centers; however, a plan needs to be drafted with recommendations for when centers open. Sarah Vanover informed members child care center staff will not have to redo the background check process again. Centers will need to remove staff who have left from their rosters and update ECE TRIS. Sarah Vanover inquired if members had any suggestions to share.

Brenda Hagan, a member from ECAC, stated her center is going to implement touchless temperature checks for all staff and children entering into the center, and right after nap time. Sarah Vanover said many states who did not shut down child care are conducting temperature checks and explained these are done at LDC centers.

Brenda Bruner stated this is an excellent opportunity for centers to look over and rewrite their health and safety policies.

Nancy Roberts, a member from ECAC, stated centers should document if someone in the household had COVID-19 and how long they had the virus.

Rebecca Thomas, who is operating an LDC center, informed members the center allows no visitors and they continue to do temperature checks.

Kim Smart informed members the CDC has a guideline on their website for centers that are in operation.

Sarah Vanover states she is looking into CARES funds for centers to use for medical supplies and cleaning supplies. She noted this was a top priority for these funds.

Brenda Bruner suggested before centers open, and they could hire a professional cleaning service with those funds, instead of requiring staff to come in a week beforehand to clean.

**Community Updates.....Sarah Vanover**

Juanita Webb stated all of the Governor's Office for Early Childhood (GOEC) is working from home, and it is best to reach them by email. The in-person Early Childhood Institute (ECI) was canceled, but they are looking into national speakers presenting online. Juanita Webb stressed she still wants early childhood educators to get professional development. Lastly, she stated they are continuing work on ECE standards and PD framework, and that PDG will wrap up June 30th.

Bill Buchanan shared the regional training centers have been conducting weekly webinars. The Preschool Partnership Grants have not been added back into the budget, and he is unsure of the future of those grants. In the chatbox, he attached a link to family resource guides.

Sarah Vanover thanked our community partners for collaborating with DCC during this challenging time.

**New Business.....Open Discussion**

Sarah Vanover asked if anyone else had anything to share or any other questions.

Brenda Bruner asked if there would be extensions on yearly training requirements. Sarah Vanover stated no one would be penalized, and Mellissa Moore from Division of Regulated Child Care confirmed.

Rebecca Thomas expressed an issue with a requirement for LDC centers. She stated that as an LDC she has to have two staff members present in a room at all time. She stated this is becoming an issue when there are less than five infants or very few children in an age group. She stated this is a financial burden for two staff members to care for only one or two infants and stated it would not be best practice to combine rooms of different age groups. Mellissa Moore stated she is aware of the issue and has been looking into options. Rebecca Thomas expressed it has also been hard on the children in care because every day they do not know into which room they will be going.

Sandra Woodall informed members 4C would no longer be serving northern Kentucky as of June 30th. However, they have been offering free Zoom training, such as proper handwashing.

**Adjourn**

Sarah Vanover made a call to adjourn the Child Care Advisory Council meeting. Amy Hood made the motion, seconded by Sandra Woodall.