

Child Care Advisory Council Meeting
7/30/2020

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

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

Review of Minutes..... Open Discussion

Meeting minutes from April 2020 were approved.

DCC Updates..... Sarah Vanover

Currently, 86% of KY's licensed centers have reopened which is 1576 centers and 72% of certified programs have reopened which is 167 homes.

Ninety-one childcare centers have had a positive case of COVID-19; 49 children and 65 staff. However, these numbers are changing daily. Dayna Hayes, with the Division of Regulated Child Care, is keeping track of the data.

Local health departments are working with centers that have had positive cases. Only two centers, statewide, have had to close their entire program. A program in Lexington had one floater who provided lunch breaks for every classroom, which led to the entire center closing because the floater had exposed every classroom. DCC had advised against using this practice for that very reason.

A class-action lawsuit was filed in Boone County by the Florence Speedway, Little Links to Learning Child Care and Beans Café and Bakery. Attorney General Daniel Cameron joined the case, which was heard on July 16, 2020. Sarah Vanover and Dr. Steven Stack both provided testimony in the case. The judge ruled to overturn 922 KAR 2:400E, the emergency regulation limiting maximum group sizes to 10, allowing tours, and allowing classrooms to combine at the beginning and ending of the day. The next day, the KY Supreme Court issued a statement that it would hear oral arguments about the issue, essentially putting a stay to the Boone County judge's ruling. All e-regs will remain in place until the KY Supreme Court issues its ruling. Until a ruling is issued, DCC cannot make any changes to the emergency regulation.

School districts are beginning to announce how they will return to school. Most are moving to virtual learning. With schools not offering in-person services this will create a significant lack of available school-age care. Many school districts have contacted DCC seeking guidance on how to address supervision issues for school-age children.

DCC has completed a draft amendment for 922 KAR 2:120 incorporating the requirements established by SB 45. The voting members of CCAC and ECAC provided input and recommendations, which were incorporated into the regulation. Due to the current situation with virtual learning, DCC did have to change the originally proposed language to allow for school-age children completing NTI work to exceed the recommended amount of screen-time allowed. A listserv message was sent to all providers to let them know about the screen time exception.

On July 29, 2020, regulations 922 KAR: 090 and 922 KAR: 2:100 passed in the Health, Welfare, and Family Services committee. These regulations align training hour requirements for all programs, regardless of hire date. All training hours will be required by the end of each fiscal year (June 30). They also outline requirements for hiring substitute staff. In the licensure regulation, the wording changed from "the director will protect the health, safety, and comfort of each child" to "the center will protect the health, safety and comfort of each child." A Listserv message went out to inform everyone these regulations went into effect.

Most coaches and surveyors are working virtually. Some surveyors have tested positive for COVID-19. DCC and DRCC are working to make sure we protect them from exposure.

The KY All STARS program will be "frozen" for one year. However, DCC will still award payments based upon their last rating score.

KDE Update.....Bill Buchanan

The Department of Education has a new commissioner, Dr. Jason Glass, who will start on September 14, 2020.

The department released special education and preschool guidance. This document is on KDE's website and has four sections, including directions on social distancing.

When preschool starts, it will be a combination of NTI and in-person. However, the situation is fluid and could change depending on the virus.

KDE, DCC, and GOEC are attending peer-to-peer meetings to learn from other states surrounding reopening school and childcare.

Two preschool regulations are anticipated to have a temporary waiver – 704 KAR 3:015 (the KY All STARS for Preschool Programs) and 704 KAR 3:410 (Preschool education program for four (4) year old children).

Sarah Vanover and Bill Buchanan both stressed that their departments are seeking solutions to adapt to new health and safety guidance.

Sandra Woodhall asked if KDE has had conversations about what childcare will look like for school-age children. Sarah Vanover stated she and Amy Neal have been meeting with KDE to brainstorm ideas. Bill Buchanan said it is a balance, and it is important to keep conversations moving.

Sarah Vanover stated she has had meetings with some school districts about child care regulations, child care availability, and solutions.

GOEC.....Amy Neal

Amy Neal stated her team has been helpful and supportive since she has started as the Executive Director on May 1, 2020.

She stated GOEC's goal is clear: for all children to start school strong.

Amy Neal shared the three essential factors for children to start school strong. First, children need access to high quality early childhood experiences. Second is making sure every school is ready for every child. Third, is families and schools develop a strong partnership.

GOEC is focusing on making sure every child is ready for Kindergarten.

PD Regulation Discussion.....Sarah Vanover

The Trainer's Credential, Director's Credential, and Commonwealth Child Care Credential regulations will be opened. Several meetings have been held surrounding these regulations and what revisions are needed.

Some of the recommendations received are long-term goals. Since the state of child care has changed due to COVID-19, centers are now more vulnerable. The spread of the virus and its impact have some child care centers contemplating closure. Because centers are worried about their future, we do not want to put additional requirements to receive these credentials. However, some changes need to be made. One example being the Director's Credential, which currently states the college course work required to obtain the credential must be from a Kentucky institute of higher learning. This needs to be revised to allow the course work to be from any institute of higher learning.

Sandra Woodhall agreed we should not put additional requirements to receive any of the credentials. She stated for web-based training, there needs to be more accountability and quality measures put in place, especially since face-to-face training is currently not available.

Sarah Vanover described the different types of online training as well as the ability to see participants and monitor if they are paying attention.

Jessica Cain mentioned there are training avenues for more interaction.

Amy Hood stated she likes the opportunity to obtain a specific specialty credentials, such as management or health and safety.

Sarah Vanover stated members could email any recommendations on the PD regulations directly to her.

Community Updates.....Open Discussion

Jessica Cain stated the Prichard Committee will be hosting a Facebook Live event on August 5 highlighting family child care and the available resources in the current climate.

Sarah Vanover stated if centers plan to close their doors, the family child care group will reach out to see if any staff is interested in starting a certified family child care program. Jessica Cain stated this is in collaboration with CCA and the pilot projects across the state.

Lastly, Sarah Vanover expressed she is aware tensions are running high over the current climate. Sarah Vanover encouraged everyone to remember when people are upset, it is out of fear and to be patient and empathetic.

Adjourn

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