

Child Care Advisory Council Meeting

4/25/2019

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 on April 25, 2019 at Bluegrass Community Action Agency, 111 Professional Court Frankfort, KY 40601 commencing at 9:33AM.

Members in Attendance

Bill Buchanan, Twylynn Edwards, Dr. Amy Hood, Laura Glover, Jessica Peay, Zach Smith, Sarah Vanover, Juanita Webb, Sandra Woodall

Review of minutes..... Sarah Vanover

Upon arrival, committee members were given the agenda, and a copy of October/January meeting minutes. After a name correction in October minutes, and a name correction in January minutes, both were approved.

Division of Child Care (DCC) Updates.....Sarah Vanover

Regulation 922 KAR 2:160 is almost finalized. There was a regulation review in April, and no concerns were raised. The Regulation will go into effect on June 28 pending one final review. The regulation will allow full time college students, GED students, tech school students, and any trade school students the opportunity to sign up for CCAP, and the 20-hour workweek requirement waived. DCC plans to first advertise this within local DCBS (Department for Community Based Services) offices, and then possibly at colleges in the future. DCC observed that Alabama has a similar CCAP population, and had 600 to 800 students sign up once the workweek requirement was waived. DCC is aware once the work requirement is waived for full time students, this will have an impact on the family unit. The more education a mother has, the better support children receive.

The Kellogg grant pilots/hubs have started organizing and meeting. Workgroups have formed in five areas of the state. Each area is identifying barriers in their region, and working towards solutions to support the growth of in-home child care providers with a focus on expanding infant and toddler slots. The Eastern region is looking at growing technology supports. Louisville is looking at bringing together minority communities that already support one another.

Mel Banks stated the point of the grant is to recruit infant and toddler in-home providers. She stated the grant hopes to build models that can be used in other states. Sarah Vanover stated these hubs are working with various Early Childhood advocates to understand the needs of the region. Amy Hood stated in the western region they are focusing on building training

opportunities, and providing technical support. Sandra Woodall stated her hub is focusing on access in the community, tool kits, and assisting with zoning/fencing requirements. Zach Smith then addressed concerns about families coming forward who are not certified, and may be subject to fines due to taxes and zoning requirements. Sarah Vanover stated stressing the benefit to those families that getting certified could lead to more support from local agencies, such as 4Cs and being able to receive CCAP funds. Amy Hood stated in response, her region is communicating with locals in charge of zoning, and discussing what it really means to operate a certified family childcare home.

On April 22, KET hosted an Early Childhood Education forum. Bill Buchanan and Mike Hammons had the opportunity to present at the forum. The forum focused on challenges and achievements present within Early Childhood Education.

Presentation of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.....Krista King-Oakes

Across the state, there are 119 libraries. Krista stated librarians are being trained within Early Childhood Education. She stated librarians noticed they were being asked questions by parents, such as concerns surrounding developmental delays. These questions prompted libraries to become more knowledgeable so they could better assist parents whose children may not be in an early childhood setting.

Currently, 35-40 librarians are trained on the ASQ screener. In addition, libraries have Early Childhood kits that can be checked out for usage, such as sand tables. These kits are free to homes or any childcare center. Krista stated she hopes in the future, the libraries literacy program can also visit Certified Family Child Care Homes.

CCAC Subcommittee Organization..... Sarah Vanover

Sarah stated one of the subcommittees this group could focus on is access and affordability. She opened the floor for any nominations, or if any members had an area of interest. Sandra Woodall discussed the importance of a quality/access subcommittee. Juanita Webb then discussed the importance of all other subcommittees outside of CCAC working together with other committees that have already been formed. Sarah Vanover mentioned many of the CCAC members do already sit on those committees. Mel Banks stated she recognizes we do have many work groups within the ECE field. Sarah Vanover then mentioned that this group is unique due to providers and parents voices are represented in this council. Sarah Vanover stated it is important this group focus on parent education, and continuing the conversations about quality. Juanita Webb confirmed this by stating the PDG grant has found parents are uncertain what quality is, and parents mention other concerns that are important to them when choosing a child care center.

Sandra Woodall stated she hopes this committee can provide an action approach, and not just meeting focused. She stated instead of work groups, maybe the role of this council could be uniting all of the ECE workgroups.

Bill Buchanan reminded members this council will be always be around, because it is law, versus all of the workgroup grants are temporary.

Mel Banks stated she hopes the group can provide real specific action across the state, and make an impact.

Amy Hood stated she would like to bring the focus back to parent education.

Members also discussed the importance of the group imputing their thoughts on DCC regulations. Sarah Vanover stated there would be three regulations opening this summer that the group could focus on; the Trainer’s Credential, Director’s Credential, and the Commonwealth Credential. Sarah Vanover stated the meeting in July could focus on these regulations.

Sarah Vanover and Mel Banks then discussed the importance of DCC having a consumer friendly website. This is one of the areas the CCDF observes. Mel Banks noted Kayla Standafer has been working on the DCC website and has been attending webinars hosted by the ACF. Sarah Vanover stated in June or in the near future, there will be an optional separate meeting to discuss the DCC website.

Discussion: 2020 Rating Schedule..... Sarah Vanover

Due to the RTT (Race to the Top), expansion in 2017 and programs grandfathered into Kentucky ALL STARS, or earning a higher level, all program’s STARS will expire around the same period in 2020. Therefore, the Division is trying to problem solve ways to spread apart the number of programs that will need new rating visits in order to renew. DCC is trying to recruit all childcare aware staff, advocacy groups, and all within the field to try to spread the word to get programs to opt in for an earlier visit. The Division is trying to target level three providers since a level three has no minimum ERS score so they have the most to gain from an early visit. The Validation study showed that many level three centers could potentially move up in quality.

Sandra Woodall inquired if there were any risks to childcare providers if they do not go early. Sarah Vanover stated the only risk is their ERS visit may be delayed. Sarah Vanover stated there are incentives, such as getting their reward check earlier. DCC is asking child care aware coaches to focus on providers who will need visits in April, May and June to recruit for early visits.

Child Care Policy Research Partnership Grants.....Sarah Vanover

ACF has posted a policy research partnership grant opportunity. DCC has suggested using this grant to reach in-home childcare centers that are not certified. The grant could serve as an opportunity to assist the in-home childcare providers who have identified barriers in being certified, and provide opportunities to discuss the advantages of being certified, such as being able to accept CCAP funds. Sarah Vanover stated the grant would be able to focus on needed data, and assist in adding language or revising regulations. Mike Hammons (audience member) with Childrens Inc. suggested conducting an economic impact study to see how early childcare impacts the workforce and the state economy as a whole. He referenced similar studies conducted in Louisiana, Georgia, and Maryland.

New Business.....Open Discussion

Juanita Webb shared the plans for the Early Childhood Institute (ECI) are in the final stages. The Early Childhood Institute will be held June 19-21 at the Galt House. Juanita Webb stated the conference will be a little different this year due the sessions will be assigned based upon your career in ECE. The different tracks of the ECI are infant and toddler development, leadership, family engagement, special education, and a general track. The last day to register for the conference is May 1.

Bill Buchanan provided an update on the partnership grants. On May 8, a webinar will take place on policy and budget updates. He also spoke about the Groundswell Initiative. This project is a collaborative effort by the folks at KDE, the Prichard Committee, Berea Partners for Education, and Children Inc. to raise awareness about family engagement, assess current family engagement policies and practices, provide training and technical assistance, and implement an evidence-based family literacy model in each partner’s region. It is funded through a USDOE grant.

Mel Banks stated after the meeting she will send to all members links to; the KET forum, information concerning the 2020 rating schedule push, the DCC website, grant announcement, information on who is currently sitting on this committee, and the regulations that are opening this summer.

Adjourn

Sarah Vanover made a call to adjourn the Child Care Advisory Council meeting. The next meeting will be July 25, 2019, 1:00PM.