

Child Care Advisory Council Meeting

10/23/2018

Call to Order..... Sarah Vanover

The meeting of the Child Care Advisory Council duly called by Sarah Vanover, Division of Child Care Director, at 1:04 PM. Upon arrival, council members were presented with a copy of the past two meeting's minutes, the Child Care Advisory Statue, and a mission statement draft.

In Attendance

Mel Banks, Brenda Brunner, Bill Buchanan, Twylynn Edwards, Kim Gibson, Linda Hampton, Mike Haney, Patricia Porter, Erica Tipton, Sarah Vanover, Sandra Woodall

Welcome and Introductions..... Sarah Vanover

Sarah Vanover welcomed members to the Child Care Advisory meeting. The Child Care Advisory members introduced themselves, beginning with Sarah Vanover, the Director for the Division of Child Care. Sarah Vanover apologized for any missed communication due to some member emails have outdated addresses, and emails may be going to spam. Sarah Vanover directed members to let the Division of Child Care know if contact information needs to be updated.

Members were directed to review the past two meeting's minutes for any additions/errors. Members noted a link error for the meeting minutes in April, a name correction for Mike Hammons, and a name correction for Kevin Middleton. Once those are corrected, members approved April meeting minutes. July meeting minutes were approved with no corrections.

DCC Updates..... Sarah Vanover

Several initiatives have occurred within the Division of Child Care. Sarah Vanover stated the National Background Check Program initial launch has ended. Andrea Day, the supervisor of the CORE section, provided the detailed update.

The Division of Child Care estimated 25,000 background checks would be submitted, however, over 33,000 background checks have been submitted. The Division can assume from the increase, the communication and procedures for the new background checks were implemented in a concise and clear manner. Andrea Day and staff have been reaching out to any providers in the state who missed the compliance date (September 30, 2018).

Kentucky State Police (KSP) are experiencing staff shortages, and are working through a high volume of background checks. This has caused delays in getting results back to the provider. Around 4400 child care provider/staff background checks are being completed by KSP, with a 31-day turnaround. In the beginning of the launch, KSP was not experiencing the volume from other

state initiatives, and this caused child care background checks to move more quickly through the system. The Office of Inspector General (OIG) has been in close communication with KSP and have offered any assistance that would be appropriate between offices. Andrea Day provided a copy of an updated map, showing states that are taking part in the new background checks. In the beginning of the launch, all states were provided with a list of other states' background contact information. The Division of Child Care passed the information to providers; Andrea Day communicated the Division is updating this list and working out a solution to make this customer friendly when a provider needs a check from another state. Andrea Day communicated her and staff have been striving for the best customer service possible in working through the process.

Sarah Vanover informed the members of the council the Division of Regulated Child Care has been notified not to site any child care providers who have not gotten the results back from KSP in a timely manner. Child care providers will need to print the information they have submitted the background check, Andrea Day informed members, it is out of the providers control when the results are provided. Sarah Vanover also communicated it would not be until next year until data can be captured on the amount of child care providers who were not compliant. Erica Tipton asked if there would be any reason someone could not work with no results. Sarah Vanover advised they can work, but cannot be left alone in the classroom. The regulation speaks to the provider submitting the background check, but it was noted again, providers have no control of getting the results. Eric Tipton inquired if a state is in green on the map, what checks need to be completed. Andrea Day advised just the Child Abuse and Neglect check needs to be completed. Kim Gipson inquired if the results could span longer than 31 days. Andrea Day stated no, due to the volume of the checks will not increase; Andrea Day advised there are certain dates in the year where the volume is high, such as around a new school year. Andrea Day communicated with the members that KSP has been diligent in working through the background checks. Linda Hampton inquired if communication has gone out to providers concerning not being sited for getting results back late. Andrea Day stressed the Division of Child Care has been in close contact with the Division of Regulated Child Care, and the few times surveyors sited, the issue was resolved quickly with a phone call. In addition, Andrea Day and staff sent out a listserv message to providers concerning not being sited. Sarah Vanover also noted Child Care Aware coaches have been notified. She also advised there are three opportunities in the process for providers to print the proof of submitting the fingerprints, and the Division of Child Care can see the information, and provide the proof is necessary. Linda Hampton then inquired how the process will affect Head Start programs, Andrea Day advised this process through KARES, is only for licensed programs. Head start programs may have to complete finger-based background checks, but it will not go through the KARES system. Last, Sarah Vanover mentioned a problem she noticed as a previous director. When the system gives three close locations for a child care provider/staff member to go get fingerprinted, it will advise based upon a person's address on a license. Therefore, she urged members to remember this is a suggestion, child care providers/staff can go to any location on the map in the state of Kentucky.

Mel Banks then communicated to the members the Division of Child Care had a federal call, and the state of Kentucky is ahead of the new background check process required for all states. Mel Banks noted the Division was proud of the work accomplished, and felt gratitude for the praise on a federal level.

Sarah Vanover and Mel Banks then provided the update surrounding the Kellogg grant. The Division of Child Care hired a coordinator to oversee the grant: Jessica Cain. Sarah Vanover informed members the grant increases and focuses on care for infants and toddlers in family child care homes. Mel Banks communicated to the members, advocates from all over the state; some in this room have been providing input. A workshop has been planned for January, and the purpose will be to plan a pilot. Mel Banks stated Jessica Cain has been in communication with All Our Kin, this program supports child care providers in business aspects. Sarah Vanover stressed this is important due to some child care providers mostly have a background in early childhood education, and not in business. Jessica Cain and the Division want to ensure child care home providers have business knowledge. Mel Banks urged council members to email Jessica Cain: (Jessica.Cain@ky.gov) for any suggestions concerning the grant. Bill Buchanan inquired where the pilot might take place. Mel Banks stated, the purpose of the workgroup is to plan for the pilot, she believes they all have an open mind, but also data will have an impact.

Mission Statement.....Sarah Vanover

Sarah Vanover advised members to review the mission statement provided, and to give their feedback. Sarah read the statement to the members. Committee members had a roundabout discussion on the mission statement. Several members suggested adding language concerning collaboration, affordability, and bridging the gap. Linda Hampton advised the mission statement should be short and not measurable. After all input was received, Sandra Woodall read to the members a suggested mission statement. All members agreed with the statement. Sarah Vanover advised Sandra Woodall to draft the mission statement and send it to her via email, and then she will forward to the rest of the committee.

CCDFSarah Vanover

Sarah Vanover informed council members the Division of Child Care has been working through the initiatives for the increase in funds awarded through the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF). The greatest need was to grow access to child care, and to improve quality. The first priority was increasing the provider rates. The financial analysis has been completed internally, and now the cost is being examined based upon the geographical location of counties. The second priority is increasing the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) at redetermination from 165% to 200%. This would give child care assistance recipients a chance to adjust economically, and create stability for children in care. The third priority is removing the work requirement for Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) receipts who are pursuing higher education. Sarah Vanover also informed members the

Division of Child Care plans to pay for children in foster care under the Child Care Assistance Program. CCAP is currently not accepted alongside foster care payments. Mel Banks informed members right now funds come from The Division of Protection and Permanency (DPP), and moving forward the support from DPP will not change, including the way families apply, but the financial support through CCDF would be the change.

Sarah Vanover advised the CCDF priorities would be filed as either emergency or ordinary regulations. The provider rate increases, the increase to 200% of the FPL, and the foster care payments would be filed as emergency regulations. However, the student waiver would be filed, as an ordinary regulation due to this will allow for open comment, and for logistics to be resolved. Sarah Vanover informed members the logistics could get technical for the student waiver, such as does the waiver require the student to be full time, have a good academic standing, good attendance, etc. Members expressed they would like to be involved in working through the logistics of the student waiver. Mel Banks stated she would check with Elizabeth Caywood to see the timeline, but Sarah Vanover also communicated to members this could be a part of the January meeting. Erica Tipton inquired if these changes would require a rewrite of the Benefind system. Mel Banks informed members this would not require a rewrite, and would simply be a manipulation of numbers. Kim Gipson inquired if the provider rate increase will be more for infants and toddlers. Mel Banks stated the increase is based upon the market rate survey, and infants and toddlers have a higher rate reflected. Mel Banks also informed members, type 1 and type 2 providers could reflect different rates, based upon the market rate survey, and type 2 providers are within in the home, and require fewer funds to operate than a type 1. Mel Banks also informed member no providers would see their rates decrease, there will only be increases.

Other BusinessOpen Discussion

Sarah Vanover informed members the state plan is on the home page of the Division of Child Care website, with the amendments and plan pending final federal approval. The Advisory also has a new parent appointment; Zachary, who is from Fort Thomas. Sandra Woodall provided Sarah Vanover more parent contact information for potential appointees. Sandra Woodall then inquired what needs to be in the final report that is due. Sarah Vanover informed members the report needs to be a summary of what the council did, and Sarah Vanover suggested collaborating through email to put together one document.

Sarah Vanover inquired if there were any comments or questions. Sandra Woodall suggested emailing Division of Child Care updates before the meetings, so the council could have more time to discuss the updates and provide input. Sarah Vanover advised council members to make sure the Division of Child Care has the correct email address on file. Bill Buchanan stressed the importance of forming sub committees. Last, Sandra Woodall inquired if we could set dates for future meetings. Sarah Vanover stated the next meeting would be January 24, 2019 from 1:00PM-3:00PM, and the quarterly meetings would occur on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Sarah Vanover opened the discussion to audience members. An audience member informed the council the meetings were 'refreshing' and appreciated the work towards quality for children in the commonwealth. Linda Hampton, then informed all members on the work the Governor's office for Early Childhood was completing. She gave a brief update on the partnership grants, and informed members of a literacy campaign that will take place on November 16.

Adjourn

Sarah Vanover adjourned the Child Care Advisory Council meeting, with a first motion by Sandra Woodall, and a second by Brenda Brunner at 2:59PM.