

Child Care Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2019

Members in Attendance: Brenda Bowman, Bill Buchanan, Laura Glover, Amy Hood, Zack Smith, Erica Tipton, Sarah Vanover, Sandra Woodall

Audience: Melissa Banks, Andrea Day, Mike Hammons, Catherine Lowe, Dr. Sheryl Means, Kevin Middleton, Jessica Peay, Juanita Webb

Minutes from the October meeting were not available but will be presented at the April 25, 2019, meeting for approval.

A copy of the CCAC 2018 Annual Report was provided to each member. Sarah Vanover advised the report was submitted to the Department for Community Based Services Commissioner's Office on December 9, 2018, and then to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services Secretary's Office. She advised she will follow-up with Cabinet leadership and seek feedback.

Sarah Vanover presented Division of Child Care updates:

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) - The federal government shutdown affects many programs administered by the Department for Community Based Services including CCAP. Sarah Vanover advised CCAP has enough funding to sustain for several months. She explained a participant must receive a 30-day notice if there was a change to CCAP status, however there is no minimum notification requirement for a change in funding. She advised funding, or lack thereof, would not impact a participant's CCAP status. Sarah Vanover advised DCC will provide parents and providers with notice as far as in advancement as possible if funding is depleted. She also shared that the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is exploring possible ways to supplement payments.

Council members requested DCC share any information about depletion of funding with the group as soon as possible. Sarah Vanover advised DCC will use multiple platforms (DCC listserv, ECE-Insider, Parent Portal, Provider Portal, press releases, social media, etc.) to share information with the public and all stakeholders.

Mike Hammons offered to share the information on KY's Voice for Early Childhood social media accounts.

Erica Tipton asked if DCC will ever have their own social media presence, independent of the Cabinet's. Sarah Vanover advised DCBS is hiring a full-time staff member devoted to media/communications and DCBS may launch its own social media presence, which would include DCC.

Laura Glover suggested providing a list of available local resources with any notifications.

Amy Hood inquired if the funding runs out but a child continues to receive care, will the provider receive back pay. Sarah Vanover advised she believes back pay would be provided but would seek clarification from ACF.

Brenda Bowman asked if other programs could tap into CCDF funding. Sarah Vanover advised there is a possibility of redirection for children receiving TANF.

DCC Reorganization – Sarah Vanover provided the council with an overview of changes within the structure of DCC. DCC is now composed of two branches: CCAP and Quality Enhancements. She explained the function of each. She also shared Assistant Director Darlene Hoover was retired effective January 31, 2019. Sarah Vanover advised interviews have been conducted for the Assistance Director position as well as the Quality Enhancements Branch Manager position.

The Preschool Development Grant (PDG) was briefly discussed. Bill Buchanan shared the five (5) activities associated with the grant. He also shared that KDE had also had a reorganization. He also shared that 52 partnership grants had been submitted and would be evaluated by Northern Kentucky University.

Juanita Webb advised the two key objectives for the PDG were transparency and to hone collaboration skills among agencies. She stated Year One (1) of the grant is a planning year. She stated the needs assessment and strategic plan must be submitted by mid-April.

Sarah Vanover discussed how the PDG would provide valuable information to continue improvements to Kentucky All STARS, ECE standards, professional development and workforce development.

Sandy Woodall asked if the members of CCAC could play a role within any of the focus groups or subcommittees established by the PDG. Juanita Webb advised there are currently five (5) focus groups which were parent-focused and provider focused. She stated the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) subcommittees and work groups will be soliciting participation feedback from all stakeholders including members of CCAC.

Jessica Cain and Dr. Cheryl Means then presented on the Kellogg Foundation Grant. Jessica Cain advised focus groups were developed in 8 regions and consisted of providers and coaches. She advised pilot hubs would be created. She announced workshops were being held on February 7 and 8 to discuss service driven projects, quality, quantity, and shared services.

Dr. Means shared there are currently 62 counties considered child care deserts. She stated one focus of this project is to encourage recruitment of those already providing care to become registered/certified. She also discussed the benefits of a shared services network.

Mike Hammons asserted there is a definite correlation with high unemployment rates and child care. He also encouraged Ms. Cain and Dr. Means to solicit stories to share from the members of the focus groups.

Jessica Cain and Dr. Means agreed. They indicated an overarching question is “Where is the workforce?” Dr. Means stated the outreach is stressing the importance of quality to those who are providing care.

Mike Hammons suggested being more deliberate about outreach, especially considering the number of grandparents watching their grandkids is exploding.

Mel Banks advised the grant is exploring how to create models that can be replicated across the state. She acknowledged there is the potential of overlap between lots of programs, grants, etc.

Jessica Cain shared specific areas of need with in-home providers are; business practices, professional development, recruitment, and resources. She stated of those surveyed the years of service range from 3 ½ years to 39 years.

The group discussed the pilot hubs briefly. Jessica Cain shared the idea is to have 3 to 4 hubs, but it would depend on the work/guidance of the workshops being held in February. Dr. Means also shared it would depend on the distribution of efforts.

The group also discussed what terminology should be used provider/caretaker/business owner/professional/teacher. Sarah Vanover advised the Kentucky Administrative Regulations (KAR) use provider. Mike Hammons offered using director or teacher may help with zoning issues. Dr. Means also shared surveyors are making judgements based on title. Amy Hood advised early care professional is used in the title of orientation. Jessica Cain suggested making KAR easier to read/understand would be helpful. Sandy Woodall supported the idea of elevating the language used in classifying providers. Sarah Vanover stated it is really a branding/marketing issue and elevating what we call providers could empower the profession and switch the perspective.

Shannon Smith with the American Heart Association was then invited to discuss her agency’s recommendations for Early Care and Education Standards (handout provided). She stated the AHA would like to unify center standards regarding nutrition, sugary drinks, physical activity, and screen time to ensure health equity.

Sarah Vanover advised the regulations surrounding this topic are not currently open and AHA is seeking feedback.

Sandy Woodall asked if AHA had reached out to food sponsors and, if not, she offered to send a list of food sponsors to Ms. Smith.

Shannon Smith advised AHA does have legislative support for this initiative but would wait until 2020 to file.

Sarah Vanover stated nutritional standards have financial implications, while the others do not.

Brenda Bowman stated the food program follows FDA standards.

Catherine Lowe advised coaches see more programs that do participate in the food program.

Bill Buchanan stated public preschool and Head Start both follow USDA guidelines.

Jessica Cain advised milk has been a big issue within the last 5 years. Use of soy milk requires a doctor's note. Nut milks also have implications especially in allergy-free centers.

Amy Hood suggested AHA research the National Association for Sports and Physical Education.

Sarah Vanover shared Go NAPSACC is a grant-funded program through the Department of Public Health.

Bill Buchanan advised it was important to tie standards to higher priorities and to explain why standards matter.

Erica Tipton stated she would be happy to see tummy time added to the list. She also expressed a need for more educational information to give to parents and providers.

Mel Banks advised it is important to consider minimum requirements are outlined in regulations versus best practice/high quality/All Stars requirements.

Sarah Vanover voiced concern that the federal food program requirements could put some centers out of business.

Shannon Smith reiterated the AHA sees these 4 areas as the foundational skills for equity.

Mel Banks stated it is important to strike the right balance. She stated the group needs to determine if a change is a regulatory requirement, it may be too restrictive for small business owners/non-traditional providers.

Mike Hammons stated this was a great conversation about leveraging available resources.

New Business was then discussed.

Mike Hammons asked about the RFP. Sarah Vanover confirmed the RFP would be released soon. She shared Sean Combs (sean.combs@ky.gov) was the point of contact and she shared a timeline for questions and applications.

Mike Hammons inquired about the status of vacancies on the CCAC. Sarah Vanover indicated the weather and illnesses played a part in absenteeism. She also advised Kim Gipson would need to be replaced as she has accepted another job in another state.

The CCAC Annual Report was shared with the group.

Sandy Woodall asked how subcommittees/workgroups would function.

Bill Buchanan suggested identifying chairs for each, then the chairs could determine the process. He advised the chairs should be CCAC members.

Sandy Woodall also suggested soliciting members from the larger stakeholder group to participate on subcommittees/workgroups.

Amy Hood asked if there was a charge for each group.

Sarah Vanover stated the subcommittees should encourage participation from other groups and parents. She stated nominations for each subcommittee should be shared at the April meeting.