

Child Care Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2018

In attendance: Christa Bell, Brenda Bowman, Bill Buchanan Tal Curry, Twylynn Edwards, Kimberly Gipson, Mike Haney, Amy Hood, Holly LaFavers, Patricia Porter, Erica Tipton, and Sandra Woodall.

Minutes of previous meeting were presented and reviewed. A nomination was made for approval of minutes and seconded. Approval of minutes was voted upon and passed.

Christa Bell reminded current members that membership expires June, 2018. Application to reapply for membership is available online. Christa Bell will send link to all members.

Christa Bell discussed the need for a co-chair. Dr. Amy Hood was nominated and accepted nomination. Unanimous approval was given by quorum.

Christa Bell then presented Division of Child Care Updates:

CCDF State Plan – Draft of State Plan is available on the DCC website at <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dcbs/dcc/Pages/default.aspx> and is open for public comment until 05/02/2018. A public hearing is scheduled following the Child Care Advisory Council meeting today. Comments can be emailed to Christa Bell at Christa.Bell@ky.gov. The state plan serves as the application for Child Care and Development Funds for the next three years.

Christa Bell indicated stakeholder engagement and involvement needs to improve with regards to the development and revision of the State Plan. Christa Bell requested members email her with suggestions for membership of the stakeholder group.

National Background Check Program – Implementation phase began in March. There are currently fingerprint sites in 80 counties across the state. A KOG account is required to access NBCP. DCC Help Desk email is CHFSDCCNBCP@ky.gov for any questions. By federal law, background checks must be processed within 45 days. Currently, it's taking 4 days from date of fingerprint submission to receive results.

Stats for progress thus far are: 900 users; 5696 checks have been initiated; 1786 checks have been completed; 3667 eligibility determinations in progress; and 243 closed before determination.

Christa Bell explained the differences between CCDF requirements and Head Start requirements for background checks.

All-STARS – The Race to the Top Grant goal for Kentucky was for 45% of providers to reach high quality status by May 2018. As of March, that goal was surpassed with 46% of providers reaching high quality status. A validation study is ongoing as the Cabinet looks at sustainability. Providers can use the press release template on file with the Cabinet’s Office of Communications. Gail Edwards requested the template be sent to existing 5-star centers.

922 KAR 2:270 was filed on April 13, 2018, and is currently open for public comment through May 31, 2018. STARS for KIDS NOW has been repealed as of 04/13/2018.

An All-STARS KICCS portal is coming June 2018. DCC will also be transitioning to ECERS-3 in July 2018. Erica Tipton suggested a training be offered for providers on ECERS-3.

DCC will also begin using Branaugh software this summer which make the information gathered during a rating visit more readily available.

Christa Bell shared that DRCC has agreed not to cite providers for 922 KAR 2:210, Section 5. Sandy Woodall advised some providers have already been cited for this. Christa Bell advised this would be rectified. Christa Bell shared she a meeting scheduled with DRCC on April 25 to discuss options.

Erica Tipton suggested it may be beneficial to include providers on KAR workgroups in an effort to avoid these types of issues/backtracking.

Dr. Hood also suggested the Child Care Advisory Council could assist with the review of KAR prior to filing to help alleviate these types of issues.

CCAP and Benefind Updates – Christa Bell shared there continues to be an increase in the number of applications. Providers will be able to upload enrollment certificates through their KICCS portal after May 4, 2018. A dedicated mailbox has been established for cases needing additional attention Escelated_Case@ky.gov (There is an underscore in the email address (escalated_case)).

Erica Tipton suggested DCC holding forums to address major KAR changes and possibly having a PowerPoint presentation to discuss possible impacts to providers. Christa Bell advised the Regional Child Care Administrators may be able to serve this function.

Group Discussion:

Dr. Amy Hood asked if the Child Care Advisory Council could serve as a stakeholder and participate in the drafting/reviewing of KAR changes. Dr. Hood asked if this needed to be a formal process. Christa Bell stated discussing KAR changes could be a standing agenda item for the Child Care Advisory Council. Kimberly Gipson advised she thinks having this topic as a

standing agenda item would suffice. Christa Bell asked the members to review what KRS 199.8983 requires. The group read KRS 199.8983. Sandy Woodall made a motion to keep KAR discussion as a standing agenda item and to include any recommendations in the annual report. Erica Tipton seconded the motion. Kimberly Gipson asked for a definition of “annually.” Christa Bell advised statute mandates the Child Care Advisory Council hold quarterly meetings and submit an annual report by December 1. It was agreed upon that the council would need to agree on what recommendations would be made in the annual report by the October meeting.

Erica Tipton expressed the need to focus on the provider community and to bridge the gap between the council and providers. Christa Bell suggested a discussion needs to occur about the council’s role and a communication plan to the provider community.

Christa Bell asked if the council should form committees. Bill Buchanan concurred committees would be helpful. KRS 199.8983, Section 6 was reviewed and discussed:

“ The council shall advise the cabinet on matters affecting the operations, funding, and licensing of child-care centers and family child-care homes. The council shall provide input and recommendations for ways to improve quality, access, and outcomes.”

The group discussed the focus of committees: availability and accessibility; affordability; quality. Dr. Amy Hood suggested the focus of committees be: operation; funding; licensing.

Gail Edwards asked that the three new council members be provided with a copy of KRS 199.8983 along with all other information shared at previous council meetings.

Bill Buchanan suggested the council develop a vision and mission statement. Christa Bell invited each member to bring suggestions to the next council meeting for discussion. Kimberly Gipson stated tabling the discussion of committees until next meeting would give all members (old and new) the opportunity to review and process the necessary information. Brenda Bowman agreed subcommittees would be helpful to the council.

Mike Haney indicated the council need to define availability, accessibility, affordability, and quality as it pertains to the council’s purpose. Dr. Amy Hood advised the focus of the 3 groups should be operation, funding, and licensing.

Bill Buchanan asked if providers could be included in subcommittees.

Christa Bell advised if the council had no formal recommendations by October that would be OK. Christa Bell indicated it would give the council more time for development as well as the opportunity to invite guest presenters for future meetings.

Erica Tipton offered her view of what the council’s focus should be: “Is there enough quality child care in Kentucky that I can afford that has openings?”

Mike Haney asked if this should be determined by county? By geographical area? Christa explained the available data that could be discussed.

Erica Tipton advised providers do not know the Child Care Advisory Council exists and asked how to communicate to providers. Christa Bell advised the councils meetings are open to the public. Christa Bell advised the ECE-TRIS Insider is being revamped to share more pertinent information with providers about issues that could potentially impact their day-to-day operations. Erica Tipton suggested inviting providers to attend these meetings so providers know they have a voice.

Brenda Bowman stated she believes the Child Care Advisory Council should discuss what federal money the state will receive and how it will be spent. Christa Bell shared the National Women's Law Center's estimate. Christa Bell advised decisions will need to be made about the state's priorities. Christa Bell indicated any decisions should be very thoughtful that expenditures can be sustainable. Sandy Woodall pointed out that the money outlined in the State Plan could be different than what is received. Christa Bell advised the State Plan could be amended.

Dr. Hood requested members be updated via email between meetings so everyone is more informed when the council meets.

Bill Buchanan asked each member to update the council about their respective agency. Bill Buchanan shared KDE updates and information about Partnership Grants. He stated he will share numbers that can relate to All-STARS. The Early Childhood Institute (ECI) will be held at the Galt House in June. He also shared information about Striving Readers.

Holly Lafavers confirmed ECI was scheduled for June 13-15, with pre-conferences on June 12. She stated registration is currently open (1500 cap) and approximately 250 scholarships have been awarded. She stated there are 4 different keynotes; 106 sessions; 18 hours of training.

Dr. Amy Hood discussed next steps for the council. Dr. Amy Hood offered to draft statements for the council to consider for next meeting. Erica Tipton and Sandy Woodall offered to assist.

Several audience members were present and asked to make comments:

Mike Hammons, Children, Inc. – Mr. Hammons stated he is thrilled about this group and it's mission. He shared he believed there should be a focus on access now since quality has made great strides in the last 4-5 years. He also stated focus should be given to family child care and reimbursement. He also asked the council to consider how its work will relate to the work being done by ECAC. Mr. Hammons stated the State Plan is more transparent and more responsive to questions than in years past. He asked what kind of input would be meaningful on the State Plan and how to make comments.

Christa Bell explained the difference between a stakeholder group (conversation) vs. a public hearing (documented comments).

Kevin Milton, United Way – Mr. Milton supported Mr. Hammons’ comments. He stated he would like for the council to focus on reimbursement rates (increase).

Patricia Tennen, Kentucky Youth Advocates – Ms. Tennen urged the council to think about how progress will be measured and about child-care deserts. She stated “What gets measured, is what gets done.”

Shannon Smith, Kids Matter – Ms. Smith expressed gratitude to the council on behalf of providers.

Meeting was adjourned.