

Child Care Advisory Council Meeting

10/24/2017

Call to Order.....Commissioner Adria Johnson

The meeting of the Child Care Advisory Council duly called by Commissioner Adria Johnson and held on October 24, 2017 at Administrative Office of the Court, 1001 Vandalay Drive, Frankfort, KY 40621 commencing at 9:00AM. Adria Johnson thanked every board member for attending the meeting. Adria Johnson acknowledged the Child Care Advisory meeting is now under new administration and as a result has had a delayed start, but is thankful for the Child Care Advisory Meeting commencing today.

In Attendance

Christa Bell, Bill Buchanan sitting for Stephen Pruitt, Elizabeth Caywood, Adrienne Bush, Twylynn Edwards, Gary Faulkner, Linda Hampton, Mike Haney, Dr. Amy Hood, Adria Johnson, Erica Tipton

Absent

Linda Avery, April Glover, Randi Jansen, Carol Moore, Patricia Porter, Erica Vaught

Welcome and Introductions.....Commissioner Adria Johnson

Adria Johnson welcomed members to the Child Care Advisory meeting and acknowledged House Bill 429 was passed in the 2015 legislative session to allow for this gathering. The Child Care Advisory members then introduced themselves.

Statutory Requirements.....Elizabeth Caywood

Elizabeth Caywood began the meeting by explaining to the board members the House Bills enacted for establishment of the Child Care Advisory Council. Elizabeth Caywood stated the council was created based on childcare provider needs and areas of concerns. Particularly, northern Kentucky childcare providers who felt disenfranchised, and stated they were not sure of all the available resources. House Bill 425 was not opposed. The Bill was sought out by the community of childcare providers with the goal of the providing ways to increase quality. The Child Care Advisory meets quarterly throughout the year.

Election of Co-Chair.....Christa Bell

Christa Bell stated there are currently two member vacancies; one for a member representing child-care providers, and the other for a member from the private sector who is knowledgeable about education, health, and development of children. Christa Bell stated there is a link available for potential members to apply. (Insert link?)

The Child Care Advisory also needs to fill a Co-Coach Chair. There was going to be a call to vote, however, elections can only take place with 13 voting members, and only 5 were present. A motion was made by Amy Hood to gather nominations and send those to Christa Bell.

Division of Child Care Updates.....Christa Bell

(A PowerPoint presentation is available with the statutory requirements presented by Elizabeth Caywood, and DCC updates presented by Christa Bell.)

Christa Bell began the updates of the division by explaining there are three sections within the Division of Childcare. All three sections have had major initiatives going on at the same time. The three sections within DCC are CCAP Section (Child Care Assistance Program,) CORE Services Section, and Quality Initiative Section.

CCAP:

Christa Bell began the update of the CCAP program by stating the program's eligibility determination moved to the Benefind system as of October 1 2017 under the Department for Community Based Services. Provider assistance has been moved to the Division of Child Care.

- The benefits of CCAP being a part of Benefind and eligibility determined by DCBS are:
 - Increased access. While applicants apply for SNAP, they will also have eligibility determined for CCAP.
 - Easier access. CCAP was once the only public service not offered as part of Benefind. Prior to moving to Benefind some eligibility workers, through the contract, were located in separate offices, and had to split their time between multiple counties.
 - Fraud reduction, due to families will only report to one entity. Before moving to Benefind there were over 5,000 cases not matching information found in DCBS cases. (Included in the figure are demographic information.)
 - 8 million contract back in-house.
 - Reduced error rates
 - Reduced administrative burdens
 - Compliance with federal requirements. Families will be assessed for other benefits within the same eligibility screening.
 - Increase in child enrollments.
 - 2,598 new applications have been submitted since the go-live date, which is 5 times greater than the amount before Benefind.

Christa Bell then noted the Child Care Council (previous contract holder) has been helpful in assisting with the transition to Benefind.

CORE:

Christa Bell began the CORE update by stating due to the 2014 Reauthorization Act; new federal mandates concerning background checks will be implemented. Currently, all background or CA/N (child abuse and neglect) checks are conducted based upon the applicant's name. However, due to the mandate all background checks will be conducted using the applicant's fingerprint. Christa Bell stated this is an unfunded federal mandate, therefore the mandate is costly. The mandate was to be implemented by September 30, 2017 however the Division requested an extension, which was granted for September 30, 2018. Regulations have been drafted and will be submitted in January 2018.

Christa Bell stated there is a staged plan for implementation of the fingerprint background checks. A pilot will be scheduled for the end of this year, and then beginning in January, providers will be notified to submit to the new background checks based upon the end of their licensure month. Starting next year over 24,000 current childcare staff will need to have their fingerprints ran for the new background check.

Christa Bell then stated there are benefits to the new background check. The new background check will allow for a rap-back feature. This means any new crime committed by an applicant would alert the necessary entities. In addition, the new checks are good for 5 years versus annually, and if the applicant does choose to apply to another childcare center, as long as there is not a 6-month gap, the fingerprint background check can be transferred (however there are administrative fees for the transfer). Lastly, Christa Bell stated there were concerns about the cost of the new background check. Using Race to the Top funds, the new background check fees will be absolved by the division, as long as the funds are available.

Linda Hampton did state if there was any way her office could assist in implementing the new background checks to let her know; Christa Bell stated the Division could potentially use help in communicating upcoming changes to providers.

Quality Initiative Section:

Currently in the Quality Initiative Section, two QRS (quality rating systems) are running side by side; STARS for KIDS NOW, and KY ALL STARS. KY ALL STARS will be the ongoing rating system, and providers have steadily stopped participating in STARS for KIDS NOW.

Christa Bell stated the Division was granted a no-cost extension for the Race to the Top grant, and therefore the project is extended until December 31, 2018. Currently, the project is focusing on curriculum and screener assessment tools for providers.

Lastly, Christa Bell stated the KY ALL STARS system currently has 30.5% of programs achieving a high quality rating (level 3 or above). The goal of the project being 45%.

Christa Bell and Commissioner Adria Johnson did state the Division did work through the comments made through the Red Tape Reduction project. Christa stated the Division implemented most of the comments, as long as they did not affect the safety or health of the children in care.

Vision and Next Steps.....Open Discussion

Christa Bell opened the meeting for comments on what goals and visions the Child Care Advisory Council would like to see happen in the future. Christa Bell stated she would start; she hoped the meetings could provide constructive criticism and provide opportunities for feedback.

Linda Hampton then stated she would like her office to be utilized for upcoming DCC initiatives, and to please use their voice. She stated her office does get many phone calls concerning changes within DCC, and has been referring them back to the Division. She stated if her office could be given more information or a script to answer those questions it could be helpful for parents and providers.

Erica Tipton stated she would like to see the meetings as a way to be “looped in” and to continue providing transparency.

Amy Hood stated she would like to see the provider community understand the why’s and how’s of changes that the Division enacts. Amy stated she would like to see the childcare community understand the federal mandates surrounding changes enacted by the Division.

Adrienne Bush stated she would like to see what sources of funding surround the programs within the Division, specifically, the Child Care Assistance Program. Adria Johnson stated this could be a part of the next meeting.

Amy Hood then stated she would like to state the importance of PD (Professional Development) in relating back to quality of a childcare program. She stated the free sessions of trainings are often taken advantage of, however, if a training costs money, then the participation is not as high. She also stated there is no true quality without PD. Amy stated she would like to see strategies developed around continuing to provide quality to childcare programs.

Bill Buchanan then stated quality is important for programs. He stated he hoped the Child Care Advisory Council could cooperate in providing quality for childcare programs so all children are ready and prepared for school.

Linda Hampton stated she would like the childcare community to also understand the why's and how's of enacted changes. Linda pointed to the example of Elizabeth Caywood providing the historical background of how the Child Care Advisory Council was formed. Elizabeth Caywood then stated she has a regulation watch-list that anyone on the Advisory Council can sign up for, (include the link in meeting min.)

*Rick Hulefeld in the audience stated he hoped that the Child Care Advisory Council meetings could be a place where all childcare providers could bring their concerns and questions to be addressed.

Lastly, Adria Johnson stated that the next meeting would surround the funding streams within the Division of Child Care.

Meeting Dates for 2018.....Open Discussion

Christa Bell began by stating the Child Care Advisory Council does meet quarterly throughout the year: January, April, July and October. Christa Bell stated there were several members not able to attend the meeting today, but she hoped their schedules allow them to attend the next Child Care Advisory meeting. She noted there were several that did send their apologizes. Christa Bell specifically mentioned the burden for Certified Family childcare providers, due to they would have to find replacements for their daily operations of their centers.

Christa Bell then opened the floor for suggestions on dates and times for the next meeting. Twylynn Edwards stated Mondays and Fridays are usual difficult for childcare providers because these days are more common for staff shortages. Amy Hood stated the AM hours are difficult for some members due to some parts of the state, 9AM is 8AM, and therefore would suggest a later meeting time. Amy also stated Tuesdays are preferable over other days of the week.

Lastly, Erica Tipton inquired about the end of term member expirations. Christa Bell stated she would send out how to apply or reapply for the new term.

Adjourn

Commissioner Adria Jonson adjourned the Child Care Advisory Council meeting.