

Child Care Advisory Council Meeting
10/28/2021

Call to Order..... Sarah Vanover

The Child Care Advisory Council meeting was duly called by Division of Child Care Director Sarah Vanover and held virtually via Zoom.

In Attendance

Laura Begin, Bill Buchanan, Eamonn FitzGerald, Paula Goff, Charla Heersche, Amy Hood, Kathy Mullen, Amy Neal, Ashley Parrott, Tom Poland, Patricia Porter, Laura Tipton, Sarah Vanover, Jennifer Washburn, Sandy Woodall, Amber Zambrano

Introductions..... Sarah Vanover

Members serving in the new term of the Child Care Advisory Council (CCAC) introduced themselves. Newly appointed members are appointed to serve from 8/17/2021 to 6/24/2024.

Introduction to DCC's Responsibilities Sarah Vanover

Sarah shared a PowerPoint explaining the organization of the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) and the Division of Child Care (DCC).

DCC is a part of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services under the Department for Community Based Services. DCC focuses on the health and safety of children while in child care settings. Our division promulgates the regulations, while the Division of Regulated Child Care within to Office of Inspector General (OIG) enforces them. DCC also administers the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG).

Other divisions within DCBS include Division of Administration and Financial Management, Division of Family Support, Division of Protection and Permanency, and Division of Service Regions.

DCC has two branches: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Branch and Quality Enhancement Branch. The CCAP Branch is divided into three sections: Policy and Operations, Payment, and Claims.

CCAP provides funding to child care providers with children whose families qualify for a subsidy.

The Quality Enhancement Branch is comprised of two sections: Professional Development and Fitness Determination (PDFD) Section and the Quality Initiatives .

The Quality Initiatives Section is most commonly referred to as KY All STARS. KY All STARS is our five-star quality rating and improvement system.

The Professional Development and Fitness Determination Section serves two very different purposes. The National Background Check Program is a federally mandated program that uses the KARES online platform to complete the required fingerprint-based background checks for all child care employees.

The Professional Development guides the Early Care and Education Training Records Information System (ECE-TRIS). It also administers CDA and college coursework scholarship funds, creates and distributes training content, and supervises the KY Director's Credential and the Commonwealth Child Care Credential.

DCC also contracts with other agencies to ensure compliance with CCDBG federal requirements. This includes the University of Kentucky, Office of Inspector General - Division of Regulated Child Care and KARES, Western Kentucky University, and Eastern Kentucky University.

The University of Kentucky – Child Care Aware of Kentucky holds the contract for our child care resource and referral network. Their responsibilities include providing regional training and technical assistance, overseeing training and certification for Trainer's Credentials, conducting the Market Rate Survey/Child Care Workforce Study, developing consumer education material, and supervising training development for Pre-Service Orientation Training and other statewide training.

OIG hold two separate contracts with DCC. One if with DRCC which enforces child care regulations. Other responsibilities include intake of the application for Certified and Licensed Child Care Providers, completing annual inspections, receiving and conducting complaint investigations, and collaborating with partners for regulatory compliance.

The other is with the KARES background application system

Western Kentucky University is our newest partner responsible for developing and launching our staffed Family Child Care Network. They assist with recruiting new family child care homes, providing training, and partnering with DRCC to help with suspended certifications.

Eastern Kentucky University houses our professional development database, referred to as ECE-TRIS. In addition, they pre-approve conferences and one-time training, serve as the notification system for Pediatric Abusive Head Trauma Training, and verify degrees and certifications.

Kentucky currently has 2022 child care programs. Unfortunately, we did lose 9% of programs during the pandemic. The federal government has passed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) to address child care program sustainability. The ARP includes stabilization funds to support programs that have survived the hardships over the past 18 months. The ARP also includes one-time Child Care and Development Block Grant funds (CCDBG). With these funds, we have

increased CCAP reimbursements and created Preschool Partnerships Grants. DCC will also be creating an infant/toddler pilot program, scholarship program for applicants enrolled in the winter/spring 2022 terms, grant for facility repairs, matching grant for employer-based child care programs, grant for new programs in child care deserts, and grant for new family child care homes.

Lastly, Sarah Vanover shared the long-term goals for KY are to increase child care provider wages, decrease child care tuition for families and improve child care access. It's also essential for businesses to support and invest in child care for their employees and community.

Year-End Report..... Laura Begin

Sarah Vanover introduced Laura Begin who is the legislative and regulation liaison for DCBS, under the Commissioner's office.

The Child Care Advisory Council is within [statute](#), KRS 199.8983. Within the law, is a description of membership, including members required to serve. In subsection 7, the statute requires the council to make an annual report. The annual report summarizes the recommendations to address availability, affordability, accessibility, and quality of child care. The report is due annually by December 1.

Laura Begin shared with members the report from last year. Laura suggested having the report drafted by mid-November.

DCC's Website..... Kayla Standafer

Kayla Standafer is our website editor and is under the Director's office in DCC.

During the past year and a half, DCC worked with the Office of Child Care, Technical Assistance (TA) team to improve our website. The CCDBG includes numerous requirements for all state's consumer education websites. Kentucky is currently in compliance with all requirements. Our website is accessible under Section 508, is written in plain language, and has resources in multiple languages.

Kayla Standafer showed members the [DCC website](#). The website has two categories, website pages for 'Families', and website pages for 'Providers.' There is also a category titled 'Community'.

[CCAC](#) has a website page. The page includes meeting minutes from the past year.

Kayla Standafer invited members to email her with any suggestions for the website. Her email is KaylaM.Standafer@ky.gov. She also asked any agencies that have their own websites to link to the DCC website because it is a reliable resource for child care providers and families.

Election of Co-Chair.....Open Discussion

Sarah Vanover stated this committee must have a co-chair. The co-chair would be responsible for setting the meeting agenda, discussing topics in child care, assisting with leading the meeting, and completing the year-end report.

Amy Neal nominated Tom Poland. Tom Poland accepted the nomination. He stated nothing is more important than the work within early childhood education. All voting members present voted in favor of Tom Poland serving as co-chair.

Family Friendly Learning Network..... Brooke Gill

Brooke Gill with the Prichard Committee shared that they are working with K-12 and early childhood programs committed to being a part of a Family-Friendly Learning Network. In addition, she shared a glimpse with members of their website page concerning this project. On November 15, the website will go live to the public.

The five early childhood programs signed up are committed to focusing on family engagement.

Brooke Gill shared the week of November 15 will be declared Family Engagement and Education week by the Governor.

She invited all members to look over the resources on their website and offer any feedback.

Adjourn

Sarah Vanover made a call to adjourn the Child Care Advisory Council meeting.