

Child Care Advisory Council Meeting

7/25/2019

**Call to Order..... Sarah Vanover**

The meeting of the Child Care Advisory Council duly called by Division of Child Care Director, Sarah Vanover and held on July 25, 2019 at Bluegrass Community Action Agency, 111 Professional Court Frankfort, KY 40601 commencing at 1:00 P.M.

**Members in Attendance**

Brenda Brunner, Bill Buchanan, Patricia Porter, Sarah Vanover, Juanita Webb, Sandra Woodall

**Review of minutes..... Sarah Vanover**

Upon arrival, committee members were given the agenda, a copy of April meeting minutes, and the Directors Credential and Trainers Credential regulations. Meeting minutes from April were approved.

**Division of Child Care (DCC) Updates.....Sarah Vanover**

-CCAP Eligibility

Regulation 922 KAR 2:160 with the student waiver is in effect. The regulation allows the 20-hour workweek requirement waived for full time college students, GED students, tech school students, and any trade school students. Other than a flyer in DCBS offices and on the CCAP website, the division has not advertised the new student waiver eligibility. Sarah Vanover stated we are going to see how many students enroll, and may increase efforts in the future. DCC observed Alabama has a similar CCAP population, and had 600 to 800 students sign up once the workweek requirement was waived. Children Inc. has posted the information on their Facebook page, and Sarah Vanover stated she shared the information in May when she attended a Director’s meeting.

-Consumer Ed Webinar

Mel Banks stated the division is focusing on consumer education, in particular educating parents through our website. One of the division’s goals is to translate website content into Spanish, and then in eight other languages. GOEC is also creating a new website page that will be instrumental in educating parents.

-Regional STAM Recap

Sarah Vanover stated herself, Mel Banks, and Phillip Smith attended a regional conference in Atlanta last month. Increasing the provider rates to the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile was a huge accomplishment for Kentucky. Other states have higher rates, but they have waiting lists as a result. Sarah Vanover stated either states in our region have spent funds to increase quality, or to increase rates. Our division has accomplished to spread our funds between efforts. Sarah Vanover stated because of our provider rates, we were cited; however it is not justifiable to increase the rates, if it will result in a waiting list.

Sarah Vanover stated she learned South Carolina and Tennessee have developed their own rating scales and tools. Bill Buchanan inquired how they are validating these tools. Sarah Vanover stated South Carolina just rolled out the new scales and is in a pilot stage. Sarah Vanover also stated she learned at the conference Florida is using CLASS, and Alabama just started licensing their centers.

**Professional Development Regulations.....Open Discussion**

The Division will be opening and updating three professional development regulations. The first regulation the committee discussed was the Director’s credential. Sarah Vanover stated the division keeps a log of all issues/comments for all regulations. For the Director’s Credential, the issue recorded is only Kentucky college course work counts toward the credential. When the regulation is open, we will change this to all states. The Director’s credential has not been updated since 2004, and is ranked 47<sup>th</sup> by McCormick\* out of all 50 states for minimum education requirements. Currently, there has been 22,290 Director’s credentials awarded; some people may still have the credential, but may be working in other fields.

Sarah Vanover inquired if the committee had received any questions in the past related to this regulation, or if members had any comments. Brenda Brunner stated other course work in other states should count.

Members then openly discussed if ongoing training hours should be required for people to maintain a Director’s Credential, and in order to receive the credential if higher education, such as a four year degree should be required. A four-year degree is required in New York. Sandra Woodall inquired if there would be a large financial impact in requiring higher education. Sarah Vanover stated, the state would have to give scholarships to complete the course work for those lacking the degree and would be a considerable financial impact.

Stakeholders have been suggesting a credential with a requirement to renew every 5 years. Administrative training, such as hiring staff, retaining staff, and running a business would be training subjects. Sandra Woodall stated she agreed with the administrative training elements.

Bill Buchanan inquired how many people with a Director's Credential have a 2- year degree. Sarah Vanover stated she did not know the data, but in ECE TRIS you can upload your degree. Bill Buchanan stated that in 2004 the Dept. of Education went through something similar.

If Director's credentials are going to need to be renewed, Sarah Vanover stated the division would have to put a plan in place to make sure the renewals were staggered, to prevent a situation like KY ALL STARS levels needing to be renewed within the same period.

Sarah Vanover stated the process of updating the Director's credential regulation is ongoing.

The second regulation the committee discussed was the Trainer's Credential regulation. Sarah Vanover stated compared to other states our trainer's credential is well thought out and is solid. The committee members discussed concerns and issues with online training and independent training.

Sarah Vanover stated other states run background checks on their trainers and this protects the states if something were to come out concerning the trainer. Also, other states have a '3 strike rule' for the trainers, (meaning, if the trainer gets three complaints they are penalized, or have their credential take away.) UK has mentioned no one wants to 'write up' a complaint about a trainer, so this may not be something Kentucky would want to adopt. She also stated the division would be looking at the definition of 'training agency.'

Sarah Vanover inquired if the committee had received any questions in the past related to this regulation, or if members had any comments. Juanita Webb mentioned requiring ongoing PD for trainers. Committee members also openly discussed monitoring the content of the trainings, and observing the trainer.

Sarah Vanover stated our regulation focuses on approving the trainer and not the content of the training. It would be a waste of resources to monitor both. She stated it's like a small business approach. If a trainer does a poor job, then the agency or center will not ask them to come back, or if people do not like them, then the trainer leaves out of repeated low attendance.

Sarah Vanover then stated there is an issue of trainers cutting corners. Such as dropping off content at centers, and not teaching the content. Committee members agreed these trainers and this practice does need to be monitored.

Sandra Woodall inquired if there was a way to monitor trainers that would not be time consuming, such as staggering observations. Sarah Vanover stated this could occur with random audits, but there would be no sustainability, unless it was under a temporary grant. Sarah Vanover also stated we do not want to make it hard for Kentuckians, when other trainers from out of state have it

easier. Sandra agreed, and stated we do have to be loyal to our state, but also respectful of the training content and trainer.

Sandra Woodall then discussed the importance of professionalism in the trainer and training content.

Committee members then openly discussed the issues surrounding online training. Sarah Vanover suggested if a trainer provides online training, they have to be qualified to deliver this, and could potentially have a 'check box' beside their name if they are qualified. Mel Banks then stated in the regulation we could add accountability for trainers providing online or independent study. Sarah Vanover stated people have suggested to require not all required training be completed online, but a certain amount of hours have to be face-to-face. However, the issue with this requirement is in rural Kentucky it is a barrier to travel to get face-to-face training, and online training is cheaper. Committee members then discussed how easy it is to access online training from a phone and it is much more convenient.

Sarah Vanover stated it is a challenge to measure best practice for providing training on different platforms. She also reminded committee members the 'red tape' initiative is still ongoing under this administration, and any lengthy regulation would be questioned.

**Updates/Questions.....Open Discussion**

Juanita Webb shared the Early Childhood Institute (ECI) was successful, and they are beginning planning for next year. She also stated under the PDG several trainings are coming up before December.

Bill Buchanan provided an update on the partnership grants.

Brenda Brunner inquired if the division will be opening any other regulations. Sarah Vanover stated other than the commonwealth credential, not at this time, but all regulations are on a 7-year expiration date.

Sandra Woodall reminded the committee that our year-end report would be due, and would like the next meeting to focus on completing the report.

Sarah Vanover stated she knew as part of the report, committee members wanted to give their input on regulations, and that was the purpose of the meeting today. She also reiterated, the Director's credential needs some work, but the Trainer's credential is solid. Sarah Vanover inquired if committee members had any other questions/concerns.

Patricia Porter inquired and discussed the importance of community and collaborating with other providers. Mel Banks stated the CCA could help with this, and always enjoys collaborating with providers in their region.

**Adjourn**

Brenda Brunner made a call to adjourn the Child Care Advisory Council meeting, and Sandra Woodall seconded the motion. The next meeting will be October 24, 2019, 1:00PM.