Child Care Advisory Council Meeting
7/29/2021

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

Brenda Brunner, Chuck Bradley, Bill Buchanan, Twylynn Edwards, Amy Hood, Amy Neal, Patricia Porter, Kim Smart, Rebecca Thomas, Sarah Vanover, Sandra Woodall

Review of Minutes…………………………………………………………………………….... Open Discussion

Meeting minutes from April 2021 were approved.

DCC Update………………………………………………………………………..........................Sarah Vanover

DCC has been conducting virtual town halls concerning the American Rescue Plan (ARP). A recording of the meeting and a copy of the presentation can be found on the DCC [home page](). The PowerPoint presentation describes how DCC plans to spend funds received from the ARP.

On August 4, we will be presenting to the Legislative Research Committee (LRC) committee on the ARP and the budget plan. This can be viewed on KET's website.

A Request for Application (RFA) has been released concerning one of the projects under the ARP; the preschool partnership grant opportunity. School districts are responsible for completing the application, and child care providers are co-applicants.

The next CCAP billing cycle will reflect the $2/day rate increase for full-time care ($1/day for part-time care). In addition, there will soon be another increase using funds from the ARP.

During the 2021 legislative session, a bill was passed to promulgate regulations in a state-wide or regional/local emergency. This regulation was drafted before the legislative session because it is federally required. [922 KAR 2:300.]() Emergency child care approval has passed the public comment period, and the final review with LRC will be in August.

Governor's Office of Early Childhood (GOEC)……………………………………………………Amy Neal

Amy Neal highlighted the purpose of GOEC: To improve kindergarten readiness, promote greater collaboration between state and local communities, and emphasize quality and continuous improvement.

The Early Childhood Institute has evolved to a series of yearlong high-quality training opportunities that include in-person and online. The second training will be in November, in-person, at the Galt House. A save the date will be coming soon.

GOEC has been working on expanding its apprenticeship portfolio.

Early Childhood Standards are currently being finalized. The next phase of work will be a "soft-launch" to develop pieces of training with partners.

GOEC shared they have some openings and new staff members.

Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)…………………………………………Bill Buchanan

Preschool enrollment has dropped.

Yesterday the KDE Preschool Coordinator Advisory Group meeting was held. This group meets quarterly. Their discussion focused on declining enrollment, as well as positive behavioral supports. Suggestions on improving enrollment were also discussed as well as the training academy for preschool/kindergarten teachers. Two members of the group have been promoted to superintendents in their county.

American Rescue Plan………………………………………………………………………………Open Discussion

The ARP includes two funding streams - $293 million received as a one-time payment under the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and $470 million designated for sustainability payments. The funding has a very detailed explanation of how states can spend the money. One of the main objectives is to improve services for underserved populations, such as infant and toddler care, children with disabilities, families experiencing homelessness, etc.

Kentucky has identified a need to improve our data systems, which in return will help our underserved populations. We have multiple systems, but they do not all "talk" to each other. As a result, we miss critical data, such as the current enrollment in Kentucky. In addition, when families use the portal to search for child care, it doesn't tell them if the center has slots for any more enrollments. Therefore, families could be calling numerous programs, spending lots of their time, and not finding any centers with an available opening. Kentucky has presented a plan to the Cabinet to find a company that will fill these data gaps and connects all our current data systems.

Kentucky is also looking at attaining an electronic system that all child care providers could use for their enrollment and billing. This could expedite the daily operations of child care providers.

Sarah Vanover then opened the meeting to discuss DCC's proposals related to data systems/identifying gaps and electronic enrollment and billing systems.

April Manning stated the most important thing is flexibility in the data systems. She would also like a system child care providers could use to create many 'fields' to capture data. Also, more access in ECE TRIS to see what staff members lacked training. ECE TRIS was at the virtual meeting and stated they could investigate narrowing down this data. April Manning also said an enrollment data system would greatly benefit her program and allow them to move away from the paper waste.

Patricia Porter stated if an electronic enrollment and billing system were used, she would like to have access to training on how to use the system. Sarah Vanover acknowledged the importance of an electronic billing system that is user-friendly and provides ongoing technical support and training.

Sandra Woodall stated that capturing enrollment would benefit both providers and families and collect economic and ethical demographics for early childhood professionals and children.

Sincere Holmes stated data on the diversity of providers in KY would be beneficial.

Stephanie Barker with the Kentucky Out-of-School Alliance, suggested capturing data for school-age capacity and number of slots by age range and specific at-risk groups like CCAP recipients, minority populations, special needs, etc. In addition, identifying at least the number of license-exempt school-age child care programs in each county relative to the number of licensed programs would be a massive benefit due to cost barriers and the need for low-income families to use CCAP.

The group discussed the challenges in capturing Kindergarten readiness data, assessment data, curriculum data, and family engagement activities from child care programs.

Bill Buchanan stated this is an ongoing conversation on the longitudinal data system and what would make child care providers' job tasks easier.

Joanne Rojas stated she agreed with the need to identify data gaps and to begin capturing that data. However, after the data is captured, she said it is essential to discuss and acknowledge how the data will be shared and how we run the reports.

Sarah Vanover acknowledged the challenges related to capturing data from child care programs. She stated all programs might not want to share data and asked the child care providers on the call if they have any concerns about sharing data.

Patricia Porter stated she feels comfortable sharing data. Still, she would need to reassure the families in her program that their personal information was safe.

Sarah Vanover stated there would be levels of access, such as what some public-school program data systems use.

Instead of creating our data systems, April Manning inquired if we could contract with a company that already has a system in place. Sarah Vanover stated there are pros and cons to both options. If the state creates its own, we could keep it possibly long-term. However, if we contract with a company, we may not use the data system past 2024.

April Manning also suggested tracking which providers participate in the Federal Food Program.

Stephanie Barker suggested tracking what type of programming and services child care providers offer, such as family engagement, STEM, etc. She also suggested tracking the types of transportation child care programs provide (from home only or public school, etc.)

Amy Neal discussed the data gaps in our state and the importance of gathering the information. Sarah Vanover stated that while we cannot guarantee that all child care providers will provide needed data, we can get a snapshot or a good idea of data in our state.

Sarah Vanover informed everyone that Jessica Cain is the project coordinator for the American Rescue Plan projects. Her email is Jessica.Cain@ky.gov.

Community Updates………………………………………………………………………………….Open Discussion

4C in Louisville shared they received funding to complete early childhood equity projects.

ECE TRIS shared they have been working to comply with regulation updates, such as ensuring the CPR and first aid training requirement is on an individual's training record.

Child Care Aware shared they released their recent workforce study.

The Appalachian Early Childhood Network has been working with providers to help them understand the American Rescue Plan.

Sarah Vanover shared NAEYC completed a workforce [study](#) as well.

Steve Marge shared that he would like to see NAEYC's workforce study. The statistics give a basis for a conversation on how providers recover from the pandemic.

Sandra Woodall with EC Learn shared they have completed their CDA classes and had sixteen graduates. A new course will be forthcoming.

Amy Hood shared they are finalizing Western Kentucky University's contract for the Family Child Care Network.

Adjourn

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