

Child Care Advisory Council Meeting
1/30/2020

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 January 30, 2020, at Bluegrass Community Action Agency, 111 Professional Court Frankfort, KY 40601 commencing at 1:00 PM.

In Attendance

Brenda Brunner, Bill Buchanan, Twylynn Edwards, Amy Hood, Kim Smart, Rebecca Thomas, Sarah Vanover, Juanita Webb, Sandra Woodall,

Introductions..... Sarah Vanover

Upon arrival, the agenda, a copy of the October meeting minutes, and a copy of Senate Bill 45 were given to the members. Members introduced themselves, including guest speaker Renae Hardin from the Division of Protection and Permanency.

Review of Minutes..... Open Discussion

Meeting minutes from October 24, 2019, were approved.

Guest Speaker..... Renae Hardin

Sarah Vanover introduced guest speaker Renae Hardin from the Division of Protection and Permanency (DPP). Renae Hardin is currently a Recruitment Specialist, but has a tremendous amount of experience, including working as a caseworker. Renae Hardin presented to the council information regarding trauma-informed care and options for families with an open Protection & Permanency case to receive child care assistance (CCAP).

CCAP is available for families with an active P&P case for multiple reasons. CCAP can be granted to families to prevent a child from being removed from the home, for foster care families, relatives, or fictive kin. In all of these cases, the CCAP allotment is received in the full amount. Therefore, families are only charged if the center charges any amount over the state maximum. Renae Hardin informed the council most children involved with P&P come into child care centers having experienced trauma and possibly have developmental delays. She described the behaviors you may see from these children are anxiety, fearfulness, and having a difficult time talking about emotions. Children always have a reason for the behavior they are exhibiting. Some triggers that promote those behaviors are parental visits or any change in a child's environment. Renae Hardin then provided council members with a handout given to foster parents to assist with understanding and providing trauma-informed care.

Sarah Vanover reminded members that the Early Childhood Health & Mental Specialists with the Department for Behavioral Health are available to assist centers. The specialists can observe classrooms and make recommendations to providers about how to appropriately handle situations. Juanita Webb also shared that GOEC was planning to include training about trauma-informed care in this year's Early Childhood Institute (ECI).

Sarah Vanover asked if members had any questions for Renae Hardin. Brenda Brunner informed the members about the services provided by Freedom House, a drug rehab program serving mothers and their children. Brenda stated the mothers have a hard time getting CCAP due to the work requirements, and asked if there was a way around the requirement. Sarah Vanover advised a client does not have to have a job for 90 days, but must be actively looking for employment; however, if a person is in a rehab program, CCAP is granted. Sarah Vanover also informed members CCAP is also available for three months for anyone who loses their job.

2020 Legislative Session..... Sarah Vanover

I. Senate Bill 45

Sarah Vanover informed members the current legislative session is in full swing and will last until mid-April. There are currently three bills which could affect DCC.

An amended Senate Bill 45 was introduced on Tuesday in committee and was approved. Senator Danny Carroll is the bill sponsor. The bill focuses on four component: physical activity standards, screen time standards, sugary drink standards, and nutrition standards.

The new nutrition standards will only apply to child care centers who already provide food. The bill will require programs to provide meals and snacks that are consistent with the most recent version of the United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service standards for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). If the bill passes, DCC will need to draft two additional sections to the health and safety regulation: one for centers that provide food and one for centers that do not. For centers who participate in CACFP, this bill will have minimal impact. However, for centers who provide food and do not participate in CACFP, DCC will need to create training and provide technical assistance. The Division of Regulated Child Care (DRCC) and DCC will also need to train surveyors to review the additional requirements. DRCC does not currently monitor the requirements because the CACFP ensures compliance.

The other standards outlined in the bill will have a minimal impact on child care programs. The physical activity standard would require child care programs to provide moderate to vigorous activity for at least one hour a day for full-day programs and 30 minutes for half-day programs. The screen time standard would require centers to allow no more than an hour of screen time (the current regulation states two hours). The sugary drink standard would require centers only to provide water, milk, and 100% juice.

The bill requires the Cabinet to collaborate with the Kentucky Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC), this council (CCAC), and other experts to establish the new standards in regulation. The most cause for concerns is the requirement to promulgate the new regulation within 90 days. Due to the required collaboration and then the process outlined in KRS Chapter 13A, 90 days may not be possible. DCC is hoping this is timeframe is amended on the Senate floor.

Rebecca Thomas told members Baptist Health currently has a nutritionist who develops their menu. She inquired if the nutritionist will have to follow the federal standards, even if they did not agree with them. Sarah Vanover stated they would have to comply with the regulation. Sarah Vanover said food portion sizes would be the most significant component of training.

Sandra Woodall asked if the bill passes how long would the cabinet need to promulgate regulations if not within 90 days. Sarah Vanover stated a year at least.

Lastly, Twylynn Edwards said the programs could use "I Am Moving, I Am Learning" to meet the physical activity standard. Overall, the group agreed teacher-lead physical activity is ideal compared to children unsupervised on the playground.

II. Senate Bill 102

Sarah Vanover informed members Senate Bill 102 is the Cabinet's red tape reduction bill. The bill aligns with the definition of "child-care center" and "family child-care home" with what is in regulation. The bill also lists exceptions for licensure for single-subject school-age programs and summer camps. Lastly, the bill repealed a CC&R statute already outlined in the Child Care and Development Block Grant.

III. House Bill 1

Sarah Vanover informed members House Bill 1 is the top priority bill. It is a public assistance funding bill containing vague language relating to child care. The bill may require child care programs to accept EBT cards from CCAP recipients to track allowable payments. DCC is concerned most programs have no way to accept credit cards. Also, in rural areas of the state, there is no access to the internet. Sarah Vanover and other members mentioned other issues could be parents forgetting their cards, machine issues, and the programs having to appoint a staff member to assist parents in scanning their cards correctly. DCC is currently trying to clarify if child care would be exempt from the bill.

Organization Updates.....Sarah Vanover, Bill Buchanan, Juanita Webb

I. Division of Child Care

Sarah Vanover informed members DCC had a federal monitoring visit in November, but no feedback has been received yet. She also advised the Expanding High Quality Family Child Care

Initiative's pilot programs are still making significant progress and mentioned the significant amount of translation of DCC forms and materials into Spanish.

The Cabinet is still awaiting appointment of a Cabinet Secretary and of the Department for Community Based Services Commissioner.

DCC is forming an Infant and Toddler Support Network which will meet quarterly. The first meeting will be held in March 2020. DCC is required to dedicate at least 3% of CCDBG funding to infant and toddler initiatives.

DCC currently has two regulations, 922 KAR 2:090 and 922 KAR 2:100, in the public comment period. The next regulations to be amended will be the Professional Development regulations.

II. KDE

Bill Buchanan provided members with handouts. The first showed Kindergarten Readiness results. The second showed kindergarten readiness terms have expanded to three include different levels: Ready with Interventions, Ready, and Ready with Enrichments. Bill Buchanan shared trends in the reports.

House Resolution 52 has been introduced which calls upon a diverse team to promote legislation to support universal/expanded preschool.

KDE will be getting a new commissioner. Currently, KDE's website has a survey posted for the public to answer surrounding what they would like in a new Education Commissioner.

III. GOEC

Juanita Webb shared with members that an ASQ training was wrapped up this week. GOEC continues to plan for the Early Childhood Institute (ECI) which is scheduled for June 3-5 at the Galt House in Louisville. Speakers have already been selected.

John Roden, with GOEC, also shared they are currently looking for an Executive Director since Linda Hampton had accepted a position with Save the Children. He also shared Holly LaFavers has accepted a position with HANDS and her last day will be January 31, 2020. The next ECAC meeting is scheduled for February 12.

New Business.....Open Discussion

Sandra Woodall inquired if there were any concerns about the CCAC year-end report that was submitted. Sarah Vanover stated no one had sent the report back, so there was no cause for concern.

Members suggested rescheduling the next meeting because Derby week is at the end of April.

Adjourn

Sarah Vanover made a call to adjourn the Child Care Advisory Council meeting. Twylynn Edwards made the motion, seconded by Sandra Woodall.