

Child Care Advisory Council Meeting
5/4/2023

Call to OrderAndrea Day

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

In Attendance

Stephanie Baker, Laura Begin, Bill Buchanan, Chuck Bradley, Andrea Day, Eamonn FitzGerald, Charlotta Heersche, Amy Hood, Kathryn Mullen, Tom Poland, Patricia Porter, Laura Tipton, Jennifer Washburn, Sandy Woodall, Amber Zambrano

Review of Minutes..... Open Discussion

Meeting minutes from January were approved.

KDE Update Bill Buchanan

The Child Outcome Summary (COS) system is how KDE's Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL) collects continuous assessment data from state-funded preschool programs. KDE started using this system this school year, and the spring window is now open through May 31st. KDE will work with the Office of Technology to prepare reports after May.

Through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds, KDE supports new language and literacy training for state-funded preschool teachers. This framework is through Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS). For more information about LETRS for ECE, please get in touch with lori.bean@education.ky.gov or alisha.reeves@education.ky.gov.

KDE's OSEEL has been awarded the [Kentucky Leading, Educating, Advocating for Directors of Special Education](#) (LEADS) grant through the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). KY LEADS is designed to improve outcomes for children with disabilities by increasing the number of certified Directors of Special Education. Applications will be due June 2nd. A partnership with Morehead State University, Western Kentucky University, and Murray State University supports implementation.

Lastly, OSEEL has a best practice spotlight application. This spotlight highlights high-quality teaching experiences in the early care and education field through school districts.

KYOSA..... Stephanie Baker

The Kentucky Out of School Alliance (KYOSA) is a community of professionals and advocates.

Their mission is to ensure quality for all school-age children in afterschool and out-of-school programs.

The school-age advisory council launched in August 2022. The council continues to grow and currently has forty members. The group meets quarterly to discuss issues relevant to the school-age child care field—the council's goal is to improve access to high-quality school-age child care environments. The council also works to provide feedback on new school-age initiatives, including any legislation affecting school-age child care settings.

In May 2022, KYOSA launched the Ambassador program. The program's purpose is to empower up-and-coming leaders in the field of afterschool to advocate for all Kentucky youth confidently and effectively. Ambassadors are selected leaders who commit to a year of civic engagement to strengthen community awareness, support effective programs, and bring diverse partners to the table. Ambassadors are chosen through an online application process and meet virtually monthly. Later this month, applications will be released for the 2023-2024 program.

In 2020, KYOSA launched a mapping tool concerning the afterschool landscape. Next year, KYOSA will be redesigning and updating the tool.

Stephanie Barker shared website links:
[KYOSA SACC Advisory Council](#)
[Kentucky Afterschool Ambassador program](#)
[KYOSA Data Explorer](#)

FCCN Update Amy Hood

The Family Child Care Network had its first state-wide conference. Around ninety (90) in-home child care providers participated. This is a high participation rate, considering there are around three hundred (300) total in-home providers.

FCCN continues to focus on communicating with rural areas of the state. Family child care providers have reported feeling isolated in the past, and the FCCN continues to ensure those providers feel included and appreciated.

Patricia Porter stated that she felt greatly appreciated as an in-home child care provider.

Lastly, in July, the FCCN will support in-home child care providers with quality initiatives, such as increasing levels within KY All STARS. The FCCN is currently working with Child Care Aware to make this transition.

DCC Update..... Andrea Day

The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) continues to pay based on enrollment versus attendance. DCC will cover family co-pays through at least the end of the year.

A total of seven sustainability payments have been released to providers who qualified. At the end of the year, another sustainability payment will be released using state funds. DCC is considering the qualifications and parameters concerning the last amount.

The American Rescue Plan projects are ongoing. Over 2 million dollars in scholarships have been allocated for 929 awards. Seventy-five percent of the scholarship awards are individuals getting their associate's or bachelor's degree.

Sustainability is still the focus of conversations once the ARPA funds are depleted.

Sandy Woodall stated she appreciated all the charts showing CCAP enrollment numbers. She requested those charts be sent to the CCAC members.

DCC is considering additional communication around CCAP eligibility and the child care employee exclusion. Effective 10/24/2022, child care employees (who work in a licensed or certified program) are considered a protected population. This change allows them to exclude all earned/unearned household income from their application. However, applicants still must meet all other CCAP technical eligibility and return all mandatory verification. This has benefited 1,947 families.

The Family Child Care start-up grants are currently still open. The Family Child Care start-up grant is \$5000.00.

DCC has launched the community partnership grant. An application request is open until May 15, 2023.

The intergenerational care grant pilot is open. During the Early Childhood Institute (ECI), a keynote speaker shared the positive impact of intergenerational care. Tom Poland inquired if the presentation was available. Andrea stated she could ask if it could be shared.

A technology grant is open to child care providers. These funds can be used to purchase new laptops, desktops, scanners, etc. DCC will be sending out further communication concerning the new opportunity.

DCC has worked to launch the Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership (ECCAP). Applications opened on April 2. DCC has received nineteen applications—however, thirteen applicants qualified for CCAP. The marketing campaign is currently ongoing.

DCC has amended the Registered Provider regulation. We were in non-compliance surrounding the registered provider's health and safety standards. Therefore, only relatives will be registered, and anyone else will become certified. This will allow us to comply with the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) requirements.

DCC will soon file two new credential regulations: infant and toddler and school-age. Professional Development staff are working with partners to ensure adequate training to receive these credentials.

DCC continues to work on consumer education, specifically on communicating with families.

Open Discussion

Members discussed opportunities surrounding future CCAC meetings. For example, meetings in the future may focus less on partner updates and more on projects/initiatives.

Sandy Woodall stated she appreciated when partners shared the “why,” “what,” and “how” during the meeting. She said she intentionally shares the resources provided—for example, the new applications and projects KDE has shared during this CCAC meeting.

Andrea Day shared the importance of our language in describing early childhood education (ECE). It is essential to understand ninety percent of brain development happens before the age of five. ECE is an investment. Even though different organizations have varying funding streams, the most crucial goal is increasing quality.

Jennifer Washburn suggested enhancing communication by creating more marketing materials, such as flyers/one-pagers.

Eamonn Fitzgerald agreed with changing the CCAC meeting format to be more actionable. He stated he enjoys walking away from meetings with “action items/homework.”

Andrea Day stated she would follow up with appointed CCAC members on ideas for future meetings.

Eamonn Fitzgerald shared efforts concerning the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in Fayette County.

Jennifer Washburn shared with members; Child Care Provider Appreciation Day is May 12.

Kathy Mullen shared a [Red Flags of Vision Loss](#) link with members.

Tom Poland discussed opportunities to work with the regional collaboratives.

Adjourn

Andrea Day made a call to adjourn the Child Care Advisory Council meeting.