

Child Care Advisory Council Meeting
7/21/2022

Call to Order..... Andrea Day

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

In Attendance

Chuck Bradley, Bill Buchanan, Andrea Day, Eamonn FitzGerald, Charla Heersche, Amy Neal, Tom Poland, Laura Tipton, Jennifer Washburn, Sandy Woodall

Review of Minutes..... Open Discussion

Meeting minutes from April were approved.

GOEC Update Amy Neal

The Early Childhood Institute (ECI) was held on June 21st and 22nd. There were over 600 participants. The Early Childhood Standards and Family Guides were released during the ECI. Both resources are on [GOEC's website](#).

GOEC has been participating in a project with Zero to Three concerning classroom transitions.

The Regional collaboratives should have their contracts.

KDE Update Bill Buchanan

The state funded preschool has been elevated to the Office of Special Education and Early Learning. Dr. Thomas Williams will be the Program Manager.

The new preschool rates have been approved by the board of education.

KDE has a new data system that will be adopted this fall. They will be moving to the Child Outcome Summary (COS) system. COS resources are uploaded on [KDE's website](#).

SB 60 is now enacted. When there is a disagreement between school districts and Head Start around full utilization, a Head Start director can notify the Commissioner. Then thirty days from that notification, a determination will be made on full utilization.

Preschool enrollment has increased, from 15,898 in 2020-2021 to 18,333 in 2021-2022.

The Preschool Advisory Committee will meet on July 28 at 10 AM.

The KY Education Special Needs determinations have been found to meet the requirements and purposes of IDEA.

DCC Update..... Andrea Day

The [CCAP regulation](#) was recently amended. The CCAP initial eligibility and redetermination have been raised to 85% of the State Median Income (SMI). The increase in January from 160% to 200% FPG impacted over 800 families. Therefore, DCC hopes this increase will allow even more families to qualify. In addition, DCC will collaborate with cabinet leadership on a marketing campaign to spread awareness of the CCAP eligibility increase.

Effective 9/1/22, the 3-month Transitional Child Care (TCC) period will increase to 6 months. Beginning in March 2022, families who lost their CCAP benefits because they exceed the CCAP income guidelines became eligible for Transitional Child Care (TCC)- an extended three months of benefits. The provider receives fifty percent (50%) of the provider subsidized rate or state maximum payment rate, whichever is less. From March 2022 to June 2022, over 50 families benefited.

Effective 8/1/22, CCAP special-rate incentives will increase. Licensed and Certified providers will receive \$10 per day beyond the maximum rate for non-traditional care, \$5 per day beyond the max rate if the provider is accredited, and \$5 per day beyond the maximum care rate for providing care for children with special needs.

Effective 10/24/2022, child care employees will be considered a protected population. This change will allow them to be categorically eligible for CCAP benefits. This will be a recruitment and retention incentive for child care providers/businesses.

The background check regulation has also been amended. Effective 7/21/2022, provisional hiring has been removed as an option. Per federal regulations, the fingerprint-based check must be back and cleared (deemed eligible) before an employee starts within a child care center. Our federal partners are visiting in mid-August to provide DCC with technical assistance on background check processes.

The American Rescue Plan projects are ongoing. The stabilization funds are still in process.

Andrea Day reported DCC is rethinking the business partnership grants. Mike Hammons mentioned during Strong Start the amount allocated might not be enough. DCC has no new updates but will be holding meetings to brainstorm new suggestions for this grant. Tom Poland asked if this grant has a deadline. Jessica Cain stated the deadline for this grant and the desert matching grant is December 31, 2022.

Sandy Woodall suggested sharing the businesses interested in the start-up grants so that partners can support them.

Andrea Day reported we had awarded 15 programs the child care desert grant. 8 grants have been awarded for the start-up of family child care grants. 756 facility repair grants have been received. The infant and toddler contracted slot grant has 29 provider participants. Over 400 scholars have applied for a scholarship through KHEAA.

If anyone has a question concerning the ARP grants, they can email Jessica Cain, the ARP coordinator, Jessica.cain@ky.gov.

Tom Poland suggested tracking data on where the grant programs are utilized most in the state. He also suggested ensuring the grants are marketed and promoted across the state. Sandy Woodall stated that regional collaboratives and partners must use their voices in the community to spread awareness of the grant opportunities.

Mike Hammons inquired if providers would be a priority in receiving a separate small business grant the legislators passed this session. Specific qualifiers such as not receiving direct payments from the federal government become a priority. Andrea Day stated she would inquire.

In this interim, several task force meetings impact DCC. The Early Childhood Education Legislative Task Force has had one meeting. Their next meeting is on July 26. The Benefits Cliff Task Force met yesterday.

Currently, DCC is focusing on implementing House Bill 499. This will create an employer/employee child care assistance partnership. DCC is now in the planning stage. We have had meetings with Florida, Wisconsin, and Michigan, who all have a similar program.

DCC plans to create two new credentials: an infant and toddler and school-age. Professional Development staff are working with partners to ensure adequate training to receive these credentials.

DCC is continuing to work on a data dashboard and improve technology.

Andrea Day inquired if any members had any questions.

Mike Hammons stated some families are experiencing issues enrolling and applying for CCAP.

Andrea Day stated she would follow up with Phillip Smith, the CCAP Branch Manager, and Mary Busbee, the Policy Supervisor for CCAP.

Andrea Day inquired if any partners have any community updates.

Mike Hammons reported Learning Grove would be holding a conference in November. Mike Hammons will be sending Andrea Day a link to the conference to share.

Sandy Woodall inquired what partners can do to support House Bill 9 and third grade reading scores. Bill Buchanan stated he does not have details now; however, initiatives will be rolling out this fall. Amy Neal said when the bill was released; her team connected how early literacy can be supported in early childhood. She stated there was a session at the ECI surrounding early literacy, and it's essential to make connections between early literacy and reading levels at the school-age level. Dr. Thomas Williams reiterated the importance of the work surrounding supporting early literacy. Tom Poland mentioned the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which has increased funding and is utilized in communities.

Lastly, Andrea Day reminded members about the year-end report that will be due.

Adjourn

Andrea Day made a call to adjourn the Child Care Advisory Council meeting. Eammon Fitzgerald made the motion, and Sandy Woodall seconded.