

Child Care Advisory Council Meeting
7/20/2023

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

Bill Buchanan/KDE, Andrea Day, Eamonn FitzGerald, Megan Greenwell/GOEC, Charlotta Heersche, Amy Hood, Kathryn Mullen, Tom Poland, Laura Tipton, Jennifer Washburn, Sandy Woodall, Thomas Williams/KDE, Amber Zambrano

Review of Minutes..... Open Discussion

Meeting minutes from May were approved.

Guest Speaker Faith Weekly, Community Development Advisor, Louisville Zone, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

Tom Poland introduced Faith Weekly. Tom Poland explained how the Federal Reserve Bank has been invested in understanding the needs and barriers within early childhood education.

Faith Weekly shared a PowerPoint presentation with members.

The St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank is one of twelve in the United States. The St. Louis Reserve Bank includes a district of six states comprising a portion of Kentucky. The Federal Reserve Bank is the nation’s central bank, and they regulate the flow of money and credit within the economy to promote stable prices and maximize employment.

Faith Weekly informed members of the role of the Community Development Branch within the Federal Reserve Bank. This includes fair lending.

The Federal Reserve Bank defines Early Care and Education as any state-licensed or regulated program or provider that offers care and developmentally appropriate learning settings for children from birth to kindergarten.

The Federal Reserve Bank is devoted to understanding the needs within Early Care and Education because it affects the economy. This includes the ability for families to utilize child care to participate in the workforce.

Faith Weekly shared vital statistics between quality child care and working families. Fifty-three percent (53%) of those working in the United States are parents, and thirty-seven percent (37%) of those parents have young children. Access to quality child care is critical for black mothers, who are sixty-two percent (62%) of single mothers who rely on child care. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, an estimated ninety-eight thousand and two hundred (98,200) individuals have left the workforce due to a lack of child care.

In March 2020, nine Federal Reserve Banks formed a working group to study and respond to the impact of COVID-19 on child care. Child care became a key workforce issue during COVID 19 and brought focus on issues facing the sector. The workgroup collaborated on producing a Connecting Communities webinar, a webinar on child care in rural areas, a briefing on funding and policy considerations, and a briefing on ARPA considerations. The workgroup is currently working on a grant project to study the cost and affordability of high-quality early care, which includes a literature review, focus groups, and a survey.

The workgroup also composed a racial equity discussion paper. As a result, there were some key takeaways from the racial equity review. These include:

- Racial Equity is defined as just and fair inclusion in an economy in which all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential, so that race can no longer predict life outcomes. (What/How do we define it in ECE specifically?)
- For families with young children (under 5), having access to affordable, high-quality child care is crucial to parents' ability to participate in the workforce. Racial inequities persist with respect to accessing such care, which is more important than ever given that the majority of young children today are children of color.
- During the pandemic, nearly 3 in 4 child care businesses reported resorting to—or planning to resort to—layoffs, furloughs, and pay cuts (73%) and the need for these difficult measures was markedly higher (88%) for businesses owned by people of color.
- Child care is least affordable for Black and Hispanic families with low incomes.
- Asian American and Hispanic children have particularly low levels of access to child care subsidies, the main support to help families pay for child care.
- Native American and Hispanic communities are more likely to live in child care deserts areas with particularly low capacity of licensed child care relative to the population of children making access to care challenging.
- Not all racial and ethnic groups are the same and creating equitable access to quality early childhood programs should reflect their cultural and linguistic needs.

Faith Weekly shared resources on the [Federal Reserve website](#), including childcare statistics by state.

Lastly, Faith Weekly shared her contact information: faith.e.weekly@stls.frb.org and inquired if anyone had any questions.

Mike Hammons inquired if the data from Kentucky covered the whole state, and Faith Weekly stated the data did cover all of Kentucky.

CCAC members also shared the new Employer Child Care Assistance program with Faith Weekly. CCAC members inquired if the Federal Reserve Bank could encourage employers to participate. Faith Weekly stated she doesn't believe they could, but the Federal Reserve researchers could analyze the program's impact.

Faith Weekly inquired if Kentucky provides any assistance to address the benefits cliff. Andrea Day shared all the components and requirements of the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and transitional child care.

Andrea Day also shared with Faith Weekly the Employee Income Exclusion. As of Oct. 24, 2022, families applying for CCAP who meet all technical eligibility requirements and have verified employment in a licensed or certified child care program are eligible to have all household income excluded from the CCAP application process. More information is on the [DCC website home page](#).

New Parent Member Vacancy Andrea Day

A parent member has notified DCC they can no longer serve on CCAC. Therefore, this does leave a parent member vacancy. If any members know of any parent that would like to become a member of CCAC, please email recommendations to Kayla Standafer, KaylaM.Standafer@ky.gov, and Andrea Day, AndreaT.Day@ky.gov.

CCAC members discussed the importance of membership being diverse and representation from all areas of Kentucky. A representation gap exists in rural areas, such as the western and eastern areas of the state. The [CCAC statute](#) lists all member types to be represented.

New Agenda Topic Open Discussion

Before the meeting, members were encouraged to share topics they believed could serve as new agenda items with Andrea Day. Several members shared the importance of elevating early childhood education, especially the employees in child care. Sandy Woodall shared an [article](#) with members concerning the importance of language in early childhood education.

CCAC members discussed forming a workgroup to work on initiatives to spread awareness of the importance of early childhood education. Andrea Day stressed the importance of a unified message reaching all state areas. Part of the message is getting the population to understand while child care is expensive, supporting a whole community is also a significant investment with long-term benefits. Andrea Day also shared the importance of our language in describing early childhood education (ECE). Understanding ninety percent of brain development happens before the age of five is essential.

Tom Poland stated it's essential to leverage the Regional Collaboratives in this initiative and ensure they are included. The Regional Collaboratives could be used to streamline any message because they are working within the communities/counties. Andrea Day agreed and asked Megan Greenwell if this would be possible to leverage the assistance of the Regional Collaboratives. Megan Greenwell stated this would be possible, and any time opportunities arise, they share those with the Regional Collaboratives. Megan Greenwell says the individuals who work within the Regional Collaboratives are passionate about this field and would see this as an excellent opportunity to collaborate.

Members also discussed utilizing other partners like the Ky Chamber of Commerce.

Kathy Mullen stated she appreciated this conversation. She stressed the importance of using respectful language to describe child care and including education in the description. Child care should be addressed as Early Childhood Education and used uniformly when discussing issues with all partners. The language should always be positive, which will take much work but is essential. Andrea Day agreed and stated it's crucial to eliminate the language of "it's just child care."

Charlee Heersche agreed with the need to change the viewpoint and language. Charlee Heersche stated she informs parents that enroll their children in the importance of quality care.

Andrea Day requested members volunteer to pursue this initiative further. Sandy Woodall volunteered to lead the workgroup. Tom Poland, Amy Hood, and Charlee Heersche volunteered to join the workgroup.

Community Updates Open Discussion

Andrea Day provided an update on the Employer Child Care Assistance Partnership (ECCAP). There have been eighty-two applications. DCC will promote ECCAP, CCAP, and KY All STARS at the state fair. DCC is also looking to partner with more organizations to promote ECCAP.

Thomas Williams with KDE discussed the public-school teacher shortages. Thomas Williams stated they are gathering information concerning how many higher education institutions offer Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education programs. Andrea Day said she could provide some of that data. Mike Hammons asked what the enrollment numbers were for public preschool. Thomas Williams shared it has increased in some counties due to funding freed from being used previously for full-day Kindergarten. KDE is looking into funding for full-day preschools for all counties.

Megan Greenwell stated GOEC is working on the preschool development grant and the needs assessment. GOEC has two new staff members: Robyn Johnson and Rebecca Smith.

GOEC is working to relaunch the youth apprenticeship program.

GOEC participated in a talent management pipeline webinar with the Ky Chamber of Commerce and the Regional Collaboratives.

Andrea Day will be testifying on Tuesday to the Interim Joint Committee on Families and Children. This will include updates on the ARPA funding and testimony from providers on how the funding has assisted their programs.

Lastly, members discussed the potential for intergenerational child care.

Adjourn

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