

Child Care Advisory Council Meeting  
4/17/2025

Call to Order .....Andrea 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

Lynn Baker, Chuck Bradley, Andrea Day, Amy Hood, Jackie Perry, Tom Poland, Laura Tipton, Jennifer Washburn, Thomas Williams, Sandy Woodall, Amber Zambrano

Meeting minutes from the previous CCAC meeting were approved.

DCC Updates ..... Andrea Day

New council member Jacqueline Perry, a childcare center owner from Frankfort with over 28 years in the early childhood field, was formally welcomed by the members. Andrea Day led introductions and outlined the structure of the Division of Child Care, emphasizing its responsibilities related to the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), background checks, All STARS quality rating system, and professional development in partnership with various statewide organizations.

Andrea Day began by noting the conclusion of the recent legislative session, during which no bills were passed that directly impacted child care. The next session will be a budget year. She assured the council that all updates and developments will be shared.

Andrea Day reported that federal funding has continued uninterrupted, with no cuts to the CCDBG allocation. While the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) recently reduced the number of national regions from ten to five, Kentucky's region 4 staff remained in place. However, due to reductions in other regions, the staff in region 4 will be providing support across state lines.

DCC is preparing for a federal monitoring visit. Andrea Day emphasized that these visits confirm both policy and implementation by allowing federal reviewers to observe day-to-day operations, training, and collaborative processes with partners. She reflected positively on past visits.

Brightwheel, a digital child care management system, is being offered at no cost to all regulated providers in the state, with 856 programs currently participating. Features like attendance tracking and staff profile uploads aim to reduce administrative burdens.

The Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership (ECCAP) program remains active. As of the meeting, 109 contracts had been approved, representing services for 149 children, 89 providers, and 38 businesses. Applications for the new fiscal year opened in April and May.

Andrea Day highlighted updates to health and safety regulations to clarify language and align

with federal requirements. A provider town hall is scheduled for June 17.

DCC sent a provider survey to assist in improving Ky All STARS. The survey had 200+ responses in its first 24 hours. Future focus groups will inform improvements.

Fire Marshall ..... Chuck Bradley

Chuck Bradley, from the State Fire Marshal’s Office, announced that they had successfully completed fire safety inspections for all licensed childcare facilities in the first quarter of 2025. He also shared that for the first time in several years, the office was fully staffed, which would allow for more timely services and assistance to providers across the state. Chuck Bradley emphasized the agency’s ongoing support for licensed facilities and invited providers to contact his office if any needs arise.

GOEC Updates ..... Lynn Baker

Lynn Baker, Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood, provided updates on multiple ongoing initiatives. She announced a statewide webinar at the end of May, hosted by regional collaboratives, that will highlight services offered by the Kentucky Career Center in collaboration with the Office of Employer and Apprenticeship Services. The webinar aims to provide support to early care and education providers with administrative resources and employment strategies.

Lynn Baker discussed the Talent Pipeline Management initiative, which is being carried out in partnership with the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce. This initiative includes subgroups focused on childcare, Head Start, and state-funded public preschool programs. She noted that discussions are underway to improve data accessibility through mapping tools.

She also highlighted the success of the state's apprenticeship program, which is entering its sixth cohort and recently held a summit for mentors. The upcoming Apprenticeship Summit is scheduled for June 4–5 in Lexington. In addition, Lynn noted progress on new communication plans targeting apprenticeship, family childcare, and workforce initiatives. The Early Childhood Institute (ECI) will be held May 14–15, with registration extended to April 25. She also mentioned that new professional development standards and the career lattice have been approved, with plans to update the full professional development framework.

KDE Updates ..... Thomas Williams

Thomas Williams, began by announcing the retirement of Bill Buchanan, a long-standing contributor to Kentucky’s early education landscape, effective May 1. The council recognized Bill’s service and contributions.

Thomas Williams also noted that the Early Childhood Regional Training Centers would be holding a statewide institute in Louisville from June 17–18 at the Crowne Plaza. Additionally, he highlighted the Preschool Quality Partnership Grants and peer-to-peer networking sessions that are developing collaboration across the state. The next session is scheduled for August 8, which will focus on early mathematics.

FCCN Updates ..... Andrea Day/Sandy Woodall

Andrea Day and Sandra Woodall reported on the third annual statewide Family Child Care Network conference, held in Bowling Green. The event attracted over 120 family child care providers and included participation from multiple partners such as Division of Regulated Child Care (DRCC), Child Care Aware, and Help Me Grow. The conference provided valuable professional development and networking opportunities, especially for providers who often work in isolation. Sandra Woodall added that the network had recently presented at the Southeastern Employment and Training Association Conference to showcase partnerships with workforce entities.

Child Care Aware ..... Kate Dean

Kate Dean discussed an initiative led by UK’s Human Development Institute, funded by the Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities. The initiative aims to promote inclusive workforce opportunities for individuals with disabilities by encouraging early educators to observe and support children’s emerging interests and skills. The program provided four trainings this year and has plans to develop asynchronous modules to ensure sustainability. Kate Dean invited support and promotion of the initiative among private sector partners.

#### Open Discussion

During the open discussion, several members including Jennifer Washburn and Tom Poland praised Andrea Day for her leadership, communication, and dedication to transparency. Jennifer Washburn expressed appreciation for the provider survey, highlighting its thoughtful design and relevance. Andrea credited Jessica Abner for leading the survey’s development and promised to share results with the council.

Tom Poland acknowledged the ongoing challenges faced by providers and emphasized the importance of maintaining optimism and resilience. Andrea Day concluded by reiterating the importance of continued collaboration and confirmed that the next meeting would remain virtual, scheduled for July 24, 2025.

#### Adjourn

Andrea Day made a call to adjourn the Child Care Advisory Council meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Jennifer Washburn and seconded by Sandra Woodall.