

Child Care Advisory Council Meeting
8/21/2025

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

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

Meeting minutes from the previous CCAC meeting were approved.

DCC Updates Andrea Day

Andrea Day began with updates from the Division of Child Care. Kentucky recently had a federal monitoring team visit in late April and early May to review compliance with the state plan and related requirements. The visit was reported as positive, and although no official feedback had yet been received, DCC appears to be on track. Andrea emphasized the DCC’s efforts to ensure regulations and policies are both clear and accessible for families, providers, and the public. She invited continued feedback to improve transparency and service.

Andrea Day then highlighted recent developments, most notably the Governor’s executive order in June creating the Pre-K for All Advisory Committee. The committee has been active through the summer, hosting statewide town halls, including one in Louisville at the State Fair. Andrea Day expressed her appreciation for the strong participation, noting widespread support for expanded pre-K access and the endorsement of a mixed-model delivery approach. She described guest presentations from other states, including research shared by Dr. Barnett of the Institute of Early Education Research, who provided insight from New Jersey’s experience. A formal report is expected by October 15. Andrea emphasized that the initiative is not only about kindergarten readiness but also about long-term investment in children, economic development, and workforce participation. She connected the importance of early childhood education with broader outcomes, including child maltreatment prevention. Andrea also discussed the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce’s childcare collaborative, which recently released a 51-page report with eight major recommendations that align with ongoing state efforts. She noted her optimism about child care and pre-K being major focuses in the upcoming legislative session.

Andrea Day also addressed the passage of HR1, the “Big Beautiful Bill,” and its implications for human services, particularly SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). While child care is not directly impacted, changes to work requirements, eligibility, and cost-sharing may affect families served by the Department for Community Based Services. She cautioned that twenty-three states had considered opting out of SNAP but clarified that Kentucky was not among them.

GOEC Updates Lynn Baker

Lynn Baker provided updates for the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood (GOEC). Lynn Baker reported that 100 apprentices had now graduated from the program and earned journey worker credentials. She highlighted the upcoming Early Childhood Institute scheduled for November 4–5 in Lexington, with registration now open. GOEC has continued work on the Pyramid Model, with a recent state leadership team meeting and upcoming training of trainers in September. She shared updates on conscious discipline initiatives, the scholarship approval list, and the career pathway and professional development framework, which is being developed with Tyler Technology to become an interactive online tool. Lynn Baker also mentioned the upcoming Kentucky Head Start Association conference in December and expressed appreciation for the strong collaboration among state partners. Andrea Day thanked Lynn Baker and recognized GOEC’s support in filling gaps, particularly in professional development and data systems.

KDE Updates Thomas Williams

Thomas Williams from the Office of Special Education and Early Learning provided updates from KDE. He described KDE’s participation in the pre-K for All town halls and the importance of hearing directly from families and communities. Thomas highlighted the RTC Summer Institute, which offered professional development with a focus on the Pyramid Model, and the continuation of the “Helping Hands” newsletter for preschool families, now available in both English and Spanish.

Jennifer Washburn shared her perspective from participating in a listening session attended by the Governor. She expressed that the event was meaningful, as child care providers and family child care homes were able to share their experiences directly. She stressed that pre-K for All should focus on accessibility and flexibility, particularly through mixed delivery and community-specific approaches. She felt confident that the Governor and his staff were attentive and took providers’ feedback seriously.

Family Child Care NetworkAmy Hood

Amy Hood provided updates for FCCN. Amy Hood stated that the network is operating “business as usual” while launching a new initiative called “Stepping Stones to Quality.” This program offers milestone kits to support new and developing family child care providers, from startup through quality advancement. Amy noted that many family child care specialists also participated in the town halls.

Federal Reserve Tom Poland

Tom Poland, co-chair, gave an update on his communication with the Federal Reserve. He noted that the Federal Reserve Banks, particularly those in St. Louis and Cleveland, are deeply engaged in supporting early childhood development as a foundation for economic development. He compared the current pre-K for All movement to the transformative education reforms of the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA). Tom praised the momentum and described strong support from Federal Reserve representatives, highlighting their research capacity and political neutrality. He also shared local updates from Danville-Boyle County, where a community early

learning center is reopening and the Development Corporation passed a resolution in support of pre-K for All, which he encouraged other communities to replicate.

Open Discussion

Andrea then revisited Division of Child Care updates, including modernization of the professional development registry (Kentucky TRIS) and efforts to better integrate and analyze data to strengthen policy and advocacy. She announced upcoming listening sessions on Kentucky All STARS, referencing a recent survey of over 400 responses. Feedback emphasized challenges related to staffing, training, retention, and administrative burdens, with providers seeking better alignment between effort and incentives. Andrea reiterated the importance of focusing not only on quality systems but also on what produces thriving children, and she encouraged participants to submit ideas through the childcare regulation email inbox (childcare.regulation@ky.gov).

Discussion also touched on stipend and scholarship supports for Level 1 and 2 providers through the Preschool Development Grant. Lynn Baker confirmed that awards were being finalized and noted that targeting lower-rated programs was intentional to support quality improvement. Jennifer Washburn shared that providers expressed excitement about receiving the stipends and the opportunities for growth. Debbie from the Child Care Council shared a link to an upcoming directors' discussion with Sam Flynn, Executive Director of Pre-K for All.

Tom Poland closed with an additional update from Danville-Boyle County, announcing a community proclamation of support for pre-K for All, which will be publicly shared. Andrea requested a copy to distribute to the group once finalized.

Adjourn

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