

Child Care Advisory Council Meeting
1/20/2022

Call to Order..... Sarah Vanover

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

In Attendance

Laura Begin, Bill Buchanan, Chuck Bradley, Gail Edwards, Eamonn FitzGerald, Paula Goff, Charla Heersche, Amy Hood, Kathy Mullen, Amy Neal, Ashley Parrott, Tom Poland, Patricia Porter, Laura Tipton, Sarah Vanover, Jennifer Washburn, Sandy Woodall, Amber Zambrano

Review of Minutes..... Open Discussion

Meeting minutes from October 2021 were approved.

DCC Update..... Sarah Vanover

Sarah provided the update for DCC.

The Child Care Assistance Program regulation, 922 KAR 2:160, has been updated and went into effect at the beginning of the year. Updates include increasing the CCAP subsidy rate and increasing the income guidelines for families. This should allow for more families to qualify for CCAP. DCC has created promotional material and shared the news of the increase on our social media platforms. Sarah stated she has met with various groups and asked for all advocacy groups to participate in sharing. Sarah shared it is best if the information is shared on a digital platform. More families have access to see current information if it is shared digitally versus on paper.

This week is Family Advocacy week. There are events scheduled throughout the week.

How a Bill becomes Law..... Laura Begin

Laura Begin shared with members the [legislature website](#). She showed members how to find their legislators. Legislators prefer to hear from their constituents, but you could also contact a committee chairperson of interest.

Laura then showed members how to find bills. Once you find a bill on the website, you can find the latest update by scrolling down to the bottom of the page and clicking 'actions.'

Laura shared a graphic showing the route a bill must take to become law. Laura stated this is a big picture example.

Per the KY constitution, the legislative session starts on the first Tuesday of every year, which was January 4th this year. In even-numbered years, it is a long session with sixty legislative days and is referred to as a budget session. During budget sessions, the legislatures will pass a two-year budget. The constitution requires the legislative session to conclude by April 15th. It is a short session for an odd number of years and has thirty days.

When legislators first arrive for session, they go over housekeeping rules and then set up who will be the chairs for committees. Legislators will then file bills. Only legislators can file bills. The Governor, citizens, and other groups cannot file bills.

Laura went over the graphic on how bills become law. Laura shared that a bill must go through many steps to pass and become law. Many bills may not even make it to be heard in a committee. They typically will only listen to bills they believe will pass, so they do not waste any time in session. If a bill is heard in a committee, it must pass to move to the House or Senate floor. The bill then must pass on the respective chamber's floor and then be heard in the other chamber. If the bill is passed in both chambers, it goes to the Governor. The Governor may then veto the bill; however, the legislators can set aside days to override the Governor's veto. Laura stated the process is long, and there are many compromises before a bill becomes law.

Laura asked if anyone had any questions about the process. Sarah Vanover stated it is essential to remember regulations are not affected unless a bill is passed and becomes law. Laura reminded members to use their voices and contact their legislators concerning filed bills. Tom Poland asked Laura the best way to contact legislators. Laura stated by using the LRC website to find their email address, but you could also try to call the phone number listed. Laura said they are responsive to emails, especially if you are one of their constituents.

GOEC Update Amy Neal

Amy Neal shared the goals of the Ky Governor's Office of Early Childhood; promote greater collaboration, emphasize quality and continuous improvement, and ensure more children enter kindergarten prepared.

Amy Neal showed members PowerPoint with a timeline of accomplishments. Kentucky has been leading in a lot of different initiatives.

Amy Neal shared with members kindergarten readiness data. In KY, kindergarten readiness hovered around fifty percent for the last five years. This is highly related to third-grade math and reading proficiency rates, which are subsequently flat.

Amy Neal stated we must continue to collaborate and emphasize quality. GOEC is investing in these initiatives.

GOEC has been continuing to invest in the apprenticeship program. Kentucky will be the first state to establish a director apprenticeship program; however, Texas is closely behind. Brenda Hagan is the leader of this project.

Lastly, Amy Neal shared a map of the regional collaboratives. Using tobacco funds, GOEC invested in the regions and provided training and support.

KDE Update Bill Buchanan

Bill Buchanan provided a Kentucky Department of Education update. There is funding to support all-day kindergarten; this was also a part of the Governor’s budget. There is also a separate bill to fund all-day preschool.

The Preschool Advisory Council’s next meeting is on January 27th. The meeting will be in person, but there will be a virtual option. The group provides advice to the department, and the next meeting will focus on establishing committees.

Bill Buchanan stated there would be a dyslexia initiative/study. Three schools will be participating in this study.

Up to sixteen schools will be selected for math initiatives.

Bill Buchanan stated if anyone has any questions on the initiatives, they can contact him.

Sandy Woodall asked if there were any details on the universal preschool bill. Bill and Sarah stated the policy details are not known, but it could be an excellent opportunity for the families we serve, and the Governor is really excited about the possibility.

Amy Hood asked if the sixteen schools for the math initiatives had been selected. Bill Buchanan stated he would follow up.

Presentation from KY STATS Kari Whitt

The Division of Child Care plans to use federal funding to improve technology systems and data gathering. This new system would be like Bright Wheel but a free resource for centers. The system will be able to collect data on enrollment versus just capacity.

Kari Whitt stated the system would collect center-based information such as current enrollment, maximum enrollment count per center, services the center offers, the curriculum they use, whether they are a part of the federal food program, house attendance records, and identify at-risk populations.

The system would also be available for families to use. Families will be able to see if a center has any open slots. There will also be a feature where families could use the system to check-in and

out of the center using a PIN. Sarah Vanover stated this would allow the center to pull CCAP attendance records.

Kari Whitt stated the system would have different access tiers so that no personal information would be available to outsiders, and only centers could see other sensitive data.

The system would also be able to connect to the ECE-TRIS system and house staff records, such as background checks. The system would also be set up for alerts, such as if a staff member is due for a TB skin test.

Kari Whitt stated they are still working through if the system could house a payment system for the center and parents. This would mean centers could bill parents through the system, and parents could link a credit/debit card or bank account.

Kari Whitt stated they are currently in the contract cycle with DCC, and next would be digging into development and implementation. The final product will be available in 2024. Kari Whitt invited members to ask any questions.

Sarah Vanover stated this system would be voluntary for providers to use.

Jennifer Washburn asked if this would be a system where paper documents would need to be scanned in or would there be forms built into the system. Kari Whitt stated they are still in the design phase, so conversation is still needed on what would be the best option.

Brenda Hagan stated her centers use ProCare, and the system lets them ask questions before families come into the center. She asked if that would be available in this system. Kari Whitt said they have had conversations about implementing this into the design.

KY All-STARS Program Shade Chaffin

Shade Chaffin introduced himself as the Quality Initiatives Section Supervisor. KY All STARS is the quality improvement and rating system that has been created in Kentucky.

During the pandemic, the KY All STARS program was paused. In October, All STARS opened back up to programs, but the staff noticed not all programs due for renewal were ready. Therefore, programs were given the option to postpone their renewal by one more year. Shade reported that 168 providers have elected not to renew.

Sarah Vanover stated providers who opened during the pandemic were very excited All STARS reopened. When a program starts operation, they are automatically a level one. Therefore, some programs were excited to be eligible to apply for a higher quality rating.

Update on the Family Child Care Network..... Amy Hood

Sarah Vanover gave a brief update on the transition of Child Care Aware supporting Certified Family Child Care Homes to the newly developed Family Child Care Network.

Amy Hood stated the program had begun the rollout stage. She shared a PowerPoint with members.

Amy Hood shared all the organizations that make up the Family Child Care Network (FCCN). The general email for the FCCN is fckyinfo@wku.edu.

The mission statement of the FCCN is to recruit and support in-home care, families, and communities to increase and sustain access to quality early learning experiences. The vision is to elevate family child care in KY.

Amy Hood highlighted the responsibilities of the FCCN. This includes recruitment, technical assistance, supporting business practices, providing training, and liaison with the community.

The FCCN has been working to hire staff, and only two agencies are still looking for additional staff. They have been working on training and collaboration with all partners.

Lastly, Amy Hood shared the contact information for the FCCN:
1-800-621-5908
FCCN-KY
1906 College Heights Blvd. #11031
Bowling Green, KY 42101.

Community Updates Open Discussion

Sarah Vanover stated that the Prichard Committee would be giving an update on family engagement at the next meeting.

Rick Hulefeld stated Learning Grove would be hosting a conference with various speakers on Nov. 2nd and 3rd and inviting child care providers and partners to attend.

Sarah Vanover stated DCC continues to host TOTS (training of trainers). The next one is Autism 101, and they will be held on various dates next month. Credentialed trainers in KY are invited to sign up for these trainings.

Adjourn

Sarah Vanover made a call to adjourn the Child Care Advisory Council meeting. Amy Hood made the motion and Jennifer Washburn seconded.