

# **Child Care Advisory Council Minutes**

## **ODJFS/BCCD**

### **April 20, 2011**

#### **Check In (Introductions/ Review/ Approve Minutes & Agenda)**

- Approval of March 2011 meeting minutes; Motion made to approve minutes after one attendance correction, minutes approved.

#### **BCCD Updates – See Handout**

##### **Terrie Hare, Bureau Chief**

- Our Federal State Plan draft will soon be posted on our website along with Public Hearing dates/times. Terrie will also be presenting the plan at the May CCAC meeting.
- The Governor recently visited some child care centers, Linda Day-Mackessey and Karen Lampe's centers. The visit consisted of a tour of the centers and conversations regarding child care regulation, rates, eligibility, and how it will affect families in Ohio. Articles can be found in the local papers.
- Rule updates are those that will go into effect May 1<sup>st</sup>, refer to transmittal letter 109.
- SUTQ:
  - Grew 15 programs from last month and increase 1,459 children overall.
  - Moving forward with a 4<sup>th</sup> step; projected to begin in January 2012.
  - No longer a SUTQ stakeholders meeting. The Early Care and Education Committee along with CCAC will be the primary venue of the SUTQ issues for the future.
- Early Childhood Conference next week at the convention center, April 28-30<sup>th</sup>.
- 90 day re-run & expenditures are running higher and ODJFS wants to make sure expenditures are covered especially during summer months when expenditures are higher because of school age children.

#### **ODJFS/Child Care Budget**

##### **Alicia Leatherman, Deputy Director**

##### **Terrie Hare, Bureau Chief**

- ODJFS met with AFSCME on March 29<sup>th</sup> and with center providers on March 31<sup>st</sup> to discuss the budget and options for the 7% provider rate cut. We are currently taking all ideas, researching, and running data but have not made a concrete decision regarding the cuts.
- There are various amendments in the House and we are looking at the legislative actions that will be taken before we make any final decisions. Some things we have looked at are registration fees, activity fees, transportation fees, rates to Type B's vs. Type A's. It may not be until the first week of May until we hear anything regarding the House amendments.
- The last federal continuing resolution provided additional resources to fiscal year 2011 which were allocated to child care, an estimated 3.9 million. Until it is certain we will be receiving those monies and state fiscal 2011 is going to balance, we will not create a plan on how to allocate those dollars for 2012 or 2013.
  - Question Posed: Have we looked at revisiting paying providers with hourly, part time, full time? We think the May 1<sup>st</sup> policy will deal with the largest cases that the

- state is paying for. Also, about 9 months ago we recommended putting the counties in control regarding the authorization of a second provider and we continue to have these discussions. In addition, we are discussing with provider groups increasing the hourly thresholds, all except for school age. We feel strongly that our weekly PT and FT payments reflect the market and give us assurance that low income children will have care. We currently are not working with any legislators that will impact the Full time Part time threshold.
- Question Posed: Would raising full time to a 35 hour week save more money?
    - A cost estimate was conducted and the flaw with viewing only the 25 hour children is one forgets about those that attend child care for 40+ hours. Last year there was about 30 million hours of care in home based settings and an application of hourly pay would have cost the state 7 million more.
    - We have explored numerous fronts to put some controls on cost where needed without affecting parents ability to access care. We are looking at eliminating two Type B's in the same household and anticipate that to occur in July 2011.
  - Question Posed: What is driving the shift from families to centers? We have not researched but there has been a decrease in the past 6 years which policy may have impacted.
  - Comment: Please consider keeping the \$25.00 registration fee – this helps pay for educational supplies. Part of the challenge is the state cannot see how many providers are receiving it and how many times the state is paying the registration fee.
  - ACS has never seen a state with so many payment variables; we have many different payment options from other states. We are looking to streamline the payment process for providers and families.
  - Closing remarks with the budget are there is no indication of what may come out on the other side of the process. We will know if any amendments directly impact provider reductions and hopefully by the May CCAC meeting we can share updates.

## **Early Care & Education Workgroup Early Childhood Advisory Council- See Handout**

**Chris Humphrey, Co-Chair**

**Terrie Hare, Bureau Chief**

- The first ECAC meeting was this week with Chris Stoneburner, OCCRRA's Executive Director, as the committee chair.
- ECAC:
  - Items 1-9 revolve around standards which included a lengthy discussion on a possible merging of Pre-K linking to K-12 and then Birth to 3 which will further be discussed at the next meeting. ECAC should be receiving an update from ODE regarding Pre-K standards and an update from ODJFS or OCCRRA on Birth to 3 standards.
  - Regulatory Improvement Process: the department is moving forward on a recommendation within our current rules. OACCP gave us recommendation on rules as well. At the next meeting we can continue to provide regulation updates.
  - A lot of our work will cross over with other committees. ECAC is working with other committees to make sure we are not duplicating work.

- If anyone wants to be apart of these meetings, there are opportunities so please notify Chris or Terrie if you have specific interest.
- Needs Assessment Committee: Ad Hoc committee that is looking to have a hire a vendor that will oversee the entire process. A needs assessment of all areas that encompass Early Childhood. Using it as a basis and how we can gather data so it's more interconnected.
- Comprehensive Health Committee: Recently met and is looking at the whole child, their physical health, behavioral, vision, oral care, hearing. Using the data to make sure kids are getting the comprehensive care they really need.
- Communications Committee: Looking at the history and working closely with all the committees. Other committee chairs can attend the meetings at anytime to update them and they can communicate out to the community.

### **Union Updates**

#### **Stephen Roberts, AFSCME**

- Recently held their election and 7 of the 8 officers were re-elected at their regional meetings. An email will be sent out by tonight with their names and contact information.

### **Success by Six- See Handouts**

#### **Chris Humphrey, Co-Chair**

- Success by 6 is a United Way Initiative working to ensure that all children are ready for kindergarten
- Success by 6 is a planning effort and does not provide direct services. Overall the focus is on:
  - Home Visitation
  - Quality Early Childhood Education
  - Data Analysis Measuring
  - Community Will and Public Policy, Advocacy
- Committees are active in all of the United Way of Greater Cincinnati counties including Brown, Clermont, Hamilton, and the Middletown area of Butler. There are similar strategies but each work plan is unique to the culture of it's area. For example, what works in an urban area like Cincinnati isn't the same as what works in the rural areas of Brown County.
- Home Visitation: Every Child Succeeds is the partner for birth to age 3 children. For ages 3-5, HIPPY and SPARK are the partners. Summer Bridge (pre-K kindergarten) is provided by Cincinnati Public Schools and Head Start in Butler, Brown and Clermont Counties.
- Quality Early Childhood Education: 4C for Children provides leadership coaching for centers to become rated or advance in the SUTQ rating system
- Bracken Basic Concept Scale is used for data and measurement and correlates with KRA-L.

### **Child Care IT Systems Update**

#### **Michelle Albast, Project Manager**

- The Pilot will begin Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> consisting of 5 counties: Union, Champagne, Marion, Ross, and Logan. The pilots range from all sizes and all provider types. About

1000 children. The new system will be statewide in November (Effective Sunday, October 30th).

- Webinars for providers has been pushed back due to the pilot delay. Pilot counties will start webinars in June. Working on several materials including the contact of materials for the webinars.
- Please encourage the counties and local groups to participate in the Caretaker web-based training.
- FAQ has been finalized for providers and caretakers.
- A User manual for providers will be available at the time of installation.
- There will be sessions available at the Early Childhood conference next week for providers to attend and at the OJFSDA conference for county users.
- Pilot caseworkers will be reaching out to providers for focus groups and follow-up surveys and this is something similar we would like to do with counties for caretakers to get parent feedback. As we move through the pilot, we can share some of the information with the group.
- If the provider in that county and the children from that county have to use POS device. Children from neighboring counties served at that program will still be invoiced.
  - Question: Why not launch the pilot earlier so we have more time to review it before the statewide launch? This is something that has been considered, but we are not ready in testing and would like more time to fix the bugs before the pilot. For ACS we have to give production data. We are also looking at extending the length of the pilot. We want the pilot to be ready for accurate payments and have experience for a number of cycles before going live in state.
  - Question: What would success look like during the pilot program (for parents and providers) and what are backup plans if it is not successful? We have certain expectations that need to be met in regards to experiences for the providers and parents. If we do not meet these expectations, we will not go live in November.
  - Question: Is ACS in other states? ACS will work with existing systems but our system has to be system of record. Ours can feed into your system for bookkeeping. Michelle will get everyone the contact information to begin planning for this with ACS and list of states that ACS works with.
- Terrie will get JCARR date for rules just in Clearance.

#### **Check Out (Assignments/Next Meeting/Travel Expense Reports)**

- Next meeting will be held on May 18, 2011.
- Meeting Adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

