Child Care Advisory Council Minutes
ODJFS/BCCD
November 16, 2011

Check In (Introductions/ Review/ Approve Minutes & Agenda)
- Motion made to approve the September minutes; minutes approved.

BCCD Updates – See Handout
Alicia Leatherman, Division of Child Care
- Recently within the Bureau of Child Care and Development (BCCD) there have been changes in leadership; Michelle Albast is now the Acting Chief of the Bureau of Child Care and Development. ODJFS will be filling her Project Manager assignment to ensure that there is strong leadership during the statewide roll out of Ohio ECC. These changes do not signify major restructuring within JFS Child Care.
- Once the leadership team is in place for Child Care, time will be set aside to create priorities and goals with our staff. The current I.T. unit that works closely with Michelle will be working across all of our I.T. systems that support the Division of Child Care.
- The interaction between the Department and the Child Care Advisory Council (CCAC) will begin to change. The Department would like the council to help set recommendations and continuously provide input and knowledge that will support and work with the Department. The recent CCAC annual report was a good perspective on how CCAC and the Department work together but most importantly, how changes do need to occur so it is more cohesive and to highlight the recommendations that are generated by CCAC.
- The Child Care and Development Bureau updates provided monthly at CCAC will change in structure due to the Policy and I.T. Committees providing updates. This will remove any repetitiveness and be inclusive of both areas within the Division of Child Care.
- The progress around Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) and its growth with new and initial applications continues to surprise the Department. Recent SUTQ changes allow Professional Development to occur within 20 hours over a 2 year period creating more flexibility. This went into effect on November 1st and is intended for everyone. The November 1st date is for those with a new or renewal application. All Pre-requisites will stay as they are for the first year. Alicia will re-send the memo that was emailed out to providers regarding this Professional Development change. Also, we are currently looking at how to maximize the visits for the deferrals.
- Regarding the work requirement and its impact on the child care budget, Ohio is facing millions of dollars in penalties for not meeting the Federal work requirements for the TANF program; it is the number one priority for the Director and the Department. Data has been reviewed and we are finding the growth within the child care programs are not the guaranteed caseload. Conversations occurring on the TANF side are finding that the cases they are working on are so difficult in

terms of placement that they expect to see blips of activity. For example, a provider may get a family enrolled but then the family does not follow through with the county self-sufficiency contract. About 14, 000 are targeted to receiving a work activity but the question will continue to be how many who are participating in an activity will qualify for child care or have a child that needs care?

Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant- See Powerpoint & Handout
Alicia Leatherman, Division of Child Care
- It has been the largest initiative around Early Childhood systems since the creation of the Child Care and Development BLOCK Grant. This grant is the frame on how Federal resources will be moving ahead.
    - Recently, Joan Lombardi left the position as Interdepartmental Assistant Secretary and it has been announced Linda Smith has been appointed to fill the position. Linda Smith has been serving as the Executive Director of the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies.
- The U. S. Department of Education is the primary logistic and grant management standpoint at the Federal level; Health and Human Services is a significant partner and will be involved in every aspect. . It is uncertain how many states will be selected but it will be based on their size and their applications. There have been speculations that they will negotiate lower amounts of the grant to give it to as many states as possible.
- The focus of the Early Learning Challenge Grant is high needs children in high quality settings.
    - Measuring outcomes and progress was of particular interest to the Governor's office. Ohio's KRA-L currently plans to expand to all school readiness domains and build upon the state Longitudinal Data Grant. This grant currently has inventory of early childhood data systems required and this link will better coordinate, align, and connect data systems.
    - The grant will also be pushing the framework of the rating system to move the definition of quality and access to focus more high needs and quality to every type of setting in the state while making information consistent and available to all families.
    - Ohio has also chosen to respond to the comprehensive standards and assessment system. Ohio has opted to imbed Health and Behavioral aspects into the foundation of our application.
- During the grant writing process states were instructed not to specifically write to the absolute priority. Those reading the grant will make an assumption on what Ohio's absolute priority is based on scoring and how well our proposal was written.
    - Invitational priorities were written within the grant application but no resources were allocated.
- Ohio's process consisted of work from Governor's office, ODE, ODJFS, OBRT, Battelle, and 450 survey responses from field stakeholders.
    - MOU's were created during the grant writing process to help coordinate who would partner off from different agencies. If Ohio is awarded the grant, we have 90 days to revise the MOU's written.

- For the 3 populations of high needs children, there is a 25%-35% readiness gap when those children arrive at the kindergarten door. Ohio chose the 5% decrease in this gap by 2020 due to the current lack of the level of assurance.
- The Governor released an Executive Order creating an Early Education and Development Officer that will carry out the grant. Nothing has been released as of yet who this individual will be. A similar model of work is expected with the Office of Health Transformation around project teams which will assist the officer when working through the reform agenda. Those that will compose the project teams will be representatives of the state agencies as well as external representatives but as stated before, no decisions have been made.
  - The Early Education Innovation Committee was also created during this Executive Order. The Innovation Committee will contain representatives from the private sector, business philanthropy research, and children's health. A large focus will be on how to take private sector ideas and infuse them into our system and Early Childhood. This committee will not be replacing the ECAC committee; they will be working together to support the Governor and the reform agenda.
  - The Governor is looking at the means and outcomes for work from an accountability standpoint throughout all quality, assessments, and standards.
  - A definition of a high quality setting in today's work can be defined as a 2 and 3 star rated program. For future work, we are looking at a high quality setting as a 3, 4, or 5 rating. With the expansion of Step Up To Quality, we are looking at a statewide roll out vs. pilot programs. Notices will be sent to those in CCAC regarding tested items and statewide items.
  - Regardless of receiving the grant or not, this is the plan we will follow. The funding and pace may change but there are additional places we can pull existing funding from, such as the ELCG if we receive it and ECAC.
- Part of the changes within the grant will be to use quality across all settings. ODE will be monitoring on site Pre-K for the next 3 years. This process will be something that eventually will be combined with ODJFS and the way the Department is currently monitoring quality. ODE's impact process and ODJFS' SUTQ verification process will cease to exist and a common monitoring tool will be created to test quality and continuous improvement goals. The monitoring staff between ODE and ODJFS will be interchangeable along with a shared vision of the process and definitions of quality. The goal by year 2020, including state Pre-K and special Pre-K, would be for all publicly funded centers to be a star rated center.
- Many discussions will occur around consistent guidelines, standards, and benchmarks as well as reviewing the current standards in SUTQ and what levels will need continuous improvement promotion and recognition to those exceeding 3 stars.
  - In regards to moving to a 5 step process, we will continue as planned to implement the transitional step between 1 and 2 adding on step 3; the additional steps have yet to be discussed. The thought process will be more around the children's progression and programs documenting the

improvement while keeping innovation within the program. As mentioned earlier, this process will be a statewide rollout.

- o In terms of standards, family support and engagement standards as well as health promotion standards will be two areas that become more prominent and relevant.
- There has been no decision where the incentives will be tested for rated programs and co-pay elimination for families. It is preferred to use urban rural and suburban areas. Testing would involve:
  - o To determining the right incentives for programs to service high needs children it was chosen to use $2500 average per child per program. This number was chosen because in Cleveland findings are showing they are awarding above the state market rate to their providers.
- To determine how our policies around co-payments are impacting the decisions families are making. The biggest case will be the Early Learning Initiative; will families be more willing to choose a 2 or 3 star centers if co-payments are eliminated?
- With this grant we would also like to expand the TEACH scholarships. This is important because college credit is something that will always stay with someone in addition to the data from the registry says the highest standard will be around TEACH qualifications. The CDA program will still exist.
- We would also like to create TA assistance for centers that will move from a 1 star and higher in addition to centers that will move from a rated to nonrated center.
- We are proposing to begin to rate family childcare at the beginning of the next biennium but there is a small number in terms of family child care in highly rated sites. By the end of the grant, we would like to see 330 family child care homes. An important factor we would like to examine is what centers are rated and how can they serve more kids and who are not rated with high needs and how can we encourage them to participate?
- We are combining forces with Maryland, the leading state in the country around the assessment system from Pre-K up to grade 3. They also would like to partner with us due to our Kindergarten Entry Assessment. With Maryland we will:
  - o Revise contact standards;
  - o Better align infant toddler guidelines to make them a part of a standards package while also reframing the existing standards to have common framework birth to 5. This work can be supported with ECAC dollars and will begin soon. Once it is developed, we will be dissecting a formative assessment system beginning 36-72 months (we are aware infant toddlers are not included and are treading cautiously). Assumed programs participating in the rating system will be required to utilize this assessment system.
  - o We will also work with Maryland on the comprehensive kindergarten entry assessment; it is a screening tool, not an assessment, to determine if a child is ready to enter. This will also lead us into how to help teachers appropriately plan their lessons based on the children they have and how to help children prepare for kindergarten. School year 13-14 will pilot the expanded

kindergarten readiness assessment. It will become statewide school year 14-15.

- We are gathering the correct group together to put together a more systematic approach to Professional Development.
- Looking at how to expand knowledge and supports for English Language Learners. 5000 English language learners take the KRA-L each year. The whole family will be included since the home language and culture is so influential.
- We are using the Core Knowledge Competencies as we advertise for Professional Development. We propose to bring together 2 and 4 year programs yet clarify specific targeted activities to help make the shift to the core body of knowledge.
  - There needs to the crosswalk between core knowledge and 4-year programs. It was pointed out that the 2-year programs are currently using the Core Knowledge as their foundation.
- In the application there is talk about the need to match children across systems and about a unique identifier or using the Statewide Student Identifier to track children in state funded programs and up to kindergarten; children served in state funded programs may be where we start. It is needed to understand the utilization of services and the accountability in addition to all of the data matching across all systems and coding the licensing and quality system that both ODE and ODJFS use. The data system would utilize both licensing and monitoring quality in the same time frame.
- Looking back at the design to include family child care providers, we are making an assumption that the county staff would be the ones to distribute the quality rating. We are proposing that certification licensing would apply to providers who want to continue to be funded through publicly funded Child Care programs and the licensing system in Ohio would mirror the certification process. A big difference would be that the county would be responsible for entering compliance data into the statewide system; within the grant, at a state level, two positions will be created for this purpose to maintain quality assurance and work in collaboration with the counties. The infrastructure can be better support if a quality assurance person is reviewing the materials, trainings the county staff conducting the licensing and quality ratings.
  - Licensing family child care requires statutory change. We are most interested in building the family child care module into our IT regulatory system. This is to assist in creating a more systematic approach.
    - This will not contain PPI, who would likely maintain that flexibility. They will continue to receive subsidized funding but at a significantly reduced level.
  - We have been reviewing how to resolve county and provider hearing issues at a state level, if needed. We do not have capacity to apply the 119 hearing to 8,000 family child care providers.
  - One of the to-do items will be to talk through what and how quality should look for both state and county. The goal is to create a continuous improvement and quality process that is stronger than what it is today. We want to be clear on regulation.

- o The licensing would apply to those who are type B certified and currently serving publicly funded children. We are looking to license family child care before SUTQ will go into effect.
  - o Statutory changes that would take place would not address the threshold; it will stay at 6 children.
- Regardless if we receive the funding for statutory support we want to plan to build the module within the licensing system and have counties begin to enter certifications into a statewide depository.
- Program effects on the early grades, it will be a cluster of some rural counties that will look at ready school model and talking about a team of people of early childhood and k-3 or k-12. The spark Ohio model, both of these models have been tested din urban areas and ready schools has not been focused on high needs or school with high needs. Does this work in a rural community?
- The proposal is on the ODE website: http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEPrimary.aspx?page=2&TopicRelationID=5
- Stephanie Siddens will attend a future CCAC meeting.
- Negotiation will begin with the states they want to fund the beginning of December and will announce who is awarded mid-December.

Early Childhood Mental Health- See Handout
Marla Himmeger, ODMH
- Copy of the report was sent to all of CCAC, please check your email for the current copy.
- The consultations are regarding increasing knowledge and awareness and increasing the skills of early childhood providers to meet the behavioral health needs of young children that are necessary to provide a quality setting for kids.
- With the funds from ODMH and ODJFS, center based consultation services are provided to Head Start Centers and Child Care Centers serving children with subsidized care.
- We have also established Core Competencies for Mental Health in 2009 and are currently building on those competencies. The ECMH Professional Credential is being developed and will begin grandfathering after the first of the year. The framework for Help Me Grow through OPDN was used to guide this process.
- ODMH continues to explore possible funding for FY 12.
- To note, we saw a shift in demographics once we went into high needs settings.
- Please contact Marla with any additional questions.

Healthy Child Care Ohio
Melissa Courts, ODH
- Will present at the next CCAC.

Union Updates
Bethany Sanders, AFSCME

- Involved with members during the implementation of the swipe card and ongoing big projects.
- In terms of rules and counties, we are working on distributing communication out to the field about how some counties handle issues we like and want to incorporate into the rules where there may be holes or gray areas.
- Bethany encourages everyone to contact her as needed.

Committee Reports
Julie Piazza-King, Nonprofit Representative Co-Chair
Stephanie Shafer, BCCD
Elaine Ward, Community Professional Representative Co-Chair
Tracey Chestnut, BCCD
- Policy & Rules:
  - Two final licensing packages will be effective December 1st.
  - Type B rules with ECC changes for certification issues, due to system requirements will be in Clearance in December and will likely have an effective date of March 1st.
  - The committee reviewed a draft rule; we would like to more clearly state the serious risk of a rule and make this more obvious in rule language. The draft rule shows the rational directly under the title of the rule to indicate the philosophy.
  - Each committee meeting the plan is to look at a certain number of rules to comment on the content of the drafts. We will pay close attention to these details and any grant changes while making these changes.
  - A Field guide, which is a brand new project, will begin to be developed as these changes are made.
- IT Committee:
  - Ohio ECC POS installations are occurring statewide and will continue as new providers join.
  - Provider webinars are 50% completed. Thirty-100 individuals logged in each session depending on the sessions. All questions and answers throughout the webinar are posted on the CCIDS website listed by date of webinar: http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/ECC.stm
  - Statewide caretakers were sent a reminder postcard about the swipe card and to go to the website. Caretaker online training website: http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/tutorials/CCIDS-ECC/
  - The swipe card itself will be mailed to caretakers in December, between November 22nd and December 2nd. If they have not received a card by December 17th advise them to contact the CCIDS Helpdesk: 1-877-302-2347.
  - Currently installation is statewide and ODJFS has been monitoring as an agency working with ACS. The next step taking place is ACS is meeting with Media Writers Inc to state corrections.. If you are aware of any issues, email the CCIDS helpdesk, give the provider number, we can follow up; we are managing them individually to get the issue resolved.

- o Regarding the pilot, it has been a positive experience thus far. Everyone is aware of the school age issue and there are suggested changes on the enhancement list. There have been no Hamilton payments yet but as for the pilot payments, they have processed smoothly and we expect the same for Hamilton.
  - Tracey will get back with Karen regarding early access to the Pweb before go live so providers can verify their information is accurate.
  - Early access to the PWeb is not possible. Providers can log into the PWeb now, but cannot access authorization information until a few days before go live.
  - **Update:** Authorization data is not given to ACS until one day prior to the go-live date of January 1, 2012. This late exchange of authorization data is necessary to restrict allowable swipe activity for dates prior to go live. Without authorization data the PWeb will not display case or child data earlier than go-live.
- o We are breaking down the provider webinar into 3 sections due to size and posting as a powerpoint with narration in sections; no date approximated.

Check Out (Assignments/Next Meeting/Travel Expense Reports)
- The next meeting will be held on December 21, 2011 and will be a conference call at 1:00pm. Stacey will be emailing a bridge line call-in number closer to the date for those who want to participate.
- Meeting Adjourned.

Child Care Advisory Council
November 16, 2011
Attendance
Key: ☒Present ☐Absent

Members

☒	Chris Humphrey, Chair, Community Professional		
☒	Alicia Leatherman	☒	Pam Perrino, Community Professional
☒	Tracy Bope, Fairfield CDJFS	☒	Julie Piazza-King, Not for Profit
☒	Teri Brannum, Community Professional	☒	Terri Raneri, Type A
☐	Marjorie Crouse, Parent	☒	Renee Saam, Allen CDJFS
☐	Nicky Foster, Proprietary	☐	David Smith, Not for Profit
☒	Sandra Foster, Cuayhoga CDJFS	☒	Sarah Stertzbach, Parent
☐	Tasha Johnson, Not for Profit	☒	Lolita Wallace, Franklin CDJFS
☐	Joseph Krasno, Stark CDJFS	☒	Elaine Ward, Community Professional
☒	Louanna Leonard, Proprietary	☐	Kate, Watson, Parent
☒	Barbara McVicker, Type B Provider	☐	Lynette White, Proprietary
☒	Gail Montana, Type B	☒	Amy Story, Hamilton CDJFS

Ex-Officio Members:

☐	Kim Carlson, ODE	☒	Katrina Bush, DODD
☒	Melissa Courts, ODH	☐	Diane Saunders, ODE
☒	Marlene Fields, ODE	☐	James Scott, ODE, Head Start
☒	Marla Himmeger, ODMH	☐	Jan Sokolnicki, Commerce
☐	Ron Johnson, State Fire Marshall		

ODJFS, BCCD Staff:

☒	Carol Ankrom, BCCD	☒	Stephanie Shafer, BCCD
☐	Michelle Albast, BCCD	☒	Stacey Zack, Executive Secretary
☒	Cara Lee, BCCD		

Guests:

☒	Linda Day Mackessey, YMCA	☒	Linda Neugebauer, Early Care and Learning
☒	Bethany Sanders, Ohio Council 8	☒	Paula Selway, JR Coleman-Canton
☒	Helena Larios, Mambevon LLC	☒	Kim German, NC State/OSU-M Child Dev. Center
☒	Karen Lampe, Montgomery County		
☒	Dawn Fraizer, Child Care Choices		
☒	Lori Phillips, Child Care Choices		
☒	Marcia Ward, ODE		