December 6, 2019

Kimberly Hall, Director
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
30 E. Broad Street, 32nd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414

Dear Director Hall:

We are pleased to present the Ohio Child Care Advisory Council (CCAC) Annual Report for fiscal year (SFY) 2019. This report provides information about the actions of CCAC over the past year.

CCAC is committed to quality care and education services for all children. This year, Council’s efforts were focused on influencing and advancing policy and procedures that support the State Plan and meeting the 2020 goal around Step Up To Quality (SUTQ). In addition, several Council meeting discussions focused on workforce challenges and the need for increased information and communication regarding the resources and supports available for providers and the children and families they serve affected by addiction and trauma. The goal of the CCAC is to develop an appropriate balance between these interests in pursuit of the best system of care for children, parents, providers, and communities while maintaining a focus on availability, accessibility, affordability, and quality for all children and families.

CCAC is an example of a high functioning ongoing partnership between a regulatory agency and its stakeholder community. Together, CCAC and ODJFS have worked to maintain a focus on the consumer needs while ensuring high-quality access for families and children. The ambitious SUTQ goals set for 2020/2025 and increased child care workforce challenges make it imperative that there is effective communication, collaboration and alignment between ODJFS, CCAC and Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC). The Council recognizes and appreciates the common practice by ODJFS of soliciting provider/stakeholder input to inform policy and regulatory changes and to address important issues in early childhood education. CCAC will continue to move toward a model of a high performing inclusive structure providing input, feedback and recommendations that are timely, relevant, non-duplicative, data driven and mindful of the need for alignment between CCAC, ECAC and ODJFS.

Sincerely,

Becky Ciminillo
Co-Chair, Ohio Child Care Advisory Council

cc: Kara Wente, Assistant Director
Wanda Ellis, Deputy Director
Michelle Albast, Bureau Chief
Jeff Van Deusen, Bureau Chief
Tracey Chestnut, Bureau Chief
The Council

Composition of the Council

Six members are representatives of child care centers (CCC) subject to licensing. The members represent a variety of centers, including nonprofit and proprietary, from across the state.

At least three members are parents (P), guardians, or custodians of children receiving child care or publicly funded child care in the child’s own home or at a center, a type A home, a Head Start program, a licensed type B home, or a type B home at the time of appointment.

Three members are representatives of in-home aides, type A homes, type B homes, or Head Start (FCC, HS).

The remaining members are representatives of the teaching, child development, and health professions and other individuals interested in children’s welfare.

Four members are community professionals (CP) who are employees or licensees of a child care center, Head Start program, type A home, an in home-aide or providers operating a licensed type B home.

At least six members represent county departments of job and family services (C).

5104.08 Child Care Advisory Council

Ohio Revised Code Section 5104.08 mandates the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to convene the Child Care Advisory Council to advise the director on matters affecting the licensing of child care centers, type A and type B family child care homes, and in-home aides.
Child Care Advisory Council’s Role

Individuals interested in becoming a member of the Child Care Advisory Council complete an application. Applications are reviewed, and members are selected based on the member type position opening and their county/location to ensure diverse representation from around the state. Members commit to actively participating on behalf of the population they represent and to attending at least 50% of council meetings annually.

The council provides a platform for:

- The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services’ Office of Family Assistance to share updates and relevant information with stakeholders.
- Council members to provide feedback on behalf of the stakeholders they represent, on items identified by the Office of Family Assistance, such as insight on training and technical assistance needs, policy, technology, the Market Rate Survey, and the Child Care and Development Block Grant.
- The council to make formal recommendations specific to child care.
- Other organizations/agencies to get feedback for their work.

Our Focus

Each year, the council creates an annual report for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services director that addresses the availability, affordability, accessibility, and quality of child care.

Availability

The degree to which a family has ready access to needed child care. Factors affecting this include not only geographic location, but also the availability of care for the child’s age and at the needed time of day.

Accessibility

The availability of child care when and where all families need it.

Affordability

The degree to which the price of child care is a feasible expense for families. High-quality care may be available, but it may not be affordable for families with low or moderate incomes.

Quality

Quality child care exceeds the minimum health, safety, and program administration requirements outlined in licensing regulations. High-quality settings are responsive and allow children to form secure attachments to nurturing adults; offer engaging, appropriate activities that promote healthy growth and development; prepare children for school; and promote children’s success in school.
Updates, Feedback and Vital Input

At each meeting, staff from the Office of Family Assistance share updates and relevant information with council members. Members provide input and feedback on behalf of the stakeholders they represent.

In 2019, ODJFS announced the following staff changes:

- New Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Director: Kimberly Hall
- New Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Assistant Director: Kara Wente
- New Office of Family Assistance Deputy Director: Wanda Ellis

New Time, Attendance and Payment System

The council provided input/feedback from the field regarding:

- Effective ways to communicate with providers and families.
- Provider/family challenges during the transition to the new system.
- Necessary information, training, and website resources.

State Plan Compliance: New Background Check Rules

(Effective October 2017; changes effective September 29, 2019)

The council provided input/feedback from the field regarding:

- Provider challenges/barriers with the background check process.
- Necessary rule communication and clarification.

Step Up To Quality 2020 Goal

Ohio's Step UpTo Quality program uses a comprehensive, one- to five-star rating system to assess licensed early childhood programs that exceed minimum health and safety standards. By July 1, 2020, all licensed child care programs that receive state funding will be required to participate. In 2019, the council discussed:

- Effective ways to communicate the importance of Step UpTo Quality with providers and families.
- Provider challenges/barriers to participation.
- Technical assistance, resources, and training.

Rule Review Sessions

Council members review and provide feedback on rules prior to their release for public comment. This step in the process is valuable to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services because it allows staff to have a dialogue with a small group of stakeholders to better understand their perspective on rule interpretation. Any necessary revisions can then be made prior to the rules being posted for public comment.

Council members provided feedback on the following Ohio Administrative Code chapters during rule review sessions held on February 21, 2019, and May 21, 2019:

- Chapter 5101:2-12 Child Care Center Rules
- Chapter 5101:2-13 Family Child Care Rules
- Chapter 5101:2-14 Child Care In-Home Aide Rules
- Chapter 5101:2-16 Publicly Funded Child Care Rules
- Chapter 5101:2-18 Child Care Day Camp Rules
Highlights from the Field

SFY 2019 ended on June 30, shortly before the legislature passed and Governor DeWine signed the state’s SFY 2020-2021 operating budget, which allocated more than $208 million in additional state and federal funding to improving the quality of Ohio’s publicly funded child care system. The proposed executive budget was discussed at council meetings. Attendees also shared updates about a variety of initiatives happening throughout the state to improve the quality of children’s early care and education.

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
Early Intervention, an administration priority, provides coordinated services to parents of children under age 3. New Early Intervention eligibility rules were drafted in SFY 2019 to include neonatal abstinence syndrome. In addition, new opioid-focused trainings and webinars were posted online, and providers were encouraged to refer families to services that can be provided in children’s natural environment, such as a classroom or their home.

Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development
Funding from a mental health levy was being used to address the opioid crisis. For example, it was used to support trauma-informed teacher training, an alternative school for children needing more specialized care, school-based mental health services, and child care assistance for foster families affected by the opioid crisis.

Behavior Challenges
Representatives from Lorain County discussed the need for professional development focusing on children’s self-regulation in classroom settings. They also discussed the need for additional support for providers to help them manage challenging behavior. A University of California, Berkley, study was shared, revealing that child care staff often leave programs due to children’s behavior.

Children with Special Needs
Council members requested information about Ohio Administrative Code language that supports providers in serving children with special needs. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services’ Office of Family Assistance staff explained that state rules allow programs to receive either an additional 5% or 100% in funding when they meet the required criteria. The department also created a document to better explain this benefit.

Moving the Needle on Compensation
Council members requested a presentation on the “Moving the Needle on Compensation” grant awarded to the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association by the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood National Center. The presenters discussed compensation-related accomplishments as of the meeting date:

- 550 early childhood professionals had received scholarships to help them earn advanced credentials, through the Powering Optimal Wages and Encouraging Retention program.
- 47 teachers were awarded up to $2,000 each for education, training and bonuses by the Cincinnati Preschool Promise program.
- Child care payment categories for 38 counties were realigned, an investment of approximately a $15 million.
- The state’s SFY 2020-2021 operating budget (not yet final on the meeting date) increased child care rates to the 25th percentile of the 2018 market rate survey.
Additional Highlights

Ohio Department of Health
The department created a new online Ohio Approved course titled “How to Care for Young Children with Health Care Needs in Early Childhood Education Settings.” The course is available in the Ohio Professional Registry. For more information, visit registry.occra.org/cart/view_training/10081365.

Ohio University
The university revised its early childhood education major from covering the infant/toddler experience through third grade to covering pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.

The Ohio State University
The university’s Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy created several online Ohio Approved courses and published policy briefs, a mapping project and a white paper series.

Toledo Public Schools
A council member from Toledo shared efforts to implement universal pre-kindergarten citywide. Private-sector companies and local resource and referral agencies were working to ensure that all children were ready for primary school.

In-Home Aide Providers
At a council meeting, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services’ Office of Family Assistance staff provided an overview of child care in-home aides. In-home aides provide publicly funded child care services in eligible families’ homes. County departments of job and family services certify in-home aides for a two-year period and monitor them for program compliance. Prior to certification, in-home aides must submit a high school diploma and complete a background check. County staff also conduct a home inspection.
At the end of each meeting, council members are given the opportunity to request additional information on topics of interest. In 2019, they requested presentations on resources and supports for children and families affected by addiction and trauma.

**Mental Health/Behavior Resources for Staff**

**October 2018**

**Presenter:** Dr. Valerie Alloy, Lead, Early Learning Initiatives, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

- Shared Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services website resources and links.
- Shared information about the 2019 Early Childhood Systems Conference.
- Shared Ohio Preschool Expulsion Prevention Partnership goals and data.
- Introduced a new “Whole Child Matters” map, indicating the mental health services available in each area of the state.
- Shared that new trauma-informed care trainings are available in the Ohio Professional Registry.
- Provided council members with “Grow Power: Ohio Kids Matter” packets with information about safe sleep, Help Me Grow, healthy eating, early intervention, and training for FLIP IT, a social and emotional development strategy.

The council provided Dr. Alloy with input about the best ways to disseminate Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services resources in the field.

**Kinship Care**

**January 2019**

**Presenter:** Karen McGormley, Chief, Substitute Care and Permanency, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services’ Office of Families and Children

- Provided an explanation of kinship care programs, benefits, and services, including:
  - Kinship Permanency Incentive Program
  - Kinship Child Care Program
  - Ohio Works First Cash Assistance Program
  - Family First Prevention Services Act
- Shared a new website for kinship caregivers: fosterandadopt.jfs.ohio.gov/kinship, which has resources for current and prospective kinship caregivers.

**Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence**

**April 2019**

**Presenter:** Maggie Gons, Manager, Early Childhood Professional Development, Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence

- Explained the center’s mission: to inspire, change, and promote access to opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Shared information about the annual conference in November.
- Reviewed available website resources.
- Shared information about Ohio Approved training that the center offers for teachers who work with children with special needs and its lending library for families and educators, which includes adaptive books, iPads, DVDs and toys.
Ohio Professional Registry

January 2019
Presenter: Kelly Smith, Director, Ohio Professional Registry, Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association

- Provided an update about information that the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association obtains from staff/providers in the registry. Ohio is the 16th state to be approved for Partnership Eligibility Review, which allows Ohio’s workforce data to be collected in the registry and used nationally to inform policy and to support quality initiatives.
- Provided information about new and upcoming registry features, including a new document upload feature. Ohio’s is the first registry in the U.S. to add a background check request feature.
- Shared helpful hints about the registry. For example, program administrators can view summary reports that show their current list of employees, the employees’ professional development, and their career pathway levels. The registry has links to agency websites, as well as the BOLD Beginning! website, which contains links to all things related to early childhood at Ohio’s state agencies.

Preschool Development Grant

April 2019
Presenter: Mindy Kowalski, Chief, Policy and Operations Section, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services’ Office of Family Assistance

- Presented an overview of Ohio’s Preschool Development Grant and the five activities it will fund to help the state meet its 2020 Step Up To Quality goal: 1) Needs Assessment, 2) Strategic Plan, 3) Parental Knowledge and Informed Choice, 4) Shared Best Practices, and 5) Overall Quality Improvement.
- Provided information about resources available on the BOLD Beginning! website.
- Shared that the Early Childhood Stakeholder Committee is being formed to increase awareness about quality early care and education in Ohio and to gather input from across the state.

Market Rate Survey

April 2019
Presenters: Tina Kassebaum and Preston Eberlyn, Strategic Research Group

- Presented the Market Rate Survey process and goals, including the following:
  » Past Market Rate Surveys were used as a starting point for new survey.
  » Providers were contacted between November and January.
  » A sampling was conducted of 7,142 providers statewide, including centers, type A and B family care homes, and approved day camps.
  » The response rate was 3,752, or 52.5%.
  » Rate sheets were requested from every third provider. A total of 1,240 were requested, and 673 or 54.3% were received.
  » The goal was to determine rate settings and county clusters.
Glossary

The following are commonly used terms and abbreviations in early childhood education.

Career Pathways Level
The Career Pathways Level provides a common, point-based system for child care staff members and administrators to document their formal education, experience, training, mentoring, and credentials to achieve one of six professional designations.

Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014
The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 was established to set minimum child care assistance eligibility standards and training requirements that will strengthen child care in the U.S. and support success for children and families.

Child Care and Development Fund
The Child Care and Development Fund provides funding to states to enable low-income parents to work or pursue education and training while at the same time promoting the learning and development of their children. The Child Care and Development Fund also provides funding to enhance the quality of child care for all children. Each state must create a State Plan to ensure full implementation of the Child Care and Development Block Grant.

Child Care Center
Any place that is not the permanent residence of the licensee or administrator in which child care is provided, with or without compensation, for seven to 12 children at one time, or any place in which child care is provided for 13 or more children at one time. Child care centers must comply with all rules in Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 5101:2-12.

Early Intervention
A statewide system that provides coordinated services to parents of infants/toddlers with disabilities or developmental delays.

Family Child Care Homes
Child care providers that are regulated to provide services to children at their residence (type A and type B).

In-Home Aide
A person who does not reside with the child but provides child care to a child in the child’s own home. The child’s home is inspected by the parent, the in-home aide, and the county agency.

Market Rate Survey
A state and federally mandated survey that the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services conducts in partnership with a vendor to collect and analyze the rates for child care services paid across the state. The rates must be adequate to ensure equal access to child care for families with limited incomes.
Professional Development
Opportunities for early childhood educators to participate in education and training to increase their knowledge base and skill set. Can be provided face to face, online or through a study group.

Ohio Administrative Code
All of the rules established by state agencies using authority delegated by the Ohio Revised Code.

Ohio Approved
Process to ensure that early care and education and after-school professionals receive high-quality professional development to maximize the learning and development provided to children.

Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association
Manages Ohio's Professional Registry and provides support to providers, families, and communities. Also provides professional development and technical assistance to child care, early learning, and out-of-school-time programs.

Office of Family Assistance
The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services office responsible for the state's publicly funded child care program, the Step Up To Quality program, and the regulation of child care centers, family child care homes, in-home aides, and approved day camps.

Ohio Professional Registry
The statewide centralized learning management system for early childhood and after-school professionals. This system is managed by the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association.

Ohio Child Licensing and Quality System
Automated system used by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Department of Education to support child care licensing and Step Up To Quality.

Ohio Revised Code
Contains all the laws that have been passed by Ohio's General Assembly.

Publicly Funded Child Care
Child care program that provides financial assistance to eligible parents to help them with child care costs while they engage in work, education, or job training.

Step Up To Quality
Ohio's five-star quality rating system for child care programs. Starting in 2020, all child care programs that receive state funding must participate in Step Up To Quality.

Technical Assistance
Non-financial assistance provided by specialists to share information, expertise, instruction, skills, and/or working knowledge.

Time, Attendance and Payment system
The system used to record the attendance of children receiving publicly funded child care and to calculate payments for providers.

Type A Home
A child care setting that also is the permanent residence of the administrator, who may care for seven to 12 children at one time, including any children under age 6 who are related to the administrator or to an employee.

Type B Home
A child care setting that also is the permanent residence of the administrator, who may care for one to six children at one time but no more than three children under age 2. If a type B home provider cares for children eligible for the publicly funded child care program, the provider must be licensed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

Universal Pre–Kindergarten
A movement within the American education system to make access to preschool education available to all families.
# Child Care Advisory Council Roster

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Name</th>
<th>Organization/County</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Representation Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Babb</td>
<td>4C Miami Valley Region</td>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>Community Professional</td>
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<td>Michelle Bieber</td>
<td>Over the Rainbow</td>
<td>Lucas</td>
<td>Proprietary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicolle Bellmore-Pierse</td>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>Lorain</td>
<td>Parent</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Tammi Middleton</td>
<td>Type B Provider</td>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>Type B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jaclyn Dynia</td>
<td>The Ohio State University-Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy</td>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>Community Professional</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Maggie Gons</td>
<td>Ohio Center for Autism &amp; Low Incidence (OCALI)</td>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>Community Professional</td>
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<td>*Andrea Weis</td>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>Huron</td>
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<td>Deana Haney</td>
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<td>Lisa Radford</td>
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<td>*Brian Bohnsack</td>
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<tr>
<td>Becky Ciminillo</td>
<td>YMCA of Central Ohio</td>
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<td>Non-Profit</td>
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<td>Kelly Bingham</td>
<td>UC Early Learning Center</td>
<td>Hamilton</td>
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<td>Maria Durban</td>
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<td>Traci Poellnitz</td>
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<td>Mary Jo Hite</td>
<td>Portage County CDJ FS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beth Rutter</td>
<td>Early Childhood Mental Health Leadership</td>
<td>Licking</td>
<td>Community Professional</td>
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<td>Wilbert Owens</td>
<td>Our Kidz Enrichment &amp; Child Care Center</td>
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<td>*Lisa Frasure</td>
<td>Ohio University Child Development Center</td>
<td>Athens</td>
<td>Non-Profit</td>
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* New members recommended to and approved by the Director of ODJ FS during SFY 2019.
** Updated October 2019