December 1, 2021

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

Dear Director Damschroder:

We are pleased to present the Ohio Child Care Advisory Council (CCAC) Annual Report for fiscal year (SFY) 2021. This report provides information about the actions of CCAC over the past year.

CCAC is committed to high quality care and education services for all children. This year, Council continued its work to influence and advance policies and procedures that supported the State Plan and assisted providers in their recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic. In addition, Council remained focused on the growing workforce challenges around finding, hiring and retaining quality staff, as well as the need for increased training, resources and supports for providers and the children and families they serve affected by mental health issues, addiction and trauma. CCAC is committed to providing assistance and support to the agency to develop a high quality and just system of care for ALL of Ohio’s children, families, providers and communities.

CCAC is an example of a high functioning ongoing partnership between a regulatory agency and its stakeholder community. Together, CCAC and ODJFS have continued to work to maintain a focus on the consumer needs while ensuring high-quality and access for families and children. The pandemic along with the worsening child care workforce challenges, and the increased incidents of childhood trauma and mental health issues, make it imperative that there is effective communication, collaboration and alignment between ODJFS, CCAC and the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC). The Council recognizes and appreciates the practice by ODJFS of soliciting provider/stakeholder input to inform policy, technical assistance, procedures and systems, and to address important issues in early childhood education. CCAC will continue to move towards a model of a high performing, diverse and inclusive structure providing input, feedback and recommendations that are timely, and 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: Kristi Burre, Director of the Governor’s Children’s Initiative
Mindy Kowalski, Assistant Director, ODJFS
Tracey Chestnut, Co-Chair CCAC & Bureau Chief, Child Care Policy & Technical Assistance
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The purpose of this report is to give an overview of the discussion and work conducted by the Child Care Advisory Council for state fiscal year (SFY) 2021.

Composition of the Council

Six members shall be representatives of child care centers (★) subject to licensing. The members are to represent a variety of centers, including nonprofit and proprietary, from different geographical areas of the state.

At least three members shall be representatives of in-home aides, type A homes, type B licensed homes, type B homes, or Head Start (★).

The remaining members shall be community professionals (★) or representatives of the teaching, child development, health professions, and other individuals interested in the welfare of children.

Three members shall be representatives of child care centers, type A homes, type B licensed homes, type B homes, or Head Start (★).

Our Purpose
To assist the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) in the administration and development of child care. This includes the licensing of centers, type A homes, type B homes, and the certification of in-home aides.
Meetings

At each quarterly meeting, staff from the Office of Family Assistance (OFA) share updates and relevant information with Council members. Members provide input and feedback on behalf of the stakeholder population they represent. They also identify areas of interest for further discussion to inform the Council members and support their charge as members. Lastly, the Council is frequently asked to provide feedback on child care initiatives and work facilitated by other agencies or organizations. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, meetings for fiscal year 2021 were held virtually, on the following dates:

- July 23, 2020
- October 22, 2020
- January 28, 2021
- April 22, 2021
Office of Family Assistance Updates
At each meeting, staff from the Office of Family Assistance share updates regarding child care policy, technical assistance, licensing and monitoring, and automated systems. Council members provide input and feedback on behalf of the stakeholders they represent.

Early Childhood Advisory Council Updates
Also at each meeting, a representative from the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) shares an overview, updates, and relevant information from ECAC quarterly meetings.

The ECAC provides input and guidance to the Governor’s office on early childhood programs. ECAC members include a diverse array of stakeholders from early childhood programs, schools, health, social services, unions, philanthropy, and other groups.

Publicly Funded Child Care Document Review
Council members were asked to review and provide feedback regarding the following documents prior to their release to the public:
- Publicly Funded Child Care 101
- What Can A Publicly Funded Child Care Program Charge a Caretaker

2022-2024 State Plan
On May 25, 2021, Council members reviewed the draft Federal Fiscal Year 2022-2024 Child Care and Development Block Grant State Plan. The Council’s feedback was considered prior to submitting the plan on June 30, 2021.

Step Up To Quality
Ohio achieved the legislative mandate for all publicly funded child care programs to be rated in Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) by September 1, 2020. The Office of Family Assistance thanked Council members for their continuous support in this achievement.

Legislation
The Office of Family Assistance reviewed changes made to child care rules in response to the passage of House Bills 210, 65 and 110. The Council provided feedback to ensure clarity for child care providers.

Substitute House Bill No. 210 of the 133rd General Assembly
This bill requires that before employing a person as an administrator, child care staff member, or employee each child care center must have documentation on file for each individual verifying whether they have done both of the following:
- Resided in a country identified by the World Health Organization as having a high burden of tuberculosis.
- Arrived in the United States within five years immediately preceding the date of application for employment.

Amended Substitute House Bill No. 65 of the 133rd General Assembly
This bill requires child care centers and family child care home providers to notify families if ODJFS determines that an act or omission of the program resulted in a serious risk non-compliance.
Governor Mike DeWine signed the legislation authorizing Ohio's SFY 2022-2023 general operating budget on June 30, 2021. It includes the following provisions affecting child care programs:

- Increased the family income eligibility threshold for PFCC from 130% to 142% of the federal poverty level (FPL); increased the family income eligibility threshold to 150% of the FPL for children with a verified special need in need of child care.
- Appropriated funds for provider reimbursement rates to increase to the 25th percentile of the 2020 Market Rate Survey.
- Retained the requirement that all programs participating in publicly funded child care be SUTQ rated, unless exempt. Removed the graduated benchmarks requiring child care centers and type A homes to be highly rated by 2025.
- Established a study committee that will evaluate PFCC and SUTQ. The committee will focus on child care accessibility, PFCC eligibility and reimbursement rates, SUTQ, and funding sustainability.
- Directed the use of federal COVID-19 relief funds to stabilize and sustain the child care system, improve workforce recruitment and retention, and increase access for families.

**Child Care Rule Review Sessions**

A vital part of the rule-making process is for the Council members to review and provide feedback on draft rules prior to their release for public comment. This part of the rule-making process is valuable to ODJFS because it allows staff to have a dialogue with a small group of stakeholders to get to a detailed perspective on rule interpretation and then make revision to the rules prior to the Clearance process. This fiscal year, the rule-making process was reviewed again in detail with the Council. Council members are informed at each meeting as these rules move through the rule-making process.

Council members provided feedback on the following Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) chapters during several rule review sessions throughout SFY 2021:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter/Rule</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Date Reviewed</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rules 5101:2-12-03 and 5101:2-13-03</td>
<td>Changes as a result of House Bill 65</td>
<td>July 23, 2020</td>
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<td>Chapter 5101:2-16</td>
<td>Publicly Funded Child Care Weekly to Monthly Eligibility</td>
<td>November 12, 2020</td>
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<td>Chapters 5101:2-12, 5101:2-13, 5101:2-14 and 5101:2-16</td>
<td>Permanent Transitional Child Care Rules in Response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic</td>
<td>December 22, 2020</td>
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<td>Chapter 5101:2-18</td>
<td>Permanent Transitional Child Care Day Camp Rule in Response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic</td>
<td>January 12, 2021</td>
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<td>Chapter 5101:2-12</td>
<td>Child Care Center five-year review package 1</td>
<td>January 12, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 5101:2-13</td>
<td>Family Child Care five-year review package 1</td>
<td>January 12, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 5101:2-12</td>
<td>Child Care Center five-year review package 2</td>
<td>May 19, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 5101:2-13</td>
<td>Family Child Care five-year review package 2</td>
<td>May 19, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 5101:2-14</td>
<td>In-Home Aide five-year review</td>
<td>May 17, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 5101:2-18</td>
<td>Child Care Day Camp</td>
<td>May 17, 2021</td>
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School-Age Child Care
The Council provided feedback regarding the need for more school-age child care options. Many school districts began the 2020-2021 school year with a remote/virtual or hybrid educational platform. Based on the feedback, ODJFS was able to introduce a new Temporary School Age Child Care Center Pandemic Program License, with modified licensing rules to accommodate pandemic school-age child care centers.

In addition, the Council raised concerns regarding school funding and PFCC-eligible children learning remotely or in a hybrid setting. ODJFS worked with federal partners to seek clarity on funding requirements to support students and families. ODJFS was able to ensure that providers could receive PFCC funds while students were in their care during remote or hybrid learning. The provider community welcomed these changes.

PFCC Recommendation for Kinship and Foster Families
Council Member Brian Bohnsack proposed that all children in children services agency, in either kinship or foster care, be eligible for PFCC based on the child’s income, not the family’s income. Council members approved the proposal and submitted a letter of recommendation to ODJFS Director Matt Damschroder.
At the end of each Child Care Advisory Council meeting, Council members are given the opportunity to request information and/or topics of interest that they would like to be presented at future meetings. This year’s requests resulted in the following presentations:

**Ohio Benefits Child Care Project**
**Presenter: Rachel Moore, Project Manager, ODJFS**

The Ohio Benefits system allows Ohioans to apply for multiple types of assistance at one time, including medical, cash, and food assistance. Publicly funded child care eligibility is being integrated into the system. The Council was given an overview of this project, including interfaces with the existing Ohio Child Licensing and Quality System and Time, Attendance and Payment system. The pilot is scheduled to begin in February 2022, followed by a statewide expansion in June 2022.

**Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association Updates**
**Presenters: Todd Barnhouse, Kelly Smith, and Holly Scheibe, Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association (OCCRRA)**

The presenters shared information about the following topics:
- The new Infant Mental Health Credential had received 842 applications, and 766 had been approved at the time of the presentation.
- The Instructor Dashboard in the Ohio Professional Registry contains trainings and resources for approved instructors.
- The New Ohio Approved Trainings are a result of the Preschool Development Grant. Topics include homelessness, special needs and inclusion, and how to be a more effective technical assistance specialist.
- The Ohio Approved process was modified to allow for remote attendance as a result of the pandemic. Four training formats are now available: hybrid, online, community of learners, and face-to-face.
- The Application Programming Interface in the Ohio Professional Registry allows the registry to work with other learning management systems to verify training attendance.

**Farm to Table Project: Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network**
**Presenters: Heidi Scarpetti, Ohio Department of Health, and Carol Smathers and Haley Plahuta, The Ohio State University Extension Office**

The goal of the Farm to Table Project is to clarify how early childhood educators can serve fresh local fruits and vegetables safely and in compliance with licensing and other state and local regulations. The presenters shared information regarding taste testing, preparing raw produce, creating gardens, composting, and serving local foods. They asked Council members to share challenges and success stories regarding serving fresh produce in the classroom.
Case Western Reserve University
Child Care Case Study
Presenter: ODJFS Assistant Director
Mindy Kowalski
The Ohio Bureau of Worker’s Compensation and ODJFS supported a Case Western study to determine the effects of COVID-19 on child care. The 10 participating counties accounted for two-thirds of all licensed providers in the state. The key findings from Phase 1 (August 15-November 20, 2020) were as follows:

- Compliance with COVID-19 mitigation strategies is keeping child care workers and children safe.
- The prevalence of COVID-19 in child care programs in Ohio was low.
- COVID-19 cases in child care are higher among staff than children.
- Community transmission of COVID-19 influences transmission risk within child care settings.
- Child care workers provide critical infrastructure for Ohio’s economy.
- Additional support is needed for elementary-aged children doing remote learning in child care.

Results and details of the study can be found at https://case.edu/swetland/research/ohio-covid-19-child-care-study.

Market Rate Survey
Presenters: Tina Kassebaum and Preston Eberlyn, Strategic Research Group
The presenters shared a PowerPoint presentation outlining the SFY 2020 Market Rate Survey process, goals, and outcomes. It can be found at jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/resources.stm

Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence Conference
Presenter: Wendy Grove, Ohio Department of Education
To increase participation from early childhood education professionals at the 2021 Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) Conference, the presenter invited Council members to provide input. The following topics were suggested:

- Creating a safe environment
- Caring for children with special needs
- Creating tools for providers to use to create an open line of communication with families
- Creating community partnerships
- Linking school-age care: the bridge between public schools and summer care
- Helping children and families manage the transition to kindergarten
- Managing COVID-19 stress

Moving the Needle on Compensation Project Update
Presenter: Judith Santmire, Chief Operating Officer, OCCRRA
The early childhood workforce is a topic of great interest to the Council, as many early childhood programs continue to struggle with hiring and retaining quality staff. The pandemic has exasperated these issues. This presentation focused on the “Moving the Needle on Compensation” project, a T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood National Center initiative that provided grants to 23 entities, including OCCRRA, to improve conditions for the child care workforce. The vision is that early childhood educators receive compensation that is both comparable to public pre-K-12 teachers and commensurate with their education, experience, and responsibilities.

The presenter spoke to the Council about this topic in 2019 and 2020. This time, she shared information about accomplishments to date and next steps, including the project’s three goals: securing funding, developing a policy platform, and exploring strategies. The project hashtag is #TheWorkforceBehindtheWorkforce.

Highlights from the Field
Serving Children with Special Needs
Council Member Maggie Gons, OCALI Early Child Grants Coordinator, provided updates on training opportunities for staff who work with children with special needs. New training modules are available, and more are being created, with training credit hours reflected in the Ohio Professional Registry. Several trainings and resources for staff, families, and the community are available at OCALI | Home.

Striving Readers Project
Council Member Jaclyn Dynia, Senior Research Specialist with the Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy, Education and Human Ecology, shared a link to the Striving Readers Project: crane.osu.edu/our-work/striving-readers. Through this project, the Ohio State Research Foundation Consortium created free, Ohio Approved training modules to help educators improve their classroom practices.
The following are terms and abbreviations used in this document.

**Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014**
The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 is a law established to set minimum child care assistance eligibility standards and training requirements to strengthen child care in the United States and support success for children and families.

**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 OAC Chapter 5101:2-12.

**Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)**
The Early Childhood Advisory Council provides input and guidance to the administration of the Governor’s office on early childhood programs. Membership includes a diverse group of stakeholders from early childhood programs, schools, health, social services, unions, philanthropy, and other groups.

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

**Federal Poverty Level (FPL)**
U.S. Federal Poverty Guidelines are used to determine the financial eligibility for certain federally funded programs.

**Five Year Rule Review (FYR)**
The Office of Family Assistance is required to provide a review of child care licensing rules every five years. The rules are reviewed to ensure that ODJFS is mandating only essential health and safety requirements and not including requirements that could inhibit small business in Ohio.

**Office of Family Assistance (OFA)**
This Office within ODJFS is responsible for the state’s publicly funded child care program, Step Up To Quality, and the regulation of child care centers, family child care homes, in-home aides, and approved day camps.

**Ohio Benefits (OB)**
Automated system used by ODJFS to manage and support Ohioan’s as they apply for health care, child care, and food and cash benefits.

**Ohio Administrative Code (OAC)**
Ohio Administrative Code contains all of the rules passed by the state agencies using authorities delegated by the Ohio Revised Code (ORC).

**Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association (OCCRRA)**
Manages Ohio’s Professional Registry and provides support to providers, families, and the community, as well as professional development and technical assistance to child care, early learning, and out-of-school-time programs.

**Ohio Child Licensing and Quality System (OCLQS)**
Automated system used by ODJFS and the Ohio Department of Education to support child care licensing and Step Up To Quality.
Ohio Professional Registry (OPR)
The statewide centralized learning management system for early childhood and afterschool professionals. This system is managed by OCCRRA.

Ohio Revised Code (ORC)
Ohio Revised Code is all the laws that have been passed by the Ohio General Assembly (members of the House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate).

Market Rate Survey (MRS)
The Market Rate Survey is the collection and analysis of fees typically charged by child care providers for services in the priced market.

Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC)
Child care program that provides child care assistance to families engaged in work, school, or an approved training activity.

Step Up To Quality (SUTQ)
Step UpTo Quality is a voluntary five-star quality rating and improvement system for early care and education programs.

Technical Assistance (TA)
Non-financial assistance provided by state and county staff who share information and expertise, provide instruction, offer skills training, and/or transfer working knowledge.

Time, Attendance, and Payment (TAP) system
The Time, Attendance, and Payment (TAP) system is used to record attendance for children receiving PFCC and to calculate payment 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 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 Type B home provider cares for children eligible for the publicly funded child care program, the provider must be licensed by the ODJFS.
<table>
<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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<tr>
<td>Lori Byrd</td>
<td>Montgomery County CDJFS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Megan Elkins</td>
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<td>Stark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tammi Middleton</td>
<td>Type B Provider</td>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>Type B</td>
</tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>Andrea Weis</td>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>Huron</td>
<td>Parent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deana Haney</td>
<td>Guernsey County CDJFS</td>
<td>Guernsey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Radford</td>
<td>Athens County CDJFS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Bohnsack</td>
<td>Lucas County CDJFS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Becky Ciminillo, Co-Chair</td>
<td>YMCA of Central Ohio</td>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>Non-Profit</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Kelly Bigham</td>
<td>UC Early Learning Center</td>
<td>Hamilton</td>
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<td>Maria Durban</td>
<td>Franklin County CDJFS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Traci Poellnitz</td>
<td>Type A Provider</td>
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<td>Grasha Bannister</td>
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<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>
<td>Franklin</td>
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<td>Rena Hannon</td>
<td>JCC Early Childhood School</td>
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<td>LaShona DeVolld</td>
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<td>Amy Joseph</td>
<td>Community Action Center of Fayette County/Early Childhood Programs</td>
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<td>Lisa Frasure</td>
<td>Ohio University Child Development Center</td>
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<td>Carrie Cox</td>
<td>Clinton County CDJFS</td>
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* Council members whose terms expired in 2021. Council recommended new Council members to the Director in July 2021 to fill all open Council seats.
## Ex-Officio Council Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ann Connelly</td>
<td>Ohio Department of Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa Courts</td>
<td>Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities</td>
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<td>Stephanie Davis</td>
<td>Ohio Department of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Golden</td>
<td>Ohio Department of Mental Health &amp; Addiction Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jay Richards</td>
<td>Ohio Department of Commerce – Building Standards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alan Smith</td>
<td>State Fire Marshall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tracey Chestnut, Co-Chair</td>
<td>Ohio Department of Job and Family Services</td>
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