

DCFS Licensing Advisory Council
DCFS 1911 S. Indiana Ave. Chicago, IL 60616
January 23rd, 2020
11:00 - 1:00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF	GUESTS
Dana Davis		Jay Chrome	Kisha Davis
Carie Bires		Mary Harlan	Anita Ramage
Emily Ropars		Beth Seggebruch	Sonja Crum Knight
Sheila Bauer		Stefanie Polachek	Jana Simon
Decarla Burton		Theenshina Mayfield	Kristi Boyson
Gail Nelson		Edie Gurley-Washington	Dara Munson
Patricia Twymon		Shontee Blankenship	
Mary Jane F		George Davis	
Jemilah Jordan		George Vennikandam (Co-chair)	
Martina Rocha		Jill Wilson	
Stephanie Spanbauer		Mary Jane Forney	
Sarah Stoliker			
Maggie Keane			
Oni Austin			
Missy Brown			
Denise Monnier			
Beth Knight			
Maria Estlund (Co-Chair)			
Tom Layman			
Stefi Hernandez			

Welcome and Introductions

Approve Minutes from November 7, 2019

- Motion: Denise Monnier, with the addition of Denise to attendance list
- Seconded: Beth Knight

Department Updates

Presenter(s): George Vennikandam

- George provided department updates to the council:
 - The department has mailed informational flyers regarding cannabis guidelines to foster homes, day care facilities, and child welfare agencies. These flyers clarify that marijuana is not permitted in child care facilities according to the law.
 - George also adds that if cannabis is found on the premises, it would be considered a violation of standards and will be subject to due process.
 - Edie Washington shared that DCFS reps are now using tablets when conducting visits and providers will be able to get their paperwork onsite if they have wifi.
- George provided updates on the CCDBG and new background check authorizations:
 - There was an audit on the department to see how they were managing the funds, specifically assessing their compliance to the new background check requirements. The audit found that there was some discrepancy between staff who were working and staff who actually had clearance.
 - DCFS has established some internal guidelines and decided that:

- Effective now, in order to comply with federal standards, providers and staff will have to undergo a comprehensive background check every 3 years during renewal to align timelines.
- George also shared updates regarding the ECE staffing crisis issue and discussed how the department is responding to the issue:
 - The department wants to give providers a relief period surrounding credentialing. As such, DCFS is considering a 2-year moratorium that would allow a person who is under credentials to remain at the site for 2 years before meeting the requirements. The goal of the moratorium is to ensure providers can find staff while also have them meeting credentials within 2 years. Currently, the issue is with DCFS legal team under review.
 - Maria E. said that once the issue is out of the legal department, the council will call an interim meeting as soon as possible to discuss and move forward.
 - Sarah Stoliker added that ILDOC would like to collaborate with the Governor's office and DCFS to work on the staffing crisis.
- Additionally, George updated the council on progress the department has made around previous work the council has been engaged with:
 - The department has added new verbiage around Montessori directors to provide clarification to providers.
 - Additionally, they have also moved forward on the emergency preparedness plan and it is now under legal review.
- Maria E. highlighted that under the Proposed Policy Review (PPR), the Child Day Care Licensing Advisory Council should be a part of the internal review process for policy and should have a 15 day comment period.

Priority Survey and By-Laws

Presenter(s): Maria Estlund

- Maria discussed the findings of the priority survey and updates on creating the bylaws:
 - Maria is scheduling a meeting with George and Edie to discuss the priority survey results in depth and next steps.
 - The survey showed that council members wish video conference calling was an option for meetings. The survey also showed that members prefer to keep councils under the same structure.
 - By-laws are still in the works and they will be informed by the feedback gathered from the priority survey.

IL State Physical Activity and Nutrition Program

Presenter(s): Janna Simon, IL Public Health Institute

- Janna Simon, the Program Director from Illinois Public Health Institute gave updates to the council on the Illinois State Physical Activity and Nutrition program's (ISPAN) work to address root causes of obesity and how that relates to early childhood. She also sought input from the committee on the work they are doing the first two years.
 - ISPAN Overview- This work is funded by a five-year, \$4.6 million initiative from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to implement physical activity and nutrition interventions in Illinois. They have a focus on communities most affected by chronic diseases like type 2 diabetes and heart disease.
 - ISPAN Strategies-
 - Breastfeeding- increase the number of community and clinical settings supporting new moms to breastfeed their babies for as long as they want to.

- Early childhood and education- implement and integrate physical activity and nutrition standards into early childhood systems.
- Built environment- connect activity friendly routes to everyday destinations by improving walking, biking, and transit systems to promote physical activity.
- Food service guidelines- implement food service guidelines in worksites and community settings to increase the availability of healthy foods.
 - The CDC wants to focus on 47 high impact interventions to promote nutrition/physical activity in ECE facilities.
- Jana wanted to receive feedback from the council on who they think ISPAN should engage in this work. Suggestions from the council included:
 - Engaging Head Start/ Early Head Start and health aides and health manager
 - Engaging providers who are seeking capital funds
 - Provider Associations (such as Supporting Professionals Network Association)
 - CACFP
 - CCR&Rs
 - Family Shelters
- Jana adds that ISPAN will be doing 4 focus groups across Illinois.

ExceleRate Update

Presenter(s): Tom Layman

- Tom Layman from the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development shared updates on ExceleRate and discussed potential strategies to support licensed providers in participating in the program:
 - Currently, the ExceleRate subcommittee of the Early Learning Council is working on revisiting the program and seeing how they can better support provider participation. They are looking for comments and feedback to their approach from the council.
 - They are working to identify barriers that providers face by participating in the program in order to provide better support.
 - Several members in the council voiced that staffing issues are often the main obstacles in participation.
 - Providers often are not clear on what ExceleRate is or is not.
 - Providers are not interested in having another person monitoring them.
 - Timelines are not aligned with other agencies, so paperwork is due at different times and it can be difficult to manage those timelines.
 - Although they are just in the initial discussion stages, they did receive funding from the PDGB5 to do a pilot in certain rural areas, specifically the ones getting the least amount of support from CCAP.

Lead in Water Testing Updates

Presenter(s): Edie Washington Gurley

- Edie provided updates on Lead Data to the council:
 - As of January 2020, 5,700 licensed centers that have submitted their lead survey.
 - Of those who submitted their lead surveys, 1,170 tested positive and 2,430 tested negative.
 - However, 4,000 providers still have not tested for lead and are being cited by DCFS.

Rules Update

Presenter(s): Victoria Range

- There is no update at this time.

IDHS Updates

Presenter(s): Kisha Davis

- IDHS apologized to providers for the system issues, however, most payments have been processed at this time.

Public Comment

- Pat Twymon asked if there was a requirement that asked providers to have landline phones?
 - Edie answered that this is not a requirement.
- Pat Twymon also asked if there have been any rule changes regarding vaccinations?
 - Edie answered that there have been no changes.

Adjourn

Next Meeting Date and location:

April 9, 2020 11:00am – 1:00pm

DCFS 1911 S. Indiana, 9th floor conference room

Chicago, IL