

DCFS Licensing Advisory Council
DCFS 1911 S. Indiana Ave. Chicago, IL 60616
November 7th, 2019
11:00 - 1:00 pm
MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF	GUESTS
Maria Estlund (co-chair)		Edie Washington-Gurley	DeCarla Burton
Estefania Hernandez (council staff)		Theenshina Mayfield	Kisha Davis (IDHS)
Sarah Stoliker		Shontee Blankenship	Donna Emmons
Laura Pleasants		Jill Wilson	Kisha Davis
Jennifer Alexander		Mary Jane Forney	DeCarla Burton
Missy Brown		Dallas Chrome	
Sheila Bauer		Kimely Stewart	
Anita Rumage			
Gail Nelson			
Bethany Patten			
Emily Ropars			
Pat Twymon			
Emnet Ward			
Carie Bires			
Dana David			
Denise Monnier			

Approve Minutes from August 8th, 2019

- Motion to approve with additions: Laura Pleasants
- Seconded: Edie Washington-Gurley

Department and Council updates

- Maria E. provided updates on the strategic planning session that the Council co-chairs held in September. At this planning session, the Council co-chairs wanted to identify the priorities of the department, council, and committees.
 - o Some of the main priorities the Council identified were:
 - Cleaning up the language around exemptions to provide more clarity as to who does or does not qualify to be a license-exempt facility.
 - Organize an ad-hoc work group that creates survey questions that captures honest feedback on the Council and uncovers priorities.
 - Stefi will be sending out an email to the full council to see who is interested in being a part of the workgroup. Maria E. would like to have a meeting for the workgroup scheduled as soon as

possible so that the survey is ready by the next CDCLAC meeting in December.

- Maria E. also provided updates on the appointment process and membership of the council:
 - Since we want to ensure diverse perspectives are being heard on the Council, Maria had a meeting with Stephanie Polachek, DCFS board coordinator, to discuss what the rules are on appointing members to the Council.
 - Stephanie said the first step to appointing members is that the Council must create their own by-laws, which can also be voted on by the Council.
 - The Council discussed who should be involved in creating the by-laws. The council agreed that everyone on the council should have the opportunity to be involved in the process of creating the by-laws. As such, Maria will reach out by email to schedule ad-hoc workgroups to work on the by-laws and the surveys.
 - The Council also discussed meeting quarterly to reduce the administrative burden and allow committees more time to move forward with their work before meeting again. If the Council moves forward with meeting quarterly, committees could still meet as frequent as they see necessary.
 - One concern was raised about the child care workforce crisis the urgency of the work that needs to be done. The council discussed the need to be connected to other tables working on the issue as well, as the issues won't be solved at this table alone.

Emergency Preparedness Meeting

- In response to legislation introduced last session, the council has been working to identify the best way to address active shooters/threats in child care settings. A few council members attended a meeting with the Chicago Police Department in October to discuss the protocol of active threats.
 - The agreed upon term will be “active threat,” as CPD clarified that not all threats are active shooters.
 - Edie added that she does not think it would be complicated to incorporate “active threat” protocols into the existing emergency preparedness rule.
 - The Council also agreed that this training would be for staff only, not children in ECE settings.

Workforce Updates

- Bethany Patten from the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood and Development provided updates on what their office is doing surrounding the early childhood workforce crisis:
 - The Governor’s Office understands the urgency of the issue; therefore, they are trying to work quickly while remaining thoughtful of the solutions they put forward.

- Since November, there have been 2 statewide convenings— specifically to discuss ECE staffing shortage. These convenings had representatives from Illinois Action for Children, INNCCRA, The Ounce of Prevention, and DCFS, and provider groups.
- The Governor’s Office shared a couple of takeaways they found on the workforce shortage:
 - It is difficult for ECE applicants to meet qualifications.
 - There is not one sole barrier for candidates to meeting requirements/qualifications. These barriers are often structural.
 - This is an urgent issue that needs to remain a priority.
- While conversations between GOECD and DCFS are still ongoing, both departments have been working together on a number of fronts, including moving forward on rule changes that incorporate additional pathways through Gateways credentials, which the CDCLAC approved in 2018.
- GOECD applied for a federal Preschool Development Grant in November and are currently brainstorming on how they can use that funding for workforce
- DCFS shared that the department received a proposal from GOECD for some immediate actions to address workforce issues. DCFS is reviewing and potentially going to create a policy guide with some temporary relief for providers.
 - In the meantime, Edie clarified that DCFS is being flexible, to the extent possible, when citing for staffing violations. Providers will not lose licenses over this, and if it is clear that providers are trying to fill vacancies and find qualified candidates, DCFS will be as supportive as possible.
- Maria E. asked how can the CDCLAC participate or be involved in this process/conversation with GOECD, as well as the DCFS policy guide under consideration.
 - Bethany responded that it would be helpful to be able to bring proposals to the CDCLAC.
 - DCFS will bring an update on the policy guide to the next CDCLAC meeting.
- An issue was raised regarding ratios in family child care providers and how homes are capped at the amount of children of certain ages they can take in even when they have qualified teachers.
 - Maria E. responded that this is also a broader issue that needs to be had in a larger conversation regarding barriers.

Rules Update

- There are no updates regarding rules 406,407,408.
- Expulsion rules are out and in for public comment first notice ends at 11/12 on the JCAR website.

IDHS Update

- Kisha Davis provided IDHS policy updates to the council:
 - There has been an increase in CCAP enrollment since last year. Approximately 20,000 more families have signed up.
 - During the Chicago Public Schools teachers strike, children who received part time care were able to go up to full-time.

- IDHS just finished up listening sessions with CCR&Rs. The listening sessions were hosted to hear feedback on CCAP. A total of 40 listening sessions were held and the total number of people surveyed was:
 - 1,407 parents
 - 2,100 providers
- IDHS has finished their negotiations with SEIU. In their final agreement, homes will be receiving about 30% increase in pay in the coming years.
- IDHS has also been receiving many calls about pay rates and qualified staff. They are working with GOECD and the City of Chicago to work on workforce.

Communications Committee

- Committees have been on a hiatus.

Data Committee

- Committees have been on a hiatus.

Systems Integration Committee

- Committees have been on a hiatus.

Updates or other announcements

- DCFS has a new acting Regional Licensing Administrator: Kimlee Steward.

Meeting Adjourned.