

DCFS Child Day Care Licensing Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2021

11:00am - 1:00pm

Welcome and Introductions

Maria Estlund, Co-Chair

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF	GUESTS
Maria Estlund (Co-Chair)		George Vennikandam (Co-chair)	Donna Emmons
Tom Layman		Mary Harlan	Sonja Krum Knight
Maggie Keane		Dallas Chrome	Yessenia Correa-Ramos
Laura Pleasants		Edie Washington	Roya Alkafaji
Carie Bires		Beth Seggebruch	Tracy Elliot
Sarah Stoliker		Stacey Simek-Dreher	Gail Nelson
Beth Knight		Jill Wilson	
Dana David		Theenshina Mayfield	
Kisha Davis		Connie Long	
Martina Rocha		Kimely Stewart	
Denise Monnier			
Pat Twymon			
Emily Ropars			
DeCarla Burton			
Missy Brown			
Malia Owens			
Sheila Bauer			
Kristi Boyson			

Approval of October 8th Meeting Minutes

Council

Motion to approve— Patricia Twymon

Seconded— Denise Monnier

Department updates

Edie Washington Gurley, DCFS

- Edie Washington Gurley provided department updates to the Council:
 - DCFS appreciates Provider Associations collaborating with the department for questions; however, DCFS cannot give case-specific answers to associations. Providers must reach out to the department on behalf of themselves, as DCFS cannot share confidential information about a providers case.
 - The department is still trying to recruit additional DCLRs; many have retired since the pandemic.
 - In person monitoring visits have resumed. As it pertains to PPE, all DCFS staff is expected to wear PPE. If providers are not wearing PPE, staff has been instructed to not enter the premises.
 - Maria E. asked about unannounced visits and protocols— suggested that the department ensure there is communication that informs providers unannounced visits resumed.

IDHS updates

Kisha Davis, IDHA

- Kisha Davis provided updates to the Council:
 - Child Care Assistance Program provider rates increased as of Jan 1st for home providers
 - IDHS will be relaunching Child Day Care Advisory Council beginning in March.

LeadCare Illinois

Roya Alkafaji, Elevate Energy

- Roya shared information about a new program at Elevate Energy:
 - Leadcare Illinois launched a month ago. It is a free lead in water testing and education program for child care providers in Illinois.
 - The program offers:
 - Free lead in water testing
 - Lead safety trainings for providers and DCLRs
 - Education on test results
 - Instructional assistance
 - Support in mitigation plans
 - Call center support in English and Spanish
 - LeadCare Illinois is interested in the council's help to spread the word about this program through peer to peer sharing, social media. A toolkit will be shared with council members.

Prenatal to 3 Agenda & Coalition.

Simone Santiago/Carie Bires, Start Early; Maria E.

- Carie Bires provided an overview of what the PN3 Coalition is:
 - The PN3 coalition has started to meet. Organizations like IAFC and Start Early are overseeing a group working on accessible care for infants and toddlers. They are focusing on quality, workforce, ensuring we are building a more robust system that serves families and children.
 - If anyone is interested in joining the coalition, please contact Maria Estlund.

Legislative Update

Maria Estlund

- Yesterday, Governor Pritzker delivered the annual State of the State and Budget Address. The purpose of the Governor's Budget Address is to lay out the Governor's proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year; this is typically the starting point for the General Assembly's budget negotiations. Governor Pritzker based his FY22 proposed budget on the anticipated state revenue for the current year.
 - COVID has really impacted our economy, but we are receiving some federal relief.
 - Unfortunately, the budget address did include some budget cuts to Early Intervention program and for CCAP. The governor says those cuts will be made up with federal relief money.
- Most February Legislative Sessions were cancelled, March is when we will be getting into heavy session.
- During lame duck, members of the Black caucus put together a robust package of legislation issues that prioritized racial equity and it has passed. Some efforts directed towards ECE workforce, more investment in EI, accessibility to higher ed are moving to be passed.
- The Governor's Early Childhood Funding Commission is wrapping up their recommendations to send to Governor Pritzker.

Rules update

Stacey Simek-Dreher, DCFS

- Stacey, Chief of Policy, gave update on the big package of rules coming:
 - Announced that the large package of proposed rule changes for 406,407,408 are going out for first notice this week. DCFS will send them out to the council when published.
 - When they are posted the Illinois register, there are directions on that page on how to submit a comment, which will also be shared out with this group once it is up.

Public Comment

Council; Public

Adjourn

Next Meeting:

May 13th, 2021

11:00am – 1:00pm