

DCFS Child Day Care Licensing Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

May 13, 2021

11:00am - 1:00pm

Welcome and Introductions

Maria Estlund, Co-Chair

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF	GUESTS
Maria Estlund (Co-Chair)		George Vennikandam	Donna Emmons
Malia Owens		Jill Wilson	Sonja Krum Knight
Missy Brown		Dallas Chrome	Gail Nelson
Laura Pleasants		Edie Washington Gurley	
Carie Bires		Beth Seggebruch	
Sarah Stoliker		Mary Harlan	
Beth Knight		Connie Long	
Dana David			
Martina Rocha			
Denise Monnier			
Missy Brown			
Emily Ropars			
DeCarla Burton			
Tom Layman			
Kisha Davis			
Kristi Boyson			

Approval of February 18th Minutes

Council

Minutes from 2.18.21 are currently not available, as they are stuck on a broken laptop. Computer is in the process of being repaired. We will have both 2.18 and 5.13 minutes available for next meeting.

Department Updates

George Vennikandam, Co-Chair

George provided department updates for the Council:

- Proposed rules 406,407,408 have been posted for public comment until June 7th. George encourages public comment on these rules.
- DCFS is currently having discussions about the communications process for these new rules- specifically, how they are to be interpreted and implemented. In the past, new rules have been communicated through email and in meetings with CCR&Rs, in order to update providers on what new rules are.
- DCFS staff have discussed the potential of creating webinars or presentations to inform providers on updates.

Update on COVID Guidance

DCFS

With CDC changing rules and regulations, how is DCFS handling guidance? How will it be communicated?

- The department is in constant communication with IDPH and CDC. There is nothing new to communicate now, but as soon as there is, they will update the group.
- DCFS is closely monitoring the CDC updates, if there are any changes, DCFS will take the lead in updating guidance– they are also closely working with them to ensure guidance is up to date.
- Question about DCFS guidance: how do vaccinations change exclusions from attendance?
 - At this time, there are no changes.

Fire Marshal Inspections

DCFS

The department gave the Council new information on Fire Marshal Inspections:

- According to the Fire Department, fire inspection standards have changed within the last three years– which is causing many providers to not be cleared for their license.
- For initial license, and renewal, providers must obtain a fire marshal clearance.

The Council discussed proactive strategies to disseminate information on new Fire Marshal standards to providers.

- The Council will create an ad hoc group dedicated to brainstorming how we can collaborate with Fire Marshal to share new information and keep providers up to date on information.
- Anyone interested in being a part of this group should contact Maria E.

Legislative Updates

Maria Estlund, Co-Chair

Maria Estlund shared updates, on behalf of DCFS Legislative Staff, on bills moving through the General Assembly that impact DCFS and child care licensure.

- ILGA Session is in the home stretch, with just about 2.5 more weeks before session is scheduled to adjourn on May 31. Most bills are moving through the second chamber at this point, and budget negotiations are getting underway. The budget will be the main focus for the last couple weeks of session. After May 31 deadline, bills and budget bills require a larger majority to pass, so the pressure is real to conclude all business before the end of the month.
- Public Act 102-0004 – Black Caucus Health & Human Services Omnibus bill passed this spring
 - Includes provision requiring licensed child care providers/staff to complete training that includes SEL/trauma/ACEs/OR ECE mental health. Have to complete by July 2022, and then at least once every 3 years
 - INCCRRA is pulling lists of existing trainings that touch on these topics to make it easy for providers to find trainings
 - HB 3620 CCAP Income Levels
 - Codifies minimum of 200% FPL for CCAP income eligibility
 - Passed the House, the bill is in Senate Committee
- SB 1832 Community College Baccalaureate degrees in Early Childhood
 - 3rd Reading in the Senate
 - Negotiations are ongoing regarding this CCB pathway and additional higher education strategies for early childhood incumbent workforce, including a potential consortium of higher ed institutions to promote articulation, transfer, and affordability
- HB 2374 Child Care Teacher Requirements
 - Bill got out of House committee, amendment was filed but not moved out of committee.
 - DCFS, proponents, and stakeholders are continuing to try to find an agreed upon solution
- HB 3739 Lead Service Line Replacement Act
 - Among other LSL-related things, this would require municipalities to develop comprehensive plan for replacing all LSLs – this plan would prioritize child care homes/centers and places where young children spend their time
 - Passed the House, the bill is assigned to Senate Executive Committee
- HB 3563 Early Childhood Construction Grants

- This would change the matching dollars required by early childhood programs that receive an early childhood construction grant – rather than requiring all grantees to provide local matching funds equal to 10% of their grant, the match amount would be tied to the school district tiers – i.e. a program in a Tier 1 school district would provide a 3% match, a little more in Tiers 2 and 3, and 10% match in Tier 4 school districts.
- Passed the House, the bill is in Senate Assignments still (not yet in committee)

- A handful of bills that sought to lower the age of children to be served in license exempt programs did not pass out of their chambers/are no longer moving.

Rules update

Connie Long, DCFS

- Proposed rules 406, 407, 408 have been posted and are up for public comment.

IDHS updates

Kisha Davis, IDHSd

- Kisha shared a presentation on IDHS updates which included the state's plans to use COVID-19 relief funds for child care.

Public Comment

Council

Adjourn

Next Meeting:

August 12, 2021

11:00am - 1:00pm