



# Office of Child Care (OCC) Advisory Council

## Meeting Minutes

### February 18, 2016



AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION OUTCOME
<b>Attendees</b>	<p><b>Council Members:</b> Chris Peusch, Liz Kelley, Jody Burghardt, Steve Rohde, Dr. Cheryl DePinto, Jennifer Arnaiz, Rachel London</p> <p><b>MSDE Staff:</b> Lindi Budd</p> <p><b>Guests:</b> Debbie Moore, Maddie Greene, Cynthia Poindexter, Andrea Zabel</p>
<b>Welcome And Opening Remarks</b>	The meeting was called to order by Chris Peusch
Assistant Superintendent/ Director Report	
<b>Legislation</b>	<p><i>Liz Kelley lead the discussion on legislation.</i></p> <p>There is quite a bit of legislation that has impact on child care.</p> <p>We have one departmental bill that affects the Office of Child Care, The legislation will transfer the OCC statute from Family Law to the Education Article. The State Board of Education will have authority over child care regulations.</p> <p>Illegal child care is the second bill. This bill would help the Agency to address the concerns regarding illegal child care. If a non-regulated provider even advertises illegal care, the agency will be able to issue a citation. The legislation would also allow other agencies such as fire and any type of law enforcement to be involved in the investigation. The bill includes provisions for a progressive fine.</p> <p>Maddie Greene shared concerns with some of the advertising requirements of the illegal child care bill.</p> <p>Debbie Moore and Liz Kelley explained the difference between the first reader of a bill and the various versions that are updated on the website for the Maryland Legislature.</p> <p>The Maryland State Family Child Care Association put in legislation to require family providers to have a high school diploma or GED. The bill was filed in the Senate. There were amendments to grandfather existing providers and also expanding how people can meet the requirement by taking at least one for credit course at a college and/or university.</p> <p>Debbie Moore mentioned the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment bill. This bill would require the State to do a random sampling of children, instead of assessing every child. There is a big push right now to decrease the number of tests children are taking in school. Many feel children are taking too many tests and the KRA has been caught up in this issue.</p> <p>Chris Peusch also mentioned that the local jurisdictions are requiring teachers to do their own local assessments, on top of what the State is requiring. Random sampling will not give us the data we need.</p>



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	<p>Liz said she was surprised to learn about all of the local assessments that are required.</p> <p>Steve Rohde asked if there was an attempt to obtain a consensus on which assessments should be used, the local assessments or the R4K assessments.</p> <p>Liz said she was not directly involved, but she knows there was a lot of work, and involvement, with the local school systems.</p> <p>Another bill currently under consideration concerns the use of green cleaning products. This bill would require child care facilities (large family homes and child care centers) to buy green, environmentally healthy and safe cleaning supplies to use in place of the bleach and water solution currently approved for cleaning and sanitizing. This would have a cost impact for facilities.</p> <p>Dr. DePinto recalled a discussion from several years ago about using bleach in child care. If properly diluted and used correctly and timely, bleach does not present a problem.</p> <p>One of the concerns raised by the sponsor of the bill is the effects of using bleach in the presence of children who have asthma.</p> <p>There is also legislation that would eliminate the tax on diapers.</p>
<p><b>Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan</b></p>	<p><i>Liz Kelley lead the discussion.</i></p> <p>With the newly re-authorized CCDBG, the State Plan template has changed. Working on it this year has been a journey. We have been working on it, disseminated it, and then the template changed again. We posted a draft to our website so people could look at what we had completed, and made it known the document was not complete.</p> <p>In addition, the feds have updated the website where we enter the Plan no less than three times in the last few weeks. The most recent update was this past weekend.</p> <p>We are in the process of updating the Plan by putting it on their website. Mr. Rohde asked if that meant no one would get the opportunity to look at it again and Liz said no. Once we have entered all of the information we can, we will send it out via email one more time to give people the opportunity to comment.</p> <p>Liz distributed a handout to show everyone about the new training requirements in the State Plan. State's will be required to implement training, both pre-service and on-going, to comply with ten specific training topics. Liz said the handout is informational only and shouldn't be considered final.</p> <p>We have asked for clarification on some of the topics. For instance, MD requires certification in first aid/CPR, which is good for two-three years. Does this mean that providers who are certified will still have to take first aid/CPR classes every year?</p> <p>The same thing is true for emergency preparedness and disaster response planning. Medication administration is another. Liz said she doesn't believe it to be a bad idea to have refresher</p>



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	<p>information on a yearly basis.</p> <p>Some states have addressed these requirements by providing free, online training. The law is silent on how much time someone has to have in each of these trainings.</p> <p>There are a variety of options for providing the classes. We can offer free online refresher classes that would not count for anything except meeting the new training requirements. The classes could also be offered through the approved training community to count toward licensing and credentialing requirements. We can set it up as training that can be disseminated through trainers and directors for in-service training. We are going to pull together a small workgroup to look at this more. We must meet this requirement by September 2016.</p> <p>Mr. Rohde asked that some consideration be given to how the training be supplied. Steve suggested a community of practice methodology. Online training and live training are important. However, to offer more flexibility for providers, we can offer live webinars for the provider community.</p> <p>Liz agreed and said it was a good topic for further discussion.</p> <p>Liz said she wants to see the training updated every year. She does not want providers taking the same class every year. The content should be easy to update so it is different every year.</p> <p>Jennifer Arnaiz said it is important to offer training in ways people understand, especially when it comes to language. The training must be accessible to as many people as possible.</p> <p>The Plan is due March 1, but state's have been given a two week extension until March 11. Liz said she is hopeful we will be able to send out what we are submitting by the following week.</p>
<b>Subsidy Branch Updates</b>	<p>Liz distributed a couple of handouts. The first handout has important contact numbers and information. We did not anticipate as many faxed documents for child care subsidy as we are receiving. She emphasized the importance of making sure people are using the appropriate fax numbers, mailing addresses, email addresses, etc.</p> <p>Liz also distributed the latest Partners Newsletter. She pointed out the front page where it has an article detailing that the local departments of social services have resumed eligibility determination for for temporary cash assistance (TCA) customers. So, if the family is applying for or receiving TCA the local department will determine all eligibility for that case. TCC, non-TCA and vouchers are all handled by CCS Central. While the Idss offices will be issuing vouchers for TCA recipients, no vouchers are to be returned to the local department. All completed vouchers are to be sent to CCS Central.</p> <p>Ms. Greene asked which method of submitting documents was best. Liz said faxing was the best method.</p>
<b>Credentialing Branch Updates</b>	<p>We finally received the modification approval for the Credentialing contract, so XEROX has begun working on the backlog of applications. We've gotten very good feedback from some provider groups about the turnaround time on credentialing applications.</p>
<b>Maryland EXCELS Branch</b>	<p>Lindi Budd provided an update on Maryland EXCELS. She announced that there will be about 3,000</p>



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<b>Updates</b>	<p>published programs in a few weeks. EXCELS staff are holding meetings, attending conferences and have about 94 sessions scheduled statewide to provide an overview of EXCELS for those who are new. They are also providing information on how to move up in the levels.</p> <p>In addition to the EXCELS levels, providers can earn badges for meeting additional criteria. EXCELS is now offering a eco-friendly badge so providers can earn the recognition for being an eco-friendly program. We are also working on a SEFEL engagement recognition badge. The family engagement recognition badge will be next.</p>
<b>Licensing Branch Updates</b>	<p>New regulations went into effect at the beginning of the year. There are some changes that must be made for things we missed or just need to be corrected. These changes are pending until the regulation review committee starts hearing regulations again. They do not listen to regulation changes at the beginning of Session.</p> <p>Immunization requirements for child care staff and providers will be added in the revision.</p> <p>Lead testing requirements for children are changing due to new criteria established by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.</p>
<b>Website Update</b>	<p>Liz demonstrated the new website. One of the things she likes the most is that you can choose various languages with which to view the pages. There are different portals depending on what people want to see.</p> <p>There are a variety of links to provide additional information.</p> <p>There's also a searchable resource library.</p> <p>There's a link to data for all of the programs; licensing, credentialing, EXCELS, and subsidy.</p>
<b>Member Updates</b>	<p>The Maryland State Child Care Association has its registration open for the 2016 Conference by the Sea. There are 203 providers already registered. We close registration April 1.</p> <p>The Maryland AEYC will host an event at the Professional Development Institute, which will be held in Baltimore this year. Registration will be open March 1.</p> <p>The Montgomery County ECAC has been put into law in Montgomery County and is becoming a coordinating council. They are transferring members from one to the other. They are specifically required to do a Strategic Plan.</p> <p>We are up to 52 Judy Centers now. There has been rapid expansion due to combined funding from federal, state, local and private funders.</p>
<b>Next Meeting</b>	May 19, 2016 - 10:00 am – 12:00 Noon @ MSDE, 8 <sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room 6/7