

# Child Care Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

### September 13, 2023

Members	Present	Absent	Designee	Present	Absent
Krysti Alexander	x				
Lynn Anderson	x				
Paula Brown		x	Meshel Richmond	x	
Peggy Byerly	x				
Susie Cain		x			
Gayla Carnagey	x		Angela Whisnant		x
Darla Cheek (Vice-Chairperson)		x	Wendy Swatek		x
Arianne Conner	x		Sarah Albahadily	x	
Jana Cornelius	x				
Terri Davis (Chairperson)	x				
Denis Doyen		x			
Jill Goyette	x		Rose Jackson	x	
Audra Haney	x				
Kourtney Heard		x	Angie Avila	x	
Sharon Morgan	x				
Harold Jergenson	x				
Jeannie Jones		x	Misty Warfield		x
Keri Laxton		x	Michelle Glover	x	
Brittany Lee (Secretary)	x		Carole Turner	x	
Eric Sachau	x		Nola Harrison		x
Amanda Leonhart		x	Jaremy Andrews		x
Tammy Maus	x		Janell Wheat	x	
Catherine Mure		x	Christy Kastl	x	
Terry Owens	x				
Kelly Ramsey	x				
Jennifer Sneed	x				
Carrie Williams	x		Stephanie Lippert		x
Shaunda Williams		x	Amie McDaniel	x	
			Katie Quebedeaux		x

Others Present:

CCS / DHS	CCS / DHS	VISITORS	VISITORS
Audrey Charlson	Mitzi Lee	Susan Kimmel	Kami Mcmanus
Amy Cornelson	Dione Smith	Christine Rampey	Abigail Brown
Deanna Nichols	Denise Anderson	Rachel Proper	Jared Weigand
Bonnie Cliff	Sandy Grace	Reaina Harris	Gabrielle Moon
Robin Stafford		Gina McPherson	Shade Jalo

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#### **Meeting Notices:**

- The Agenda and Meeting Notice were sent to [publisher@ecapitol.net](mailto:publisher@ecapitol.net) on 2/23/2023.

#### **Call to Order:**

- Terri Davis called meeting to order at 10:00 am
- Introductions

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

- 6/14/2023 minutes. Peggy Byerly made a motion to approve, Jana Cornelius seconded the approval. There were no objections.

#### **Standing Subcommittee Reports:**

##### **Membership Subcommittee – Gayla Carnagey**

- Sharon Morgan will now serve as representative for the OK State Dept of Education, replacing Lauren Jenks-Jones.
- Eric Sachau has replaced Katherine Leidy (who has stepped down) as representative for Oklahoma Psychiatric Hospital Association.
- Rose Jackson has replaced Jill Goyette (second term expires 12/23) as representative of Out-of-School Time Programs.
- Arianne Conner's 2nd three-year term expires in December. We expect to have a new representative for Family Child Care Homes - Metro by the December 13th meeting.
- Eric Sachau, Sarah Albahadily and Sharon Morgan attended today's New Member Orientation.

##### **Family Child Care Homes Subcommittee – Ari Conner**

- We had 5 people attend our July 20<sup>th</sup> virtual meeting. We discussed fingerprinting concerns, long delays are a concern. Training hours: with QRIS some need 30 hours and some need 20 and there needs to be clarification. Some providers are getting written up for receiving blankets because the blanket is not thin enough (they are hospital blankets); there needs to be better clarification. PDL has caused problems. We submit our paperwork on say Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, it doesn't get approved by Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, I will get written up. I have no control how quickly CECPD approves things. We have been told we will be written up and do not feel I should be.

##### **QRIS Subcommittee – Amie McDaniel**

We met virtually on August 3, 2023 with approximately 30 providers in attendance. A summary of items discussed: Ratios are applied inconsistently across State. Some will say if within 30 days of child's birthday, count as next age. Lots of discussion and would like to suggest to OKDHS to adopt suggestion and count next age if within 30 days of birthday.

Co-pays are returning and providers expect complaints to increase. Suggested again to remove the provider from the collection agency. Relayed on that DHS doesn't support this as private business should collect co-pays just like private pay. Providers disagree and state that parents know, providers have little to no-control and are taken advantage of and lose a lot of money. Discussion about policies Tribes have implemented to assist providers in this area. Additional discussion about needing information about what 50% of what is due from State. Suggested to contact Charles Pruitt for this information.

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National Accreditation vs State 5 Star- need to find a way to distinguish as they are not equal. 5 Star-plus recommended again. Discussion about additional requirements including education level and cost to maintain.

#### **Child Care Facilities (centers) Standing Subcommittee – Tammy Maus**

We met virtually on September 13, 2023. Programs have issues that continue to impact the industry. These include – staffing, quality of staff despite robust training programs available internally and external to programs, Background check delays, CACFP training crediting, and unlicensed providers. These are all issues that have been addressed previously and continue to burden the industry.

We had a great discussion about the Registry and issues programs are having. After discussion we recommend that the 60 day window be moved back to 90 days to allow participants a longer lead time to get their items in. This is a widespread issue state wide and results in numerous licensing non-compliances.

We did request a meeting with CECPD Leadership about this item. All industry groups were included. LCA was in attendance. OCCA could not make the meeting. OKAEYC was prepared to attend and attempted but could not be let into the meeting due to a technicality issue. CECPD denies that there is an issue on their side, and it falls completely on the side of participants not being organized. They state that any changes would result in significant costs to the taxpayer. We request documentation on the costs of this from CECPD and the provider.

It was addressed that there are concerns from parents that DHS is cutting off services immediately at renewal if all documents are not in by the renewal date. This is causing lapse in services. Also, call center times often lasting 5-7 hours on hold. Parents cannot work and stay on hold and thus benefits are lost.

We continue to ask DHS to review and take action on the following items that have been previously addressed:

1. Mathematical calculation issue when determining Master Teachers and Square Footage. We request that it round down if below .5 and otherwise round up if over .5
2. DHS – EBT App
3. Accredited centers and 5 star – Needs to be a distinction that sets apart accredited centers.

#### **Residential Standing Subcommittee – Terry Owens**

- Did not meet this quarter.

#### **Legislative Update – DeAnna:**

- Updates are included in the handout.

#### **Licensing Sanctions Report – Carole Turner**

- Updates are included in the handout. This report covers April to June 2023. Carole provided a quick overview.

#### **Guest Speaker – Terry Owens**

- Terry provided a thorough and informative review of Westview Boys' Home.

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#### **Old Business:**

- Gayla Carnagey – At our June meeting we nominated and approved Terri Davis to serve a 2<sup>nd</sup> term representing Oklahoma Child Care Association.

#### **New Business:**

- None.

#### **Public Comment:**

- Janell Wheat – Delay of benefits- very long waits on the phone. I have employees who can't get the benefit due to this. Center's training delays solutions– Rachel recommends a 2-year period and I agree. It would relieve some stress and give more time to process. National child care crisis for providers – I would like to see a task force in Oklahoma to find solutions. I would be happy to chair/sit on this committee. We can't compete in pay and expectations are unrealistic.
- Christy Kastl – To piggy back on the benefits calls – I have teachers who are on hold 3-4 hours and switch phones. We are seeing that some cases are closed and we have no idea why and again, 3-4 hours to get to a person is difficult. I am having them do screen shots to prove that they are trying.
- Gina McPherson – Reminding everyone that 100% of assessment pathway has been applied into June 2024. If you have staff that want to still go to school, now is the time to talk to them about that. Scholars connect database is live, we no longer are accepting paper applications. Go to [www.scholars.okhighered.org](http://www.scholars.okhighered.org) using the same username and password to access. Gina reviewed the various steps and information to be aware of. Linda Davis is the scholar's coordinator, and we are currently hiring a scholarship specialist.
- Reaina Harris – Certified Healthy Oklahoma application portal is now open until November. This helps you meet the 4 and 5 star PD requirements.
- Susan Kimmel – I'd like to address an inaccurate comment made at the last meeting and directed at CECPD. A statement was made that CECPD training is "useless.", I find this comment baseless and unprofessional, and would like to counter it. Through the CECPD training approval system, we contract with Educators and Approved Training Organizations to provide a wide variety of formal training that meets the annual requirement for childcare practitioners. Approved organizations include national training organizations, resource and referral agencies, Tribal organizations, Tech Centers, Community Colleges, statewide childcare associations, and others. In fiscal year 2023, CECPD had collaborative agreements with 148 organizations and 112 Educators to provide Formal Approved Training. Curriculum written by CECPD is scientifically based, piloted, evaluated, revised as necessary, and ensures all protocol and policies are met. In FY '23, there was a 31% knowledge increase based on pre-post online course evaluations. Also in FY 23: 150,717 participants completed 874,440 hours of PD through CECPD. That includes online and onsite. 24,880 certifications awarded. Stipend dollars awarded: \$2,074,000. Wage dollars awarded: \$3,911,150. Work Force Grant dollars issued: \$20,077,000. Going forward, I respectfully ask the committee to consider establishing specific protocol for professional and civil discourse. Also, I need to address another inaccuracy that was spoken; 45 BDs was years ago, we are at 28 BDs but have 30 BDs to get our processing done. And, Tammy, you are correct, we had a wonderful and productive meeting. Really good ideas were discussed. We suggest directors create training spreadsheets with deadlines for their staff.

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- Kami Mcmanus – I am a family 5-star home. I actually have been told the 45 days, I am not sure where that came from. 30 days is a little bit better. Our frustration is not so much with CECPD, we are being told even if we apply on the first day we can, if they are not approved in time, we will be written up. We are getting different stories. Also, as far as QRIS goes, Family Homes are frustrated that they are worried about how to document things how to do sign language during meals, but not helping me find emergency preparedness training that we are required to take.

**Next Meetings:**

- Wednesday, March 13, 2024, Location TBD
- Wednesday, June 12, 2024, Location TBD
- Wednesday, September 11, 2024, Location TBD
- Wednesday, December 11, 2024, Location TBD

**Meeting adjourned at 10:56 am**

Carrie Williams made a motion to adjourn, Jill Goyette seconded the motion. There were no objections.