

Child Care Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

December 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	
Jana Cornelius	x		Sarah Albahadily	x	
Terri Davis (Chairperson)	x				
Audra Haney	x				
Kourtney Heard	x		Angie Avila	x	
Rose Jackson	x		Shade Jalo	x	
			Jared Weigand	x	
Harold Jergenson		x			
Jeannie Jones		x	Misty Warfield	x	
Keri Laxton	x		Michelle Glover		x
Brittany Lee (Secretary)	x		Carole Turner	x	
Amanda Leonhart		x	Jaremy Andrews		x
Tammy Maus	x		Janell Wheat	x	
			Christy Kastl	x	
Sharon Morgan	x				
Catherine Mure		x			
Terry Owens	x				
Shanese Peachlyn	x				
Kelly Ramsey	x				
Eric Shachau	x		Nola Harrison		x
Jennifer Sneed	x				
Stephen Weise	x		Teri Blanton		x
Carrie Williams	x		Stephanie Lippert		x
			Amber Cuyler		x
			Amie McDaniel		x
Shaunda Williams		x	Katie Quebedeaux	x	

Others Present:

CCS / DHS	CCS / DHS	VISITORS	VISITORS
Audrey Charlson	Mitzi Lee	Susan Kimmel	Rachel Proper
Amy Cornelson	Sandy Grace	Andrew Norton	Larry Wiggins
Ashley Ousley	Michelle Spears	Rachel Proper	David Ballard (sp?)
Mindy Yoder		Jill Goyette	Gabrielle Moon
Robin Stafford		Gina McPherson	

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Meeting Notices:

- The Agenda and Meeting Notice were sent to publisher@ecapitol.net on 2/23/2023.

Call to Order:

- Terri Davis called meeting to order at 10:02 am
- Introductions

Approval of Minutes:

- Correction from 9/13/2023 minutes under the Standing Subcommittee Report; Sarah Albahadily is the designee for Jana Cornelius and not the designee for Eric Sachau.
- Correction from 9/13/2023 minutes: Deanna Nichols also attended New Member Orientation.
- Carrie Williams made a motion to approve, Jana Cornelius seconded the approval. There were no objections.

Standing Subcommittee Reports:

Membership Subcommittee – Gayla Carnagey

We met on November 13, 2023, with Brittany Lee, Peggy Byerly, Harold Jergenson and Gayla Carnagey in attendance.

- New member Metro Family Child Care Home Representative is Shanese Peachlyn, a 5 Star Large Family Child Care Home in Oklahoma City.
- Residential Care Representative Denis Doyen's first term expires in March, but has since left the agency, so the Campus Administrator, Stephen Wiese, was assigned as the Child Care Advisory representative. Welcome.
- Licensed Child Care Association of Oklahoma representative Tammy Maus' 2nd term expires in March 2024. Tammy's designee, Janell Wheat, will be the new representative for the Licensed Child Care Association of Oklahoma beginning in March 2024. Thank you for your service.
- New Member Orientation attendees today were Shanese Peachlyn, Stephen Wiese, Shade Jalo, Jared Weigand and Amber Cuyler.

Family Child Care Homes Subcommittee

- No one available to provide review.

QRIS Subcommittee – Katie Quebedeau

The QRIS subcommittee met via Zoom on November 1, 2023, at 1:00 pm. We had technical difficulties, so it was not as many participants as usual. The meeting was attended by providers across the state representing both center and home programs.

- Topics discussed during QRIS subcommittee meeting: Stephanie reported that we are coming upon 1 year since the implementation of the 5-STARS, which would include licensing visits and beginning assessing STARS levels.
- An update was requested regarding the possibility of including a 5-STAR + to recognize nationally accredited programs. It was stated that nobody has heard of any possible changes or updates.
- A provider discussed their process of opening a new center and applying for STARS. It was stated that finding Master Teachers is hard and it would be beneficial to allow Probationary Master Teachers to count when opening a new program, especially if acquiring an already existing program.
- A request was made to take another look at Probationary Master Teachers, specifically for school-age master teachers. It was discussed that post-Covid and during the hiring crisis, it is becoming even more difficult to find master teachers.

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- A person from Resource & Referral stated that they are waiting to see what happens in January when licensing begins conducting visits and we begin to see the needs providers have regarding 5-STARS.
- The next QRIS meeting was scheduled for January 31, 2024, at 1:00pm.

Child Care Facilities (centers) Standing Subcommittee – Tammy Maus

- Before I share my report, I want to make a motion and bring to a vote for Janell Wheat to serve as co-chair with Carrie of this subcommittee. Terri Davis stated she did not think that requires a vote and received verbal confirmation from Mitzi Lee that a vote is not required.
- The Child Care Programs Subcommittee met on November 13th, 2023, via Zoom. I am not going to read the report since you all received it. I would like to cover some of the recommendations we have.
- Subsidy:
- We still recommend on finding a way to implement subsidy on enrollment vs attendance system. I believe (unsure who responded to that in a query) that DHS is looking into this and taking guidance from the Feds. We need to look at that either way.
- Inconsistency in the state paying the daily rate when the industry standard is Private pay.
- In the absence of paying a rate on enrollment vs attendance – we strongly recommend continuing the additional \$5 a day / Increased Absent Days.
- Request that CECPD attend CCAC as a guest and not be limited to the 3 minutes of public comment to explain how the 60 day process works, contractual issues, and how we can make it more streamlined, as well as answer questions about the process and entertain ideas for making it a more user friendly service for providers.
- Desert Grants: We need to look at if there are true pockets of desert and not underutilized capacity. We have many providers across the state who are advertising like crazy and are on the verge of closing.

Lastly, I did want to make a comment about leaving. I want to thank you guys for allowing me to serve on behalf of our people. Normally these meetings are 45 minutes to 1 hour long of us reading our reports and then adjourning. The Oklahoma legislature thought enough of this industry a long time ago to give; and give a balance of power in this committee not only in policy but in statute. There are very few of you I understand that own child care small businesses, and maybe you come from different agencies and different parts that make up the child care industry. However, on this committee that I have served on, it represents many of those small business owners, most of them are women, many are women of color, and thousands of Oklahomans child care businesses are employees and families that they serve. 85% of people avoid conflict at all costs, but we have got to be able to engage in and initiative difficult conversations during our time here. I have seen little of that and it is heartbreaking for those who cannot be here today and those people we represent. Especially when the media focuses on the child care crisis and now all of a sudden child care is important. It is important. Many of you are afraid to speak up for fear it limits your chances of a career, or next steps or it will be retaliated. I want to challenge you during the remainder of your term, your time in public service, whether on this committee or any other committee, that you serve on. That while you are out driving around and you see those small family child care homes, head starts, private owned businesses, I challenge you to think of those owners, those employees, those staff, those parents, those children, and that is why we are here today. I want to encourage you to be bold and speak up. If we don't speak up, and care about each other and make bold decisions and listen to each other, we won't ever get anywhere. That is my challenge to you.

- Terri Davis responded: We will continue to fight for Oklahoma children forever. I do want to point out that we have included answers to the recommendations and questions in today's packet. You may not agree with those responses. And yes, we do bring up the same things over again. It is

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important to remember there are some things that this committee cannot do; we really do not have that much power. However, we do need to step outside of the box. I recently met with Susan with CECPD. I learned so much in just one hour. So my challenge would be to step out of the box in a similar way.

Residential Standing Subcommittee – Terry Owens

- We met in person on November 9, 2023. We discussed background checks for volunteers. The discussion was to clarify if we had to do fingerprints for volunteers who do service projects. The licensing team said it depended on whether they were supervising children without staff being present. Is doing a soft background check in Oklahoma all we need to do for volunteers who aren't supervising residents? Do those volunteers who are with residents without staff present need to be fingerprinted? Examples: If you have a volunteer helping with a doctor's visit.
- Another question was about residents visiting or having a sleepover at a friend's house.
- This falls under Prudent parenting. This needs to be addressed with policies and procedures at your organization.

Legislative Update:

- Updates are included in the handout.

Licensing Sanctions Report – Carole Turner

- Updates are included in the handout. This report covers July 1 to September 30, 2023. Carole provided a quick overview.

Guest Speaker – Carrie Williams

- Carrie provided handouts and shared an informative review of OPSR. A hearty discussion in topics and Q & A followed.

Old Business:

- None.

New Business:

- Tammy Maus – Our next conference will be on March 9th once again at Gordon Cooper. Special guests will be Lisa Murphy the 'Queen of Play' and Lisa Palmer who will focus on AI in child care programs.

Public Comment:

- Gina McPherson – Bailey Maxey is no longer with our program and will be hiring someone hopefully by January. We hired Kay Bason (sp?) as a specialist. Reminder when you are applying for a scholarship, you can only apply for the ones that are for you, such as Family Child Care Homes can only apply for Family Child Care Homes. Also, we are completely online for applications at: scholars.okhighered.org. We have people applying for all 3 scholarships at the same time, they only need to apply for one, unless they finish their training, and they are moving on CDP assessment scholarships.
- Susan Kimmel – First I would like to thank Terri for coming to CECPD and discussing the issues and agreeing there is no systemic issue. We welcome everyone to come visit and so we can bring up examples to show you; please send me a list of members who would like to attend, perhaps in January in 2024. We ask you specify the topics so we may research ahead of time and be succinct with time. At the last CCAC meeting some concerns were expressed and since then no one has

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contacted us to discuss and ask questions. Just email or call and we will return your message. We can't do anything until there is communication and that needs to go both ways. Thank you.

Next Meetings:

- Wednesday, March 13, 2024, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
- Wednesday, June 12, 2024, Location TBD
- Wednesday, September 11, 2024, Location TBD
- Wednesday, December 11, 2024, Location TBD

Meeting adjourned at 10:57 am

Carrie Williams made a motion to adjourn, Gayla Carnagey seconded the motion. There were no objections.