

Child Care Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2022

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
Terry Owens	x				
Darla Cheek (Vice-Chairperson)		x	Wendy Swatek	x	
Arianne Conner	x				
Jana Cornelius	x				
Terri Davis (Chairperson)	x				
Denis Doyen		x			
Jill Goyette		x	Rose Jackson	x	
Audra Haney	x				
Kourtney Heard	x				
Lauren Jenks-Jones		x			
Harold Jergenson	x				
Jeannie Jones	x		Misty Warfield	x	
Keri Laxton	x		Michelle Stasser	x	
Brittany Lee (Secretary)	x		Carole Turner		x
Katherine Leidy	x		Nola Harrison		x
Amanda Leonhart		x	Jaremy Andrews		x
Tammy Maus	x		Janell Wheat	x	
Catherine Mure		x			
Kelly Ramsey	x				
Jennifer Sneed	x				
Carrie Williams	x				
Shaunda Williams		x	Amie McDaniel	x	

Others Present:

CCS / DHS	VISITORS		
Audrey Charlson	Darci Bolner	Teresa Widick	Christy Kastl
Deanna Nichols	Reaina Harris	Lindsay Insomya	Gabrielle Moon
Mitzi Lee	Charlotte Hollarn	Rachel Proper	Katie Quebedeaux
Bonnie Clift			
Linda Whaley			

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Meeting Notices:

- The Agenda and Meeting Notice were sent to publisher@ecapitol.net on 12/8/2022.

Call to Order:

- Terri Davis called meeting to order at 10:03 am
- Introductions.

Approval of Minutes:

- 9/14/2022 minutes. Paula made a motion to approve, Carrie seconded the approval. There were no objections.

Standing Subcommittee Reports:

Membership Subcommittee - Peggy Byerly:

The CCAC Standing Membership Subcommittee met on December 5, 2022. In attendance: Peggy Byerly, Terri Davis, Brittany Lee, and Harold Jergenson.

- We recommend Krysti Alexander, Director of Adoption Services at Catholic Charities to serve on the Child Care Advisory Committee as a representative or the Oklahoma Adoption Coalition. Brittany Lee will bring her name to the DHS Director for appointment.
- 1. Carrie Coppernoll Jacobs was voted in to serve as a Private Citizen Representative June 12, 2019, technically her first term expired May 31, 2022. Somehow the dates were changed and it shows her first term expiring February 2023. Ms. Jacobs only attended two meetings – March 11, 2020 and June 9, 2021. We are not asking her to serve a second term.
Because this role is not required by the bylaws we decided to remove this category from the CCAC membership.
- 2. REMINDER: if you are a Child Care Advisory Committee Member you are allowed a maximum of 2 designees:
 - A designee must represent the role that you are representing on the CCAC.
 - A designee must attend the CCAC orientation to be allowed to vote in your place.

Participated in Orientation 12/14/2022:

Wendy Swatek – designee for Darla Cheek

Misty Warfield – designee for Jeannie Jones

Krysti Alexander – representative for Oklahoma Adoption Coalition

Family Child Care Homes Subcommittee – Ari Conner

- We had to rescheduled our October meeting to 12/19/22.
- We have heard from a number of providers having issues with the workforce grant and the cards given, they are very frustrated since this has been since July. Terri Davis working to catch up. Ari stated the frustration stems mostly from the lack of communication.

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- A few providers have 22 hours in early care and they learned some of the hours are counting as business not early care, so not helping with their levels.

QRIS Subcommittee – Terri Davis read Shaunda’s report.

We met on 10/12/22 with over 100 people on the call.

- Many questions asked regarding the new 5-Star rates, a request was made that an accredited program be automatically awarded a 5-Star rating without any additional paperwork required. The same principal as an accredited program currently becoming a 3-Star automatically. Many questions about the workforce grant cards.
- Recommendations from QRIS Subcommittee:
 - Accredited programs (or upon accreditation) are automatically qualified as a 5-Star without additional paperwork or submissions being made. This would still allow for a program to become 5-Star without becoming accredited, but also acknowledges the above typical standards and high-quality of accredited programs.
 - It would be beneficial if a representative of QRIS or OKDHS were present to help answer and field some of the questions that are brought to the subcommittee meetings.

Child Care Facilities (centers) Standing Subcommittee – Keri Laxton:

The Child Care Programs Subcommittee has met monthly for the last three months via Zoom. We have had an average of 35-50 providers attend from throughout the state. The highlighted areas of concerns:

- We would like to thank Child Care Services Director Brittany Lee who attended a portion of the December subcommittee meeting. She was informative and encouraging. She discussed the surrounding issues that prevented the Workforce Grant to go as smoothly as we all had wished. Communication is key and asked if providers will extend grace to them as they process the 2500-2600 QRIS applications. Beginning in January 2023, quality payments will be based on Star levels.
- Workforce Grant 1 & 2 discussed. There were many problems at the outset with grants going to some providers with a zero balance or with the wrong name or address. By the time we met in December these seem to be reduced and are getting resolved. Providers are confused that CECPD is asking that they only call or email once. Providers need acknowledgement and follow up beyond just the initial call or email they send to CECPD.
- QRIS: Many programs have submitted or are in the steps to finalize their QRIS applications. Nationally accredited programs are deeply concerned that the new QRIS destroyed the importance of distinguishing those programs from others. The differences in 5 star with accreditation and 5 star without is minimal. Attendees request that DHS take action to set those programs apart from non-accredited programs due to the rigorous process in both the accreditation process as well as the annual report that must be submitted to national accrediting agencies. National accreditation is recognized on the national level as being the highest in quality.

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- **Action Item:** Subcommittee request that policy be immediately written to reflect the following: Programs that are nationally accredited are automatically approved as a 5 star program without additional steps/criteria including master teacher requirements. 5 star programs that are accredited would just need to show proof that their accreditation is not lapsed and that the annual report has been submitted.
- Child Care Resource and Referral Conflict of Interest: Rainbow Fleet provides Resource and Referral services for DHS and has entered the market as a competitor. This creates an unfair advantage and is a conflict of interest. We believe it to be highly improper and should be discontinued.
- Desert Grants - We are not experiencing so much a capacity crisis but rather a hiring crisis that is preventing capacity.
- Additional discussion was centered on some institutions of higher education not having their coursework counted. **Action Item:** Subcommittee Requests that policy be written that training from state agencies and all accredited institutions of higher education/Careertech be automatically counted as formal training for all providers by licensing and the OK Registry.
- Discussion about elevating the language used for describing our industry. It was recommended that the term Daycare or Day Care is eliminated from state agencies as well as others who support.

Residential Standing Subcommittee – Terry Owens

- Met on 10/6/2022 with Terry Owens, Katherine Leidy, Kelli Harrison, Jason Charles and Sandy Grace in attendance.
 - Quality improvement discussions with NRCYC training, OK Cares.
 - Residential industry concerns: Staffing, it has been a struggle to find qualified program directors, licensing challenges, considering dropping bachelor's degree requirements.
 - Programs are having challenges with getting timely fingerprint appointments and background checks returned. There seems to be a backlog. Finding fingerprinting locations with appointments available is a challenge. Some job candidates must drive long distances for fingerprint appointments. Backgrounds are taking weeks. Residential programs should be moved up in priority. OBI has used licensing volunteers to help reduce the backlog.
 - Licensing standards/policies regarding marijuana were discussed. Do we need a new policy to meet current laws? Are we required to have a policy? What are the civil rights implications? Some industries are exempt from discrimination issues.
 - Recommendations for CCAC consideration
 - Can programs set up fingerprinting services for their areas to make the process quicker and easier?
 - Evaluate whether there needs to be a standard on medical marijuana for children and adults.

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Legislative Update:

- Linda Whaley is retiring. She introduced her replacement, Deanna Nichols. The report was reviewed and provided in the handout.

Licensing Sanctions Report:

- Brittany Lee reviewed the report and is included in the handout.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Reaina Harris, Oklahoma State Department of Health presented “Go NAPSACC, Certified Healthy Oklahoma, Community Analysis and Linkages” and shared handouts. Mission is to give young children a healthy start by providing tools, helpful videos, activities, flyers, etc. For more information email: Reaina.Harris@health.ok.gov

Public Comment:

- Darci Bolner – Thanked DHS for the grants and assistance. It saved my business. I would like to discuss attendance pay over enrollment pay. Provided examples of the burden this can cause.
- Christy Kastl – Concerns over the reduction in requirements to be a public school teacher while we have to have master teachers? Why would they work for \$15/hour for us and not make \$40K/year with summers off, etc. We cannot compete. I would like to suggest we create a committee to do something otherwise we will lose all of our teachers.
- Lindsay Insomya – I am also here to speak about SB 1119, like Christy. We have to do something to promote early child care.
- Katie Quebedeaux – We are all here because we love and care about children. We have got to learn to come together and have healthy discussions with healthy conflict. This has been weighing on my heart; we have to learn to not take offense if there is a difference of opinion.
- Rachel Proper – There is a lot of post covid residuals policies lingering and we are confused and would like to know DHS policy. I also wanted to talk about the change in public school teacher credentials. I also would love to know what our state is spending on child care benefit per child care center. If there is anyway to keep the benefits going, it would keep us competitive. Lastly, discussion on fingerprint issues; perhaps have more locations to make it more convenient.
- Janell Wheat – How many more workforce grants will there be? Need desert grant clarifications. Lastly, to add on to the marijuana discussion – we do not inspect the diaper bags; how would those scenarios be handled? Fingerprinting costs, discussions.

Next Meetings:

- Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at Catholic Charities

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- Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at the Wildlife Conservation Department
- Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at the Wildlife Conservation Department
- Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at the Wildlife Conservation Department

Meeting adjourned at 11:32 am