

Child Care Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 14, 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	
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		Angie Avila	x	
Lauren Jenks-Jones		x			
Harold Jergenson	x				
Jeannie Jones		x	Misty Warfield	x	
Keri Laxton		x	Michelle Glover	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	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	Sarah Albahadily	Jon Trudgeon	Allison Loeffler
Amy Cornelson	Ashley Ousley	Kristina Allen	Angie Clayton	Gina McPherson
Gabrielle Moon	Mindy Yoder	Rachel Proper	Katie Shearer	
Bonnie Clift		Reaina Harris	Rich Luht (sp?)	

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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 10:01 am
- Introductions

Approval of Minutes:

- 3/8/2023 minutes. Tammy Maus made a motion to approve, Darla Cheek seconded the approval. There were no objections.

Standing Subcommittee Reports:

Membership Subcommittee – Peggy Byerly:

June 1st Meeting - Members in Attendance: Terri Davis, Peggy Byerly and Brittany Lee.
Members Absent: Gayla Carnagey and Harold Jergenson

Membership Terms Expiring

Darla Cheek's 1st one year term as Vice-Chairperson will expire in September 2023.

This is an officer position, so it requires a vote by the Child Care Advisory Committee members.

- We nominate Darla to be voted in to serve another one-year term as Vice-Chair. The motion was approved.

(Later noted by email: I did not remember to announce this at the meeting, but we did cover it in our membership subcommittee meeting. Terri Davis 1st three-year membership term will expire in September. We approve Terri to serve a 2nd three-year term.)

Next to Expire:

There are two Child Care Advisory Committee members that have served their two 3-year-terms and their membership expires December 2023.

- Arianne Conner – representing Metro Family Child Care Home providers
- Jill Goyette – representing Out-of-School-Time programs

List of all Designees

Members are allowed to have up to two designees. This was voted on and approved at the CCAC meeting on June 12, 2019. Some members have already sent two people to new member orientation; however we have only included one person on the membership list. We will begin including all designees on the membership list and if they have not attended orientation it will say "pending orientation" under their name. Keep in mind that designees must represent what the member is representing.

- Angie Avilia attended Orientation on June 14, 2023 and is the designee for Kourtney Heard representing OSBI.

Family Child Care Homes Subcommittee – Ari Conner

We did not have a meeting this past quarter but are planning a July meeting.

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QRIS Subcommittee – Katie Quebedeaux

The QRIS subcommittee met via Zoom on June 12, 2023. The meeting was attended by several providers across the state representing both center and home programs. Topics discussed during QRIS subcommittee meeting:

- The new requirements have come a learning curve for both providers and licensing. As applications were submitted, programs applied for their desired STAR rating and the first year is coaching from licensing. In 2024 what will be the process as programs begin to have formal visits. Is there a formal process for STARS reductions or an appeal process? Who will make these decisions?
- Discussion was had regarding the CDA Scholars program and how it works.
- Discussion was had regarding Master Teachers and the benefit of using the CDA program to meet these requirements. It was discussed that with the staffing shortage, many teachers are using the extension because they are working overtime.
- Will the Scholars for Excellence continue paying at 100% for the CDA? Will it continue to be available immediately?
- Still requesting that nationally accredited programs are either automatically awarded a 5 Star Level, or a 5 Star Plus is developed to designate programs as being nationally accredited.
- Questions were asked regarding the Desert Grants. Will this be reopened? For those who have previously applied, they are approaching the 1-year mark. What do they need to do? Will they need to reapply?
- It was stated that during a training session, an update was given that the next round of checks will also be paper because not everyone sent in their direct deposit information, so that process will not be used.
- It was asked that the replacements for Linda Bradford and Susan Case attend the next QRIS subcommittee meeting so providers can meet them.

Child Care Facilities (centers) Standing Subcommittee – Tammy Maus:

A zoom meeting was held once this past quarter.

- School Based Programs under SB16: I know this doesn't directly concern us, however there were concerns in several areas of the state about this moving forward. While SB16 was defeated this past legislative session, there are still school districts that have moved forward with creating these programs. There are concerns about if programs will be licensed-exempt and just a general concern needed discussions that need to be had with the current child care industry about how these programs work and compete with other programs.
- Several are still concerned about Stars and the nationally accredited programs within the new STARS program. Many programs have dropped accreditation due to the way the new STARS program works. Sadly, one had dropped accreditation.
 - Recommendation is that the STARS program be amended to be an automatic approval and the other recommendations from the previous 3 quarters of recommendations. We recommend action and a vote by the CCAC to amend these criteria and request that DHS immediately recommend administrative rule changes. Some of the homes had also talked to me about this. Concerns with how after this grace period year the STARS reduction process will work. Concerns that many programs were just awarded 4 or 5 stars with little documentation and how that will affect our industry and those programs.

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- EBT: Issues remain with EBT. These involve machines as well as the online portal. Many programs are telling families they cannot use the portal due to the problems it is causing and lack of information that can be viewed by the programs. This ultimately is causing an undue burden on programs getting payment and in the event of an OIG Audit.
- New Application Issues: Currently when a program makes application for a license, if the licensing specialist recommends anything to be done because it is missing – those things are listed as a non-compliance on the online database and remain there for three years. It becomes part of the program's compliance file.
 - Recommend that this be in paper form of a recommendation and not a non-compliance.

Residential Standing Subcommittee – Terry Owens

- Did not meet this past quarter. We are going to schedule one very soon.

Legislative Update – Brittany Lee:

- Updates are included in the handout.

Licensing Sanctions Report – Carole Turner

- Updates are included in the handout. This report is information from the 1st quarter of 2023. Carole provided a quick overview.

Guest Speaker – Peggy Byerly

- Oklahoma State Department of Health: Heat Stroke Safety & Good Health Handbook updates. Peggy spoke about the tragedy of children left in vehicles, heat stroke and the importance of spreading awareness.

Guest Speaker – Allison Loeffler

- Allison provided a handout and presented information regarding Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness (OPSR) and PDG Grant.

Old Business:

- None.

New Business:

- None.

Public Comment:

- Kristina Allen: I have a few updates from CECPD – the workforce grant application process ended in May, so we are following up with individuals to get missing information. Reaching out individuals who have received a card but have not registered yet. We received over 21,000 applications for the workforce grant and paid over \$18,000. The Oklahoma Registry received over 25,000 documents/emails/phone calls in this quarter. We received 6,620 applications and processed over 10K applications. We rewarded over \$6,000 PDL certificates, and at the end of quarter we had about 22,633 providers that were active.
- Katie Shearer: Provided some professional development updates: We are still offering free courses online and, in the classroom, (which has been increasing); discussed the various classes offered going into the fall. Since Jan 1st \$1,791,600 in stipends payments have been awarded, as well, in wage supplement payments we have seen since Jan 1st \$3,666,700. 2900 certificates of achievement have been given, etc. 9 different Certificates of Achievement are now available.

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- Rachel Proper: Asking that the topic of swaddling be discussed. How do we define what is 'thin'? We need to educate and be more specific. Another question about copayments; asking providers to be kept updated.
- Rich Luht: EBT - as a new center we just started, we have 3 machines and not one works properly. We either can't get it working or it is not cost effective. The desert grant process was too quick for a new program. How does a Public School Child Care – this is taking away our customer base and if they do not have the same requirement, it will be difficult.
- Janell Wheat: The initial visit should be called a needs assessment rather than a non-compliance. In reference to what Rich said about the Public School CC, this is affecting rural and city across the state; some schools are taking up 5-7 school classrooms for this. As a tax payer I have a concern, as well as the unequal requirements.
- Christy Kastl: CC levels of training, if I am on a level 11, my training should be at that level vs level 1. Quality training is needed. Also, we have certified teachers who work and should more easily become a master teacher.

Next Meetings:

- Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at the Wildlife Conservation Department
- Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at the Wildlife Conservation Department
- Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at Sequoyah Building, Room C48
- Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at Sequoyah Building, Room C48

Meeting adjourned at 11:18 am