

Early Childhood Services Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Virtual Teams Meeting

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Committee Member	Present	Absent
Catherine Heyd - Preschool Provider – Statewide		X
Kathaleen Busche - Group Child Care Provider – West		X
Linda Schroeder - Family Child Care Provider/Group in a Home Provider – Statewide	X	
Rhoda Elmi - Center Child Care Provider – East	X	
Shelby Short - Group Child Care Provider – East	X	
Tania Zerr - School Age Provider – Statewide	X	
[vacant] Center Child Care Provider – West		
Total Members = 6	4	2

Staff Members Present

Carmen Traeholt, Early Childhood Licensing Administrator

Mariah Hill, Early Childhood CCDF Coordinator

Kay Larson, Early Childhood Director

- Meeting began at 3:03pm
- Member and staff introductions, welcome to new members
- Carmen Traeholt presented proposed early childhood law changes
 - Dependent on what is passed in the legislative session, there will be future ECS Advisory Board meetings to review NDAC
 - Purpose of proposed early childhood law changes is to reduce administrative burdens & support increased availability of child care
 - Decoupling Provider Training from license requirements
 - Benefits:
 - Assures that providers get “credit” for all training that is completed by staff
 - Removes de facto “black out period” that exists today in the 30-60 days before license renewal
 - Carmen responded to members’ questions
 - ECS Advisory Board members stated their support
 - Will help programs navigate training opportunities and timelines
 - Streamlining License Types
 - Reduce the number of child care licenses/non-licensed ECS types from 8 to 4
 - Child Care Center (Licensed)
 - Family Child Care (Licensed)
 - Self-Declaration (Registered)
 - In-Home Provider (Registered)
 - Benefits:
 - Circumstances that require a change in license type will be greatly diminished, thus reducing the administrative burden of repeated licensure efforts.
 - Consolidated license types will make it easier for providers to operate in and maintain compliance.
 - Keeps all current program variations while removing overlapping provisions within licenses / program types
 - Supports more consistent interpretation of rules
 - Reduced complexity enables more timely system updates
 - Easier for families to understand EC licensing expectations and philosophy
 - Providers would select a license type based on whether they serve 12 or more children (Child Care Center) OR 12 or fewer children (Family Child Care)
 - Admin Rule will provide direction specific to staff credentialing and other requirements based on type of setting and number of children served
 - A high-level comparison of current and future state by program type was provided
 - Streamlining License Types - regarding programs that are exempt from having to apply for a license or registration
 - Current Public Approval providers
 - Allow certain programs operating as license exceptions to voluntarily request to be **recognized** by HHS as complying with the provisions of state law related to licensing.

- Member discussion
 - How can the state elevate the recognition of family child care providers as professionals; the same as center providers are viewed by the public?
 - Conversation on staff credential requirements - More and more staff do not have formalized training or come in with degrees; becoming more and more of a roadblock, especially director positions and school age
 - Underage staff cannot be left alone; very difficult and "left alone" needs to be better defined.
 - Carmen referred members to Early Childhood Services Policy for clarification
 - ECS Advisory Board members stated their support of the proposed law changes that were presented at today's meeting.
- Meeting concluded 4:14pm