



Provider Supports Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2022- 9:00am to 11:00am
Virtual Meeting

Welcome, Introductions and Virtual Meeting Protocols

DCYF Community Engagement Administrator Erin Kerrigan welcomed members, reviewed virtual meeting protocols and completed introductions. The group reviewed and approved the [April 6 meeting minutes](#).

Feedback Loop

- [Feedback Loop](#)
- [Agency Updates](#)
- [FSKA Temporary Licensing Subcommittee Background Check Emergency Recommendation](#)
- [Early Childhood Equity Grant Design Update](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is different between the Fair Start for Kids Act (FSKA) grants and the complex needs funds? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Complex Needs Funds support providers with kids who have complex needs to provide additional support. The Equity grant supports providers serving BIPOC children and families, as well as BIPOC providers themselves to make sure culturally relevant services and childcare are being provided. • My understanding was that there were supposed to be more meetings before the protocol for the Equity grants was sent out? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There was a design session at the end of last month. There will be webinars to discuss what was weighed in on. • So, there was only one meeting for the design group? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes, the topic was brought to Provider Supports, then there was a sub group that met, and lastly on Saturday there was a session for the design team. Information is now being compiled to release. • With the needs-based grant, it is only for subsidized agencies, correct? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At this time, we are in phase 1, which is focused on providers accessing state subsidy. In early fiscal year 2023, around fall, a broader spectrum will open up that allows private pay and Family, Friend and Neighbor care (FFN).
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2023 Legislative Session Planning

DCYF's Assistant Secretary of Early Learning Nicole Rose provided an overview of the 2023 planning and processes, as well as gathered feedback on Decision Packages.

- [Decision Package Write-up](#)
- [Decision Package Update](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some data collected early on via the early childcare task force indicated the vast majority of families are in the middle, meaning they do not qualify for childcare funding support. Childcare is not affordable for the middle group, so how will the plan address this? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There will be an increase in eligibility again in July 2025. For providers to have more stability, and families have more access to care, there has to be an increase in rates for providers as well as in increase in income rates. When we get to 85% State Median Income (SMI), we have reached the limit of Child Care Development Funds (CCDF).
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- That is correct. FSKA will expand the funding to 85%, which should occur in 2027.
- We learned during the pandemic that the sustainability grants are needed in the childcare sector overall. Funding slots for families is the tip of the iceberg. We need recommendations for legislation that fund the sector, not the families.
 - We agree with you. We are taking the first step when addressing the 85% SMI. Many individuals are aware of the Cost of Care work that is happening, so we will be submitting a rate model and the childcare collaborative task force will submit their cost study and recommendations to the legislature in 2022. We will then develop a rate model that looks at the full cost of quality care.
- I appreciate all efforts being made. Childcare is not expensive, it is that early learning teachers require a great compensation. There needs to be a shift in mindset to get the funding involved in the industries and teachers. There will be no childcare if teachers are not paid sufficiently. Is there any talk addressing this work force issue?
 - Compensation happens in a variety of ways. What I am hearing is that you are referencing a shift in mindset for the entire sector. Does this sound like a fair statement?
 - Yes. Subsidy caps. From a private pay viewpoint, all I can do is offset the cost. We need to pay the teachers well. Universally, private pay and subsidized groups should have the same expectations, and evenly compensate teachers. The only way to help all groups would be a direct investment.
 - Thank you. There is currently a design group addressing compensation.
- Happy to see there is support around fee waiver that is permanent around background checks. I have heard that the background check computer system needs to be fixed. With the current crisis around background checks, I thought there would be something more to solve this and put money towards a new system.
- I did see the letter that went out regarding background checks and there has been internal conversation around the topic as well. Looking at how we can gather more information.
- Recommendations are supposed to be made in a year. If DCYF develops a decision package afterward to include recommendations, I am concerned about that timeline. I am expecting there will be an overhaul of the current system.
 - I will take your feedback Chris. There is also space in the breakout rooms for general feedback.
- Education awards exist already, and they are so minimal... not very motivating. \$50-\$200 or something like that, and it's a one-time award.
- We need direct, ongoing monetary support of higher wages for comparable degrees.
- Setting unfunded mandates like education requirements without direct compensation will not expand the labor force in Early Learning.
- We really need to focus on fast turnaround for background checks and the system. The process itself is an issue.
- Does DCYF recognize that we do have a massive crisis with background checks?
- Regarding foster children, there is not enough information regarding their needs when they come into care. 60% of children coming into care have special needs and we receive their fees. Because we do not have a lot of information regarding their behaviors, we cannot do much with the social worker and not much information is shared with providers due to confidentiality. The children need more support.
 - I want to acknowledge the workforce and funding concerns. What I am hearing is that you want more of a streamline and simplified process, which is what we are in the process of trying to do.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teachers or educators do not want to work in childcare because centers and homes can only pay minimum wage.• I do think that rethinking the way that we look at funding Early Learning is positive. It is the workforce that is at the heart of the quality of care that we can provide. Without the workforce, nothing we do will be successful.
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Early Achievers

DCYF’s Quality Recognition and Improvement System Administrator Rachael Brown-Kendall provided an update on Early Achievers.

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 359 sites are involved in the program profile and involved in the first component of the recognition process.• 227 sites have completed the full process.• Coaches are ready to connect and do overviews and first steps to transition to revisions work. Please reach out if you need a Coach Connection.• Are coaches available for virtual connection?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Yes, they are available virtually and in person.
Next Steps/Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please reach out to Sandy Maldonado at sandy@childcareawarewa.org if you want to be connected to a coach.

2022 Meetings, Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The next meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2022.
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