

Early Childhood Meeting Notes

10.7.22

Hannah White opened the meeting welcoming attendees. She gives a review of the agenda and presenters for today's meeting.

Hannah provided several updates in the early childhood system including an overview of agenda items at the Kansas Children's Cabinet meeting, relevant updates about Public Student Loan Forgiveness, Free Water Lead Testing, Family Jam Fest, and Child Care Workforce Appreciation Bonus.

- **Cabinet Meeting Overview**

- Dolly Parton Imagination Library Update: 2021 the children's cabinet was designated by legislature to be the lead of the DPIL- as of July 1st the CIF is now funding 50% of the statewide cost. The other 50% is supported by the local affiliates.
- We are always looking for local partners to become an affiliate of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library
- Success Story: Johnson County used to be one of the counties with no representation. The Shawnee Mission Education Foundation became a local affiliate and within the first 24 hours had 1600 children signed up!
- If you would like to become an affiliate, please contact phunsaker@imaginationlibrary.com

- **PDG B-5 Renewal Grant Update**

- The Preschool Development Grant was issued by the administration for children and families (ACF) currently there are 23 state recipients like Kansas that are recipients of the renewal grants that are 3 years long. We are in our third year of the grant.
- We received a planning grant and the development of the five-year strategic plan. The Kansas Children's Cabinet was named lead agency on this grant initiative.
- We were notified last September that there will be a 1-year renewal for some recipients. The backbone team at KU will be putting together that application. This next renewal round will be in favor of state/regions who have never been apart of PDG funding and then we will award beyond that.
- The awards will be between \$500,000 to \$4 million.
- Application deadline will be November 7, 2022.

- **Child Care Systems Improvement Team**

- Advisory group to KDHE that focuses on child care licensing. Group started in 2007 and is comprised of stakeholders across the state and early childhood care and education system.

- In the last year the group put together 14 recommendations to: improve clarity of regulations, increase resources and supports for prospective and current child care providers, increase public awareness.
- Several of these recommendations will be launched later this year: Toolkit to help home-based applicants navigate the licensing process, public awareness campaign focused on the importance of quality licensed child care, Go team (a way to mobilize necessary resources)
- **Proposed Regulation Overview – K.A.R 28-4-114 Applicant; licensee**
 - Purpose: will enhance business activities by addressing the need for child care slots in licensed home facilities.
 - Summary of Regulation Changes: Affirms children 11 years and older related to the provider do not count in total capacity, the proposed change updates age on capacity tables from 18months to 12months. Revises the total license capacity based on ages of children in care and licensed type; licensed day care homes with one provider and licensed group day care homes with two providers. Updates the age category for the maximum number of children, proposed table revisions (note: table III remained the same, Table IV was eliminated)
 - Regulation proposals were at the behest of the regulated community to address economic relief for home providers in Kansas. Proposed changes provide a balance between the need for safety and marketplace realities. KDHE conducted an internal review with research on the impact for home providers.
 - Next Steps: Posting in the Kansas Register & Announcement of Public Hearing (written comments will continue to be taken until 5:00pm on October 28, 2022) Joint Committee on Rules and Regulations Hearing, Final Approval & Publication, Implementation
- **Home Visiting & MCH Readiness/Needs Assessments**
 - Purpose: Document and analyze impacts of the pandemic and other external disruptors on Maternal & Child Health (MCH) and home visiting programs. Better understand the need for, interest in, and capacity for enhancement/expansion of services for women and young families in the state
 - Methods: both involve extensive review and analysis of many existing data sets, both involve surveying of programs, clients, and community members.
 - MIECHV Surveys in process include- Family, Workforce/Agency, Other Agency
 - Overall Goals: understand impacts of pandemic and other external disruptors on public health programs serving women, infants, children, and youth. Inform efforts to enhance, expand program offerings to meet unmet needs.
 - Next Steps: Continue data collection, summarize, and analyze findings, talk with other partners as gaps/issues are identified, share results with key stakeholders
- **Questions?**
 - ctilden2ku.edu

- **Public Service Loan Forgiveness**
 - Qualifying employers include some Head Start programs, preschools, and child care
 - Providers may be eligible now even if they weren't before
 - Some borrowers will need to consolidate their federal loans and/pr submit PSLF paperwork by October 31, 2022
 - Recorded webinar is available on the Kansas Children's website
- **Free Water Lead Testing for Child Care Providers**
 - Through KDHE, child care providers can have their facility's water tested for lead for FREE.
 - You can sign up online or call (800)674-7961
 - To find out more about potential hazards of lead in drinking water and steps to improve the safety and quality of your water, check out the 3Ts Toolkit from the Environmental Protection Agency.
- **Family Jam Fest**
 - Child Start is holding the 2nd annual Family Jam Fest – a family friendly, mini music festival for families with young children.
 - When: October 8, 2022, from 3:00pm – 7:00pm
 - Admission: \$15/adult (age 13+) \$5/child (age 3-12)
- **Child Care Workforce Appreciation Bonus**
 - One -time appreciation bonus payments of \$750 - \$2500 to over 20,000 eligible child care staff (not just teachers and directors) in Kansas
 - The application period for school age and drop in programs is open now.
 - Eligible individuals must apply for the payment and verify information. Check out the application periods table and find more guidance on the Child Care Aware of Kansas website.
- **Workforce Registry and Career Pathway Updates**
 - Registry: Completed evaluation and selection process, made formal recommendations for preferred vendor, currently in last stages of Dept. of Administration process, ongoing work in alignment with career pathway efforts
 - Pathway: Finalizing career pathway visual, developing marketing and education materials, conducting finalizing parameter for career pathway framework

Hannah White wrapped the meeting up by announcing upcoming systems-level meetings.