UTAH DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES CHILD CARE

Wednesday, July 9, 2025
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Office of Child Care Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

Location: Department of Workforce Services
720 South 200 East
SLC, UT 84111
Conference Room 100

The following link will take you to the PowerPoint, which was shared throughout the meeting, and may be helpful while reading through the minutes: https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/1295489.pdf

Link to the agenda:
https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/1295491.pdf

Link to the audio recording:
https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/1306293.MP3

Committee: Alex Wade, Ben Trentelman, Bree Murphy, Cristina Barrera, Crystal Knippers (representing Florencia Schapira), Holly Kingston, Jennifer Floyd, Joyce Hasting, Jody Zabriskie, Katie Ricord, Kelly Noorda, Kristen Schulz, Liliam Llanos, Shauna Tiatia, and Rhonda Dossett

Excused/Absent: Anna Robbins-Ek and Johnny Anderson

Interested Parties and Guests: Heather Thomas, Camie Galt, Kari Haugsoen, Jamie Foster, Emma Moench, JoEllen Robbins, Karrie Phillips, Colin Crebs, Su Chon, Daphne Lynch, Lori Birrell, Carolyn Lawson, Nichole affney, Wendy Byron, Jeff Sorensen, Alison May, Jamie Galloway, Jerica Casper, Broc Huntsman, Samantha Mafua, Lynne Burton, Hillary Christensen, Kathleen Brown, Carrie Stott, Joe Edman & Ashley Trujillo

Agenda Item	Discussion	Recommendations/Actions
Welcome	A. Heather Thomas from Department of Workforce Services (DWS), Office of Child Care (OCC) began introductions and thanked Ben Trentelman for serving as chairman for the last two years. To serve as the new chair, Heather welcomed Joyce Hasting, who represents the Child Care Resource and Referral agencies and is the Director of the newly named Mountainland Child Care Resource Agency. B. Joyce Hasting welcomed the Committee and called for attendance. She also let individuals know online, including the public, that if they wish to comment, they will need to use the virtual raising hand icon on Zoom. C. Committee Membership - Vacant Positions a. Small business community representative (2) b. Corporate community representative (1) (Family-friendly) workplace with efforts related to child care). c. To apply for all public seats, please go to the Board and Commissions D. Approval of 5/14/2025 Meeting Minutes	Joyce Hasting called for a motion to approve the 05/14/2025 minutes. Rhonda Dossett motioned. Holly Kingston seconded. The motion was carried unanimously and the meeting minutes were approved.

OCC Director's Update	To view these updates, go to page 4-5 of the PowerPoint. **<u>OCC Staff Update - Heather Thomas</u>** A. Heather Thomas announced that the administrative assistant position has been filled by Kari Haugsoen. **<u>Discussion</u>** A. No discussion **<u>Partner Name Change</u>** A. Heather Thomas spoke on the name change from Care About Childcare to Child Care Resource Agencies for the 6 regional agencies that the Office of Child Care partners with across the state (effective July 1st). a. These agencies provide resources to families and child care providers, including coaching and pieces of the Child Care Quality System. The name change provides a better representation of what they do. b. OCC is currently working with the agencies to update all the policies, one-pagers, and websites with the name change. The goal is to have this completed by the end of September. c. The Child Care Resource Agencies contact list has been updated. d. The DWS Care about Childcare website, including the child care search and where child care administrators and professionals login, has not changed its name. The name change was only for the agencies. **<u>Discussion</u>** A. No discussion **<u>Child Care Advisory Committee Sunset Review</u>** A. Heather Thomas spoke on the Economic Development and Workforce Services Interim Committee meeting, which occured on May 21st, to determine whether or not to extend out the sunset date for the Child Care Advisory Committee. a. The Department of Workforce Services presented the purpose of the committee to the legislature with the recommendation to extend it. b. The interim committee voted to move forward a three-year extension, and this will go into a bill during the 2026 legislative	

session.

<u>Discussion</u>

A. No discussion

<u>Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)</u> **[State Plan Appendix](#)** **update**

A. Heather Thomas spoke on the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) state plan and appendix. The appendix is connected to the state plan, which states complete every three years, and outlines the actions steps Utah will take to meet all federal regulations.
B. The original plan was submitted in July 2024, and OCC plans to submit the first amendment to the state plan at the end of the month with the following changes:
    a. Add required data on provider charges that exceed the required co-pays. This will include the average amount families may pay out of pocket above their co-payment for child care providers that charge more than the set DWS subsidy payment rates.
    b. The Family, Friend and Neighbor provider policy had three updates made with the Office of Licensing to meet federal regulations:
        i. Group size limit will be updated
        ii. Great uncle and Great aunt will no longer be included in the definition of a relative as this was too broad according to federal regulations.
        iii. Immunization information will now be collected for school-age children. For other provider types, there will need to be an administrative rule change with the Office of Licensing to make the same change.

<u>Discussion</u>

A. Alex Wade Inquired about the data on provider charges that had been previously sent out.
    a. Heather Thomas offered to send it out again and also explained that it will be in the updated State Plan.

Annual Open & Public Meetings Act Training	**<u>Utah Open & Public Meetings Act (OPMA)-Su Chon</u>** A. To view this training, go to pages 7-24 in the PowerPoint. B. Su Chon provided training and information on the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act as required annually. ***<u>Discussion</u>*** A. No discussion	
Partner Highlight	**<u>UAEYC - Katie Ricord</u>** A. To view this update, go to pages 26-32 in the PowerPoint. ***<u>Discussion</u>*** B. No discussion	
OCC Updates	**<u>Child Care Quality System- JoEllen Robins</u>** **A.** To view this update, go to pages 34-38 in the PowerPoint. **B.** JoEllen Robbins provided information on a policy change that OCC is working to put into effect. If a child care program receives a Civil Money Penalty and the provider loses their High Quality rating, the Enhanced Subsidy Grant monthly payments will be paid until the end of the assigned certification period. The program earned the grant and is being compensated for what they have done the previous year, and they have budgeted to receive that additional amount throughout the current certification year. This helps stabilize that program and gives them more time to determine how they will adjust without those funds. C. The Office of Child Care is still reviewing changes that the Office of Licensing is in the process of making around the Guidelines for Corrective Actions and Civil Money Penalties to determine if any further changes will be made to the revised Child Care Quality System scoring framework. ***<u>Discussion</u>*** A. During Joellen's Center Comparative Data slide, Holly Kingston gave background on childcare providers in her community and how she is unaware of any above Foundation of Quality. She asked about whether there was any other way to incentivize providers to move up the rating scale if they don't serve children receiving child care subsidy. B. JoEllen Robbins shared two opportunities for all programs to possibly receive additional funds: Professional Development Cost Sharing and the	

Quality Observation Award. The Quality Observation Award is for each classroom or family child care program that scores at the high quality threshold.

C. Joyce Hasting also recommended the Infant and Toddler Quality Support Grant.
    a. Heather Thomas explained that the grant is for programs that do not receive a High Quality rating to help them work towards high quality. Their observations are reviewed, and the Child Care Resource Agencies help programs look at what equipment, tools or supplies they might need and could purchase with the grant in order to work toward high quality for that age group.

D. At the end of Joellen Robbin's presentation, Jennifer Floyd discussed that families and the public need to understand what the process and standard is and what the ratings mean. She also mentioned discussing the benefits for the programs that have received a high quality rating.

E. Joyce Hasting comments on the search feature now available that includes the certified quality ratings.

F. Heather Thomas follows up by mentioning that the OCC knows there is more work to be done to let families know about the system's existence.

<u>School Readiness, Out-if-School Time & Community Grants- Emma Moench</u>

A. To view this update, go to pages 39-41 in the PowerPoint.

B. Emma Moench spoke on the transparency of the grant application process by using a scoring committee and the rubric scoring system.

C. The Becoming High Quality grant has one private preschool provider grantee. Emma explains the reason it is low is because the grantee has one school year left, and the current code states the money needs to be prioritized to the High Quality School Readiness grants first.

<u>Discussion</u>

A. During Emma Moench's update on Grant applications, Jennifer Floyd asks about the High Quality School Readiness grants being increased by Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding for the school year 2026. Jennifer asked how having TANF funds would affect grantee reporting requirements.

B. Emma Moench responded to Jennifer's question stating that the School Readiness Initiative has been

	increased with $2M TANF dollars, which increases the SY26 amount to $14 million. The School Readiness (SR) grants team has been working on invoicing procedures to ensure that grantees do not have the burden of overseeing the eligibility procedure requirements that come with TANF funding. For example, on the Eligibility form, families that are already receiving categorical benefits through DWS will provide that information so that costs for that child may utilize the available TANF funding. Once the HQSR invoice is sent securely every month, the DWS, OCC program specialist will verify the TANF-eligible student in eShare (an internal DWS database). C. The number of TANF children to be served is not yet determined, but the cost per child has TANF funding embedded into it. This means the grantees will need to work with families to determine current TANF-eligible students. If not enough TANF children are identified, this could cause a reduction in funds. The SR team will be sending out guidance on how to complete the eligibility form and the SY26 invoice to grantees. D. Jennifer comments on the Grantee's potential additional paperwork burden, and Emma shared how the DWS, OCC program specialists will utilize DWS’ eShare database to review TANF eligibility and ease the burden on grantees. E. Kristen Schulz spoke on the information gathered from families applying for child care subsidy and inquired about the ability to use unallocated TANF funding for qualifying families. F. Heather Thomas and Camie Galt spoke about how the Department of Workforce Services is currently having conversations to figure out how the system could potentially identify families that are TANF eligible in order to use the unallocated one-time TANF funding for eligible families’ child care assistance payments.	

Agency Updates	**<u>Licencing - Crystal Knippers</u>** A. To view these updates, go to pages 43-44 of the [PowerPoint.] ***<u>Discussion</u>*** A. No discussion **<u>USBE - Cristina Barrera</u>** A. To view these updates, go to pages 45-56 of the [PowerPoint.] ***<u>Discussion</u>*** A. No discussion	
Other Business	**<u>Kristen Schulz - Public Service Announcement</u>** A. [The Best Place for Working Parents Program]: Employers in Salt Lake, Summit and Wasatch counties are able to go online to take a 3-minute self-assessment on their family-friendly policies. If they reach a certain level, you can receive a "Best Place for Working Parents" badge. Kristen explains this can help educate employers on what they could be doing and why they should consider certain policies. It also gathers more data and recognizes employers that are doing a good job. She encouraged committee members to spread the news to employers about this program. **<u>Kristen Schulz requests an Agenda item</u>** A. Suggest discussing the Big Beautiful Bill that was recently passed. a. She mentioned that 53% of childcare employees use government assistance, so she is concerned about the changes in Medicaid, SNAP and WIC, and how they're going to affect both child care providers and families with young children. b. She discussed the Employer Sponsored Tax Credit in the bill where a small employer, which is around $25 million in annual gross revenue, could get a 50% tax credit on childcare support that is provided for their employees. She would like this group to understand how that works and help think through recommendations we might want to consider making to encourage our Utah employers to take advantage of the tax credit. c. Kristen would like to see a briefing at the next meeting on the bill and how it affects Utah.	

	d. Joyce mentioned appreciation to all those that have been working with federal grants over the last six months.	
Adjournment	**<u>Upcoming Meeting:</u>** Wednesday, September 10, 2025 ~ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Joyce Hasting called for a motion to adjourn. Holly Kingston motioned. Kristen Schulz seconded. The motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned.