



**WORKFORCE
SERVICES**
CHILD CARE

OFFICE OF
**Child
Care**



Welcome●

Agenda

- I. Welcome Joyce Hasting
 - a. Committee Schedule for 2026
 - b. Committee Membership - Vacant Positions
 - c. Annual Conflict of Interest Forms
 - d. Approval of 9/10/25, Meeting Minutes
- II. OCC Director's Update Heather Thomas
 - a. Administrative Rule Revision
 - b. Federal Update
 - c. Utah's CCDF Funding Allocation Change
 - d. Electronic Attendance Tracking Camie Galt
- III. Partner Highlight: Bear River Child Care Resource Agency..... Leah Schilling
- IV. OCC Updates
 - a. Child Care Quality System JoEllen Robbins
 - b. School Readiness, Out-of-School Time & Community Grants..... Emma Moench
 - c. Subsidy Ann Stockham Mejia
- V. Agency Updates
 - a. Office of Licensing Crystal Knippers
 - b. Utah State Board of Education Cristina Barrera
- VI. Other Business & Public Comment
- VII. Adjourn



Committee Schedule for 2026

Date	Time
Wednesday, January 14, 2026	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Wednesday, May 13, 2026	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Wednesday, July 8, 2026	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Wednesday, September 9, 2026	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Wednesday, November 4, 2026	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

The meeting will be the held at the Department of Workforce Services Metro Office.
720 S 200 E, Salt Lake City, UT 84111 Metro Conference Room 100



Committee Membership

Vacant Positions

- Small business community representative (2)
- Corporate community representative
(family-friendly workplace with efforts related to child care)

[Boards and Commissions Website - Apply for Seat](#)



Annual Conflict of Interest Forms

- New form with three sections
- Notarization is required
- PDF form sent out with return information
- Return your completed form by **today**, if at all possible:
 - Turn in **paper copy in person** today to Kari (OCC Admin Assistant)
 - **Mail notarized paper copy** to OCC
 - **Email electronic notarized copy** (completed through licensed remote notary, not copy of physical document) to occadmin@utah.gov



OCC Director's Update

-Heather Thomas



OCC Director's Update

- **Administrative Rule Revision**

(Public Comment through December 1)

- Clarifies/updates when child care subsidy may be awarded at a higher payment rate for children with special needs
- Removes provisions regarding Civil Money Penalties as applied to the continuation of Enhanced Subsidy Grants during a program's Child Care Quality System certification period



OCC Director's Update

- **Federal Update**
- **Utah's CCDF Funding Allocation Change**

Discretionary Funding Formula

- Per capita income
- Children under five
- Participation in federal free and reduced lunch program



OCC Director's Update

- **Electronic Attendance Tracking**
 - Purpose and History
 - ARISE Attendance System
 - New Proposal
 - Communication



Partner Highlight

- Leah Schilling

Bear River
Child Care Resource Agency
at Utah State University



Overview

Bear River Child Care Resource Agency
<https://youtu.be/zRG7M36yMc8>

- 16 Licensed Centers
- 76 Licensed Family Child Care
- 5 Residential Certified
- 11 Exempt School Age Programs
- 20 Family, Friend and Neighbor



Emma Eccles Jones
College of Education & Human Services
UtahStateUniversity



Staff Highlights

Cherry Howe - Data & Referral Specialist

Fingerprinting and Database Technical Assistance
Monthly Provider Night

Zinthia Cornejo - CDA Specialist & Outreach Coordinator

CDA Cohort
Early Childhood and Family Coalitions - 3 Counties

Lisa Reeder - CCQS Specialist & Training Coordinator

Professional Development Advising
CCQS Tracking and Technical Assistance



Staff Highlights

Amber Flynt - Early Childhood Specialist

Center Coaching

Observation 3 Settings



Kim Dutson - Family Child Care Specialist

Family Child Care Coaching

New Provider Visits



Leah Schilling - Director

Disaster Planning

Employer Outreach



Statewide Services

All Means All Programs

135 Programs

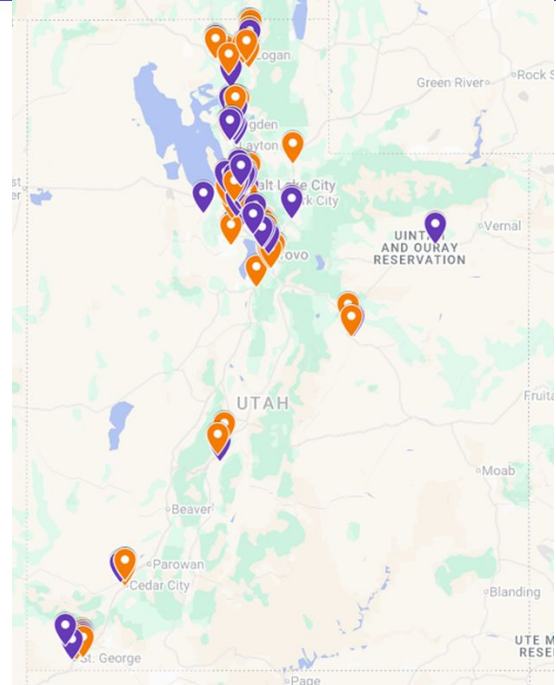
60 Centers

75 Family Child Care

243 Directors and Caregivers

Added to:

- CCQS Framework
- Care About Childcare Parent Search



OCC Updates



CCQS

-JoEllen Robbins



Center Comparative Data

Rating Distribution for Centers 2024

128 of 445 centers with certified rating = 29% of all centers

Foundation of Quality	Building Quality	High Quality	High Quality Plus
27/128 = 21%	46/128 = 36%	51/128 = 40%	4/128 = 3%

Rating Distribution for Centers 2025

135 of 441 centers with certified rating= 31% of all centers

Foundation of Quality	Building Quality	High Quality	High Quality Plus
29/135=21%	49/135=36%	52/135=39%	5/135=4%



Center Comparative Data

	2024	2025	2024	2025
What is measured	Number of Programs	Number of Programs	Percentage of Programs	Percentage of Programs
ERS Observation Score Increase	73	73	63%	60%
SAPQA Observation Score Increase	51	50	60%	60%
Increase Points Education of Director	46	42	40%	35%
Increase Points Education of Caregiver	37	24	32%	20%
Overall Point Increase	76	68	66%	56%
Increase of Certified Rating	44	26	38%	21%

*Data reflects 121 recertifying programs in the past 12 months.

Family Child Care Comparative Data

Certified Ratings for FCC 2024

55 FCC Providers of 849 = 6%

Certified Foundation of Quality	Building Quality	High Quality
14/55 = 25%	15/55 = 27%	26/55 = 47%

Certified Ratings for FCC 2025

56 FCC Providers of 827 = 7%

Certified Foundation of Quality	Building Quality	High Quality
6/56=11%	15/56=27.5%	35/56=63.5%



Family Child Care Comparative Data

	2024	2025	2024	2025
What is measured	Number of Programs	Number of Programs	Percentage of Programs	Percentage of Programs
Increase Observation Points	21	26	57%	65%
Increase Points Education of Primary Caregiver	12	5	32%	12.5%
Overall Point Increase	25	27	68%	67.5%
Increase of Certified Rating	6	8	18%	20%

*Data reflects 40 recertifying programs in the past 12 months.

Child Care Quality System (CCQS) Framework Revision

Licensing Compliance Minimum Requirements for High Quality

- Original Survey Results
- Reviewed Other States' Policies
- Gathered Parent Feedback
- Licensing Procedural Change
- Child Impacts



CCQS Intensive Coaching

Required Intensive Coaching Grant Informational Meetings:

Family Child Care: Wednesday, December 10
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Center: Tuesday, December 16
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

All eligible programs will receive an invitation and may register for the meeting.



School Readiness, Out-of-School Time and Community Grants

- Emma Moench



Community

Education Savings Incentive (My529)

Annual state-funded incentive that provides a match of up to \$300 in a my529 educational savings account(s) for eligible families experiencing intergenerational poverty

- Eligible families have received information via email and postcard
- Application Window: January 2 - March 3, 2026
- Application review in April
- my529 payment in May



Subsidy Update

- Ann Stockham Mejia



Subsidy Update

- As of mid-October, all children who are included in the initial application or review are eligible throughout the certification period when there is a need of at least 8 hours of care in the month.
- Cases are now put on hold during the 12-month eligibility period when care is temporarily not needed.
- In most instances, families will not be required to reapply during the 12-month review period if there is a break longer than 30 days in child care need. Payments will resume at the same level when care is requested again.
- This complies with federal CCDF regulations.



Agency Updates





Utah Department of
Health & Human Services
Licensing & Background Checks

Child Care Licensing

- Crystal Knippers



Changes to licensing processes

- Posting of **non-compliances will now wait the 15 calendar day period that providers have to file an appeal**. This process began at the end of Oct. Non-compliances will remain unposted during the DLBC's internal review (IDR) process.
- Providers will be asked if they would like to speak to the IDR committee during the review of their appeal. If a provider wishes not to speak to the committee they can provide an additional written statement separate from the appeal request.
- Checklists will be available **upon request** after the inspection. These checklists will demonstrate the rules assessed at the inspection and items reviewed and under review for compliance. Anticipated to start mid-November.





The **Utah State Board of Education (USBE) Vision** is "To open doors of opportunity for all Utah children."




USBE's Preschool Education team believes in the power of early learning and are dedicated to supporting families, educators, and communities in fostering the healthy development of preschool age children.

USBE

- Cristina Barrera



USBE Governance & Structure

-  **Established:** Constitutional, elected, partisan body
-  **Members:** 15 elected from Utah regions (4-year terms)
-  **Meetings:** Monthly 2-day sessions
 - Study sessions
 - Committee meetings
 - Full board meetings
 - USDB board meetings



Responsibilities & Leadership

Responsibilities:

- [Core standards](#)
- [Educator licensing](#)
- [Graduation requirements](#)

Leadership:

- Appoints [State Superintendent](#)
- Administers programs

Funding Oversight:

- \$4B+ distributed to charter & district schools
- [Ensures compliance with laws & rules](#)



USBE Strategic Plan

- Our Strategic Plan provides a shared vision for the future of Utah's education system.
- It identifies a vision for Utah students upon completion and also orients USBE's efforts internally as we focus on our mission of creating the conditions for student success.
- USBE is responsible for general oversight and supervision of the public education system, as established by the Utah Constitution.
- [USBE 2025 Strategic Plan](#)



2025 Utah Preschool Conference



[2025 UPC Press Release](#)

This year's free and **virtual event** invites early learning educators and professionals to come together for two days of powerful conversation, inspiration, and collaboration.

Please complete the Zoom Events [registration form](#) for a complimentary ticket to use on either or both days.



2025 UPC Keynote Speakers

- On **Friday, November 14**, Kelly Noorda of [Promise Partnership Utah](#) and Meredith Karpinnen from Weber State University will present the keynote session to introduce “Utah’s Kindergarten Readiness Pathway” followed by an audience Q&A and a session on the toolkit.
- For Day 2 on **Saturday, November 15**, Dr. Rich Nye, Senior Advisor for Education to Governor Spencer J. Cox, will be the keynote speaker and his address will center on this year’s theme, *“Bridging the Gap: Building Stronger Connections for Early Learning Success.”*



Other Business



Adjourn

Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm





**WORKFORCE
SERVICES
CHILD CARE**

