NH Child Care Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes August 10, 2023

Jackie – Welcomes and logistics

Marianne – Welcomes –only informational

Now have 10 sponsors

Shelley Roberts - NH Afterschool Network – new voting member – seeing clear direction

Tanisha Johnson – NH & NE Head Start Chair

Introduction of voting members –

Debra Nelson – Child Development Bureau and Head Start Collaboration

**National Meetings** – New Director of Operations of Head Start looking a Head Sart as a focus, how are they reaching their goals of supporting children and families

Priorities - Collaboration with State Systems

Work with State Efforts to Collect and Use Data

Support Expansion of /Access to High Quality Workforce

Coordinate with State School Systems for Continuity, Alignment and Transition

**STAM -** Tight Budget year but “radically Optimistic”

New CCDF Plan: More than just compliance – cross agency planning at federal level

Not just “Do What We Say”

New National Early Childhood Education Workforce Center – funded- focus on

resources and possibly funding options

**Policy changes update –**

Provider Payment Rates – 75th percentile of MRS – 2 phases: Now and early 2024 after

next MRS

Pay by enrollment – 9/2023 – talking with other states and give families leeway

CCDF Eligibility: 85% of State Median Income - 1/24 – serve far more families

Family Cost Share – Income: 1/24 <100% of FPL – 0

* 100%-138% of FPL -$5.00
* 138% -85% of SMI -7%

Lots of caveats to this system – still figuring out some logistics

There will be a webinar on the changes of policy and all the logistics

If a child gets enrolled in two centers there is a system to flag

There is no system to be able to not link a child who leaves a center with a big bill

**ARP – D and Other Funding Opportunities**

$158 million extra dollars to manage

By middle of next week there will be a copy of a chart with funding opportunities, where

projects are and who have been awarded them.

Capacity building opportunities / tuition scholarships for professionals UNH/Granite

State will blast out all the information

The Early Childhood Tuition Assistant google - ECTA

$15 million in process and looking to get that out and what the requirements will be

Marianne asks if out all at once – will recruitment and retention funds out as lump sum

or invoiced

CCDF and ARPA spend down funds will go out in quality incentives – expended by 9/30/23. Redistribute what didn’t get spent. Total is $1.85 ARPA and 41.296,750 CCDF

Doreen Shockley CCLU offers to help DHHS with support and logistics to get this out

$3.6 million for Goffer still looking to ensure how it can be used

Quality incentive will be part of their annual incentive awards

**GSQ –**

Advisory committee meant and is 90% to a charter

Discussion from advocates about their challenges, concerns, etc – conversation built into other meetings

It was amazing to hear how advocates affected the committee

Can subsidies be turned around and expedited so families do not have to wait to know cost share

Jackie has the $5 million in state money CCDF-C. Money to go to development materials. Some to NH Connections revamp

**Paid Family and Medical Leave Act – DJ Bettencourt and Rich**

First Voluntary PFML Plan In US

Employers decide whether to offer to their employees -available to all employers and

workers but required of none.

Employer picks up 100% - all enrolled If workers paying a portion, then employees can

decide to participate

Employees can purchase this for $5.00 a week

WHY?- having an expanded offering of benefits is a way support workforce and

retention. Have security of knowing they can take care of family member and

then come back to work instead of looking elsewhere

MetLife is the insurance partner for the state -6wk or 12wk program

Base plan 6 wks – 60% wage replacement

NH employers and NH workers can participate – designated as working for a NH

employer

Individual Plan – Dec. 1,2023 – Jan. 31, 2024 open enrollment

6wks at 60%, 1 unpaid week before benefits start, 7 months waiting period

Premium capped at $5.00 a week

Qualifying events include serious health condition, child bonding, serious health issue of

a family member, military deployment or service, caring for a qualifying service member

Large employers – collect premiums through payroll deduction, Follow FMLA guidelines

continue to provide health insurance

Small employers

Self employed individuals are not currently able to utilize this program

Will cover maternity leave if only policy.

**On the web –** [**www.paidleave.nh.gov**](http://www.paidleave.nh.gov) **on media – Nhpaidleave**

**Bureau of Child Care Licensing – Doreen Schockley**

NHCCAC is working with CCLU to revamp and edit the book

Marianne – recaps what is happening and discusses a peer review group discussed

among, physical at time of joining a team, illness and is this a business decision,

immunization report does not need to be licensing rule as it is required by PublicHealth

An IIDR in cases where licensee is not pleased then this group does a peer review.

Doreen will reach out to Public Health and let them know questions about Disease

Handbook.

Meeting every Monday

Marianne – staff qualifications and ratios

**Jackie Firmin - NAEYC**

**Nov 15-18 in Tennessee**

**Policies and Legislation – Becky Whitley**

Preschool mixed delivery pilot program

Will be doing a pilot based program – ARPA D $500,000 - will test try this pilot

DHHS considering 3 sites – Keene State College and Pyramid Model Consortium working

to do this

Working on categorical eligibility for child care workers

Working on something to support wages – update shortly

CCLU would like individuals to collaborate with legislation

Could there be child care navigators to help families????

Zoning bill

**Child Care Aware**

Conference of September 29th – on website and in newsletter

Lots of reach out for mini-conferences – really like training coming to them – reach out

to Dee Dee

Scholar ships for providers who cannot afford to go to conferences

**Julie Smiley – new director of Save the Children’s Action Network**

**Jackie Cowell –** nominating committee chair – put in name if interested in serving on the

council board… current members may want to continue but will have to go

through voting process – slate in October/vote in December

**Urban Institute –** working on a project to gather data about parents’ experiences looking for

child care, engage them in focus groups, conversation between researchers and child

care

Meeting Adjourned at 3:02