



**STATE OF MISSOURI**  
**Coordinating Board for Early Childhood**

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**MO Coordinating Board for Early Childhood**  
ECE Programs Workgroup

Chair: L. Carol Scott; Co-Chair: Christy Brookins  
December 11, 2014, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
Governor Office Building, Room 315

## **Minutes**

1. Welcome new members and introductions: “Why do you serve on this workgroup?”
  - a. Collaboration; best practice learning; professional support
  - b. Important to stay on top of federal and state initiatives
  - c. State department’s interest in making investments work well
  - d. Important to keep state funding alive because center has benefited from AFP, TEACH, and other programs
  - e. Advocacy on a state level and always looking for solutions to higher quality on limited resources
  - f. Making a difference for children and families
  - g. The state can hear from the field as a way to inform how they will spend resources
  - h. Represent rural children and families who need EC services
  - i. What happens at the state level has a direct impact on our children and families
  - j. Learning about how regulation affects the programs that serve children
  - k. Crucial to resolve the need for better quality in the early years
  - l. Time for MO to start moving up the quality of our care
  - m. Assure inclusion
2. Dialog with Stacey Preis of DESE, on the state’s Pre-K Development Grant – CANCELLED THIS AGENDA ITEM, AS THE PRE-K GRANT WAS NOT AWARDED TO MO
3. Dialog with Cindy Burks of DSS, on CCDBG reauthorization and DSS/Children’s Division plans for alignment with new requirements
  - a. National Women’s Law Center (NWLC) has created a side-by-side comparison of the old and new laws
  - b. Office of Child Care is issuing a timeline for compliance with each component of the law
  - c. MO already has some of the new requirements in place (e.g., 30 days of job search goes up to 3 months and includes students, whose child care will continue for 3 months after they complete training/education)
  - d. ECPS has already begun to sort out things that will change in the state plan vs those things that will not change; starting now to update the unchanging items

- e. Eligibility determination will remain for 12 months at a time, with authorizations for # of hours of care updated within that, when relevant.
  - f. Expansion of CCR&R, especially more comprehensive information for parents who are searching
  - g. Biggest changes are in Health and Safety (which includes parental complaints)
  - h. Online site giving access to complaints and inspection reports, operated by DHSS, will be expanded to include Exempt facilities
  - i. Onsite visits prior to registration for Exempt facilities, covering fire/safety inspection and emergency preparedness, repeated annually thereafter
  - j. Training requirements will now include Exempt facilities; specific trainings will be required for facilities receiving subsidy (e.g., infectious disease prevention and control, prevention of SIDS/safe sleep, administration of medication/parental consent, physical safety, ID of hazards, transporting children, first aid/CPR). Some specific topics up front and then annually will require continuing ed. Suggestions that specific orientation topics be required as pre-service but not as part of annual clock hour requirement.
  - k. 4% quality set-aside is being raised each fiscal year, to 7% for FY16 and 17, 8% for FY18 and 19, then 9% by FY20, and also increases annual allocation at federal level to cover that. 3% beginning in FY17 is reserved for infants and toddlers
  - l. Quality set-aside is for training, promoting the EL guidelines, support for accreditation, tiered QRS or alternative, expanding better programming for Infants and Toddlers, parent referrals, etc.
  - m. Finger-print based federal background checks required for all staff at all programs; \$44.80 per person, through MO Highway Patrol; specific crimes that will make someone ineligible and state can add additional, if they choose (only applies to subsidy receivers), and there can be a review process for drug-related offenses. Fees cannot be raised beyond the true cost of the checks; cannot use it as a revenue generator. Must be in place by October 1, 2017.
  - n. CONCERN: loss of subsidized spaces! ECPS planning messaging to retain as many as possible of the Exempt home-based population.
  - o. Adult-child ratio must be established for all facilities; our existing “four or fewer unrelated” will count as meeting this expectation
  - p. A single assessment for children may be supported but cannot be used to determine program or child eligibility for subsidy; align with early learning standards/guidelines
  - q. MO HB2831/SB869 authorization to bring together stakeholders for design of a system of quality indicators; currently working with CBEC in this arena but no final decision about how to move it forward
  - r. Critical pieces are in the training requirements, background checks, implementing a monitoring process for registered programs, and the quality indicator system
4. Discussion of report from Stacey Wright of Missouri Head Start-State Collaboration Office, on Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership expansion: Three EHS-CC partnership grants awarded in MO, so far. More may come; rolling out awards through March.



5. Refresh on where we left our recommendations in June and status to date
  - a. Re-submit our recommendations annually
6. Additional recommendations?
  - a. Need to change licensed FCCs being able to keep as many related children as they want, in addition to the unrelated children; several years ago, CACFP records showed 16-18 children on menus, with one provider. Would like to see “1 means 1”– all children count, regardless of relationship to owner.
  - b. Restrict uncounted children in licensed and registered homes to just the children of the owner (1<sup>st</sup> degree by blood, marriage, or adoption), remove other degrees of relationships, as in SB869 for owners/operators of facilities incorporated as LLCs (can be used as precedent).
  - c. Compensation continues to be a huge concern; not sure what the recommendation would be? Maybe have a conversation with ACE RE the Tobacco Tax or some corporate interests in compensation. Focus our next meeting on compensation. Perhaps invite others to be there – Sarah Fox? Lisa Klein? Tyler Nottberg? – put together an agenda that enables them to brainstorm with us on solutions? Use newest report out on compensation as discussion document? Need some data on MO compensation.
  - d. Expulsion and suspension policies in early childhood settings may be another discussion topic down the road. See policy statement from the White House Summit on EC. Training of staff is a piece of the issue but also need more staff in classrooms where there are troubled children. 2 teachers and 20 children, with even one or two whose behavior is disordered, is not sufficient staffing. Lack of expulsion can lead to a licensing violation write up for failure to keep children safe. May recommend to DSS that the funding from CCDBG be used to provide higher level of resource to child care programs related to EC mental health concerns that lead to expulsion. Need for compilation of resources – training and coaching and other – and need for dialog about “whole child’ approach (e.g., licensing essentially requiring expulsion policy). Does CBEC have resources for a consultant to compile this list?