

State Child Care Advisory Committee 2017 Annual Report

Timeframe for Report: July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 (SFY 2017)

Co-Chairs of this Committee:

Amy Bruner, Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP)

Amy Karaidos, Child Care Nurse Consultant, Central Iowa

The State Child Care Advisory Committee's FY '17 annual report begins with the adopted highest priority. Below is the current issue of the committee. To: The committee's report begins with its highest priority, a strongly worded recommendation to raise Child Care Assistance rates:

Recommendation

Increase Child Care Assistance (CCA) funding to current market rates.

Why our Recommendation?

1. Access to quality child care is essential to the workforce
2. Fewer than half (48%) of children in poverty are ready for school at age five, compared to 75% of children from families with moderate and high income, a 27% point gap.¹
3. Child care assistance should make it possible for low-income families to access high quality child care. However, current CCA reimbursement rates are at approximately 45% of the current market rate. An increasing number of providers are choosing to not serve children eligible for CCA due to the lower-than-market rate reimbursement.
4. Because CCA rates do not keep pace with the private pay market, small child care businesses that choose to accept children carry the burden of lost income as the government program doesn't pay at a market rate.
5. 75% of households in Iowa with children under age 6 have all available parents in the labor force; Iowa ranks #4 among the 50 state states.²
6. Child Care workers average \$18,930 annual income

What will happen if you don't increase child care provider rates?

- Decrease in child care quality and availability will undermine economic development.
- Children will be cared for in subminimum care which will impact their future development and ultimately the future workforce.
- Parents' work or school attendance will be compromised, often leading to dismissal or dropping out.
- Children with the highest need for quality child care providers will have the least access to them.

1. Starting School at a Disadvantage: The School Readiness of Poor Children. Julia B. Isaacs, Brookings Institution: March 2012

2. U.S. Census, 2015 American Community Survey

Update of Work Conducted by the State Child Care Advisory Committee

The committee dedicates time and effort to review and provide advice to the entities that regulate forms of care for children when not at home. The committee provided feedback to the Iowa Department of Human Services as they implement changes from the current State Child Care Plan in order to comply with the changes in the federal reauthorization. During each meeting, the committee received updates and was directed to focus on various sections of the plan to provide their input. Primarily input was provided to DHS on Child Care Assistance, Regulatory issues and Professional Development items.

The committee also updated their issue brief regarding their priority of increasing reimbursement rates for the Child Care Assistance program. The committee recognizes that we appreciate legislative input on what details to include in our issue brief.

The committee also receives written updates at each meeting from the state departments with whom they primarily work – Department of Education, Human Services, Public Health, and Management/ECI. Time is allowed at each meeting for a question/answer time period for the committee members to discuss data or items noted in any of the written reports. The reports are useful for committee members to also share information within their constituency. Reports are also shared with other early childhood groups to keep abreast of work and activities.



The State Child Care Advisory Committee makes an effort to annually present and share information with the Council on Human Services during the budget meetings. In FY '17, in addition to the issue brief, committee members shared information about the status of child care in Iowa, highlighting that there is a reduction of regulated child care settings across the state. In some communities, there is a gap of available providers, especially care for infants and toddlers. This has been identified as a child care desert. In contrast, with Iowa being one of the highest states of having all parents working outside the home, there is concern about the care for these children.

The Committee also presented to DHS during the last legislative session the recommendation to re-categorize 2 year-olds to receive reimbursement rates the same as infants and toddlers to better align with licensing requirements about staff ratios which are lower for 2 year olds than for those 3 years and above.

Updates/Presentations to the Committee

Presentations assist members to be better informed about current activities that support the child care system. Items covered during this fiscal year included the below listed topics.

- Career Pathways website overview
- Early Care and Education Wage Study conducted by IAEYC
- School-age Career Pathways
- Rollout of the Essentials Training
- An overview of a technical assistance grant received from the National Governor's Association on the Early Care and Education Workforce
- QRIS Oversight Team – update on proposed changes
- DHS Child Care Rules
- ESSA Overview and ways to provide input to DE
- Early Childhood programs' budget reductions

The State Child Care Advisory Committee functions within the ECI systems structure within the Quality Services and Programs Component Workgroup with the main focus on early care and learning environments.

The committee conducts much of its work by dividing into two smaller workgroups. They are:

- Licensed Center Workgroup
- Family Child Care Workgroup

Information regarding the State Child Care Advisory Committee is found at:

http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org/state_system/ECI_comp_wrkgtps/quality_services_programs/state_child_care_advisory/index.html.

Current Committee Members (attended meetings in SFY 2017)

Rep. Terry Baxter	State Representative
Michahel Bergan	State Representative
Amy Bruner	Hawkeye Community Action Program, Inc.
Jill Dodds	Child Development Home Provider
Pam Ellis	Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children
Hollie Fairholm	Child Care Provider
Susan Gray	4C's: Community Coordinated Child Care
Sheila Hansen	Every Child Counts, Child and Family Policy Center
Kathie Held	Mid-Iowa Community Action - Iowa Head Start
Amy Karaidos	Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa
Heidi Hotvedt	Healthy Child Care Iowa, Iowa Dept. of Public Health
Melissa Juhl	Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. CCR&R
Deb Martens	Western Iowa Community Action, CCR&R
Larraine Murray	Child Development Home Provider
Kristin O'Toole	Community Action of Eastern Iowa, CCR&R
Ryan Page	Iowa Department of Human Services
Tom Rendon	Iowa Dept. of Education- Head Start State Collaboration Office
Heidi Schlueter	First Children's Finance
Andy Smith	House of Mercy Child Development Center
Kim Smith	Child Development Home Provider
Jan Van Wyk	Child Care Center provider
Shanell Wagler	Iowa Dept. of Management - Early Childhood Iowa Office
Stacey Walter	Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children

Formation and Purpose of the State Child Care Advisory Committee

The State Child Care Advisory Committee was formed in 2010 through Iowa Acts, Ch 1031, 354, 351; Iowa Acts, ch 1192, Section 84 to begin July 1, 2011. It replaced the State Child Care Advisory Council that was originally created in state law in Iowa Code 237A.21. The role of the committee is to advocate for a quality child care system to serve children of Iowa from birth through school age.

The State Child Care Advisory Committee is an advisory body with membership consisting of representatives from child care – both centers and developmental homes, advocacy, the Departments of Education, Public Health, Human Services and any other applicable government agency, Head Start program provider, Child Care Resource and Referral, and various other representatives from professional organizations that are interested in the child care system in Iowa. The Committee is charged with providing advice and making recommendations to the Governor, General Assembly, the Department of Human Services, and other state agencies concerning child care. They meet in the Des Moines area every other month.