

State Child Care Advisory Committee 2016 Annual Report

Timeframe for Report: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016 (SFY 2016)



The State Child Care Advisory Committee's FY '16 annual report begins with the adopted highest priority. Below is the current issue of the committee.

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 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

The State Child Care Advisory Committee is legislated as Iowa's advisory body regarding child care-related issues. The committee is a committee within the Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders Alliance. Link to information about the State Child Care Advisory Committee:

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

Update of Work Conducted by the State Child Care Advisory Committee

The committee dedicated a majority of their time in FY '16 to provide feedback to the Iowa Department of Human Services as they work to create an updated State Child Care Plan that will 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/ECl. 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.

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 '16, in addition to the issue brief, committee members shared information about the status of child care in Iowa, highlighting that there are a reduction of regulated child care settings across the state. In some communities, there is a gap of available providers that 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.

Updates/Presentations to the Committee

Presentations assist members to be better informed about a part of the child care system. Items covered during this fiscal year included the below listed topics.

- CCDBG Reauthorization – updates throughout the year
- Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships (Drake Head Start and Tri-County)0
- QRS Oversight Team – update on recalibration and gathering input
- EC-PBIS training curriculum for child care providers
- Overview of updated DHS Documents and products for child care businesses: this includes Updated Administrative Rules, Health and Safety Standards, child care check lists.
- Essentials Training
- Career Pathways
- Emergency Preparedness Planning
- Iowa Kids Count Data
- Meal Program for the Food and Nutrition Program

Current Committee Members (attended meetings in SFY 2016)

Amy Bruner	Hawkeye Community Action Program, Inc.
Jill Dodds	Child Development Home Provider
Pam Ellis	Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children
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
Julie Ingersoll	Iowa Dept. of Human Services
Melissa Juhl	Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc - Child Care Resource and Referral
Amy Karaidos	Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa
Heidi Hotvedt	Iowa Dept. of Public Health
Lorraine Murray	Child Development Home Provider
Ryan Page	Iowa Department of Human Services
Tom Rendon	Iowa Dept. of Education- Head Start State Collaboration Office
Michelle Rich	Iowa Afterschool Alliance
Heidi Schlueter	First Children's Finance
Sen. Mark Segabart	State Senator
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
Cathy Wheatcraft	Orchard Place - Child Care Resource and Referral

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.

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.

A section on the ECI website includes the State Child Care Advisory Committee information: meeting agendas, meeting minutes, group products and a meeting schedule.

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

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

- Child Care Assistance
- Child Care Regulations

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

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