

**MINUTES of the
Child Care Advisory
Committee
January 23, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The WebEx hosted meeting of the Child Care Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:00pm. Copies of the agenda were emailed in advance to the Committee Members and posted on the Child Care Licensing website. Matthew Hayden, DHHS Public Health, Program Manager, Children’s Services Licensing, placed a link to the Open Meetings Act in the Webex chat box and announced a copy will be posted on the applicable DHHS webpages.

ROLL CALL

The following Advisory Committee members were present to answer roll call:

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| • Penny Gerking | • Christopher Dean |
| • Sabrina Glynn | • Adela Yanez |
| • Denita Julius | • Sandra Kosierowski |
| • Stoney Straatman | • Lisset Christian |
| • Erin Branch | • Stephanie Dowding |
| • Michele Lawson | • Kimberly Ricker |

The following Advisory Committee members were absent: Adriana Chavez, Thelma Sims, Holly Hill, and Jean Venne. The following staff members from the Department were also present during all or part of the meeting:

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| • Lindsay Braddock, DHHS Public Health, Administrator- Occupational Licensure | • Rita Krusemark, DHHS Public Health, Program Specialist, Children’s Services Licensing |
| • Nicole Vint, DHHS Administrator I, Office of Economic Assistance | • Amy Blinston, DHHS Public Health, Program Specialist, Children’s Services Licensing |
| | • Matthew Hayden, DHHS Public Health, Program Manager Children’s Services Licensing |

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Kimberly Ricker made the motion, seconded by Penny Gerking, to adopt the agenda for the October 7, 2023, Child Care Advisory Meeting.

OPEN SESSION DISCUSSION

1. Community & Family Partnership Presentation:

Roberta Miksch and a group of recently licensed child care providers from the Columbus, NE, Jennifer Barber, Cheryl Drozd, Kim Parsons, Hailey Crumley area presented the challenges and obstacles they experienced and observed in obtaining licensure through Children’s Services Licensing. The presentation highlighted hurdles regarding the timeframe for licensure, including the initial cost of establishing a child care business and financial burden and the difficulty in hiring staff when needing to wait for completion of criminal background checks, slow or limited communication with licensure, confusion regarding requirements, difficulties navigating the Child Care Licensing website, and lack of updates in regard to changes in licensing requirements.

2. Criminal Background Check update.

Verificación de antecedentes penales

Matthew Hayden introduced Amy Blinston as Program Specialist overseeing Fingerprinting background checks for Children's Services License. Updates were provided on the following:

- Average number of days for a Fingerprinting check to be completed improved from twelve days in September to 9.5 days in October, 6.25 days in November and 5 days in December.
- Work has continued to improve the Fingerprinting background check process, including:
 - Providing a flyer to be distributed by Nebraska State Patrol and other law enforcement entities to persons getting printed for childcare. The flyers provide links and education regarding all steps required to complete the fingerprinting background check process.
 - Establishing an email reply system that will confirm to an applicant when their Fingerprinting background check has been received.
 - Work to establish access for providers and staff to lookup their fingerprint background check status, on the License Lookup system.
 - Nicole Vint commented on DHHS attempting to obtain Live-scan fingerprinting devices which would allow DHHS to provide better access to fingerprinting services for more sparsely populated parts of the state.
- The fee waiver for Fingerprinting is currently through April 30, 2024. A further extension to the fee waiver has been proposed.
- Renewal of Fingerprinting background checks begins October 1, 2024. Further information will be provided to child care licensees in the coming months. Staff will receive a renewal notice 90 days ahead of their renewal date.

3. CCDF Subsidy Policy and Grant Opportunities Updates

Actualizaciones de la Política de Subsidios y Oportunidades de Subsidios del CCDF

- Nicole Vint gave updates to the group

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

Penny Gerking made the motion, seconded by Denita Julius, to adjourn the meeting.