

**MINUTES of the  
Child Care Advisory  
Committee  
February 27, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The WebEx hosted meeting of the Child Care Advisory Committee was called to order at 7pm. 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 a physical copy was placed at room entrance.

**ROLL CALL**

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

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| • Sabrina Glynn    | • Sandra Kosierowski |
| • Denita Julius    | • Michele Lawson     |
| • Stoney Straatman | • Lisset Christian   |
| • Christopher Dean | • Stephanie Dowding  |
| • Adriana Chavez   | • Kimberly Ricker    |
| • Adela Yanez      |                      |

The following Advisory Committee members were absent: Penny Gerking and Erin Branch, and. The following staff members from the Department were also present during all or part of the meeting:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Lindsay Braddock, DHHS Public Health,<br>Administrator- Occupational Licensure | • Matthew Hayden, DHHS Public Health, Program<br>Manager, Children's Services Licensing |
| • Nicole Vint, Office of Economic Assistance                                     |   |

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Kimberly Ricker made the motion, seconded by Michelle Lawson, to adopt the agenda for the October 5, 2024, Child Care Advisory Meeting.

**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Kimberly Ricker made the motion, seconded by Denita Julius, to adopt the agenda for the February 27, 2025, Child Care Advisory Meeting.

**OPEN SESSION DISCUSSION**

1. Criminal Background Check update:

Matthew Hayden provided updates on the following:

- Fingerprint data was shared with the committee regarding the amount of fingerprint background checks completed, and the average days taken to complete checks.
- A LiveScan Fingerprinting pilot project, a joint endeavor of Public Health and Economic Assistance, is being developed for spring of 2025. The project will provide fingerprinting for prospective and renewing child care providers, staff, and household members and would serve as an alternative to state patrol and other law

These minutes have not been approved by  
the Child Care Advisory Committee.  
Translation will be completed after the  
minutes are approved.

enforcement locations. The pilot project will begin Lincoln and will expand to other DHHS locations throughout the state.

## 2. CCDF Subsidy Policy and Grant Opportunities Updates:

Nicole Vint provided updates on subsidy and grant opportunities.

- The Intergenerational Care Facility Grant Program awarded grant funds to its first applicant. Grant funds are still available and the request for applications was reposted. Applications will be accepted through March 14, 2025
- Federal Regulations Changes, effective last spring:
  - Subsidy funds will be dispersed based on enrollment instead of attendance.
  - Prospective pay: payment at the beginning of the month for care and services.
  - 12-month eligibility: a newly enrolled child is eligible for a full 12 months.
- State regulations are open and in the early process for revision. Public hearing on the revisions will be held later in the process.
- Nicole Vint led a discussion regarding a CCDF Final Rule initiative which would make grants and contracts available for infant and toddlers, children in underserved areas and children with disabilities. A pilot project, criteria, application process, and marketing for the initiative was discussed.

## 3. Legislative Update - Matthew Hayden and Nicole Vint

The following legislative bills have been introduced by the Nebraska Legislature:

- LB13: Change state requirements to where subsidy funds will be dispersed based on enrollment instead of attendance. This would match federal requirements.
- LB95: Would allow child care staff employed more than 20 hours per week would be eligible for child care up to the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile of the state median income.
- LB304: would remove the sunset date for child care subsidy eligibility, leaving the eligibility income levels as they currently are (185% of federal poverty levels).
- LB583 and LB376 that would remove the set \$10,000 amount for child care start-up grants and allow grants to be awarded in more feasible dollar amounts.
- LB248: Proposes to add language to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-1910 Section 1, 2(b) indicating that the following would not be considered a child care program under the Child Care Licensing Act: a child care program on a military base or federal property or a facility licensed as a family child care provider by a branch of the United States Department of Defense or the United State Coast Guard.
- LB274: Proposes to amend sections of the Child Care Licensing Act pertaining to liability insurance coverage required for licensed child care programs.

The minimum required dollar amount per occurrence for child care provider liability insurance coverage would increase from \$100,000 to \$200,000. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) would require licensees to maintain the required level of liability insurance as long as a child is in the care of such licensee. If a licensee cannot provide proof of active liability insurance within three days of an inspection by Children's Services Licensing (CSL), the license will be suspended until the licensee provides such proof.

The licensee would also be required to provide proof of active liability insurance coverage at each Fire and Health investigation. The inspector would then verify that insurance.

- LB457 creates a new requirement for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), in consultation with the State Department of Education (NDE), to develop model anaphylaxis policies available for use in school districts and licensed child care programs, with input from medical, educational, parental, and other appropriate entities.
- LB462 relates to child abuse and neglect. The bill amends the Nebraska Criminal Code, the Nebraska Juvenile Code, and the Child Protection and Family Safety Act.  
The bill amends definitions of child abuse and neglect.

The definition of a mandatory reporter of child abuse and neglect is amended to include employees of a facility or program licensed under the Child Care Licensing Act, the Children's Residential Facilities and Placing Licensure Act, and employees of a youth rehabilitation and treatment center or juvenile detention facility. Mandatory reporter also includes a list of health care providers and other personnel who would be present in health care settings.

- LB670: Section 1 amends Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-2606(1) in the Quality Child Care Act. LB670 limits the amount of mandatory annual in-service training to no more than 4 hours for providers of child care and school-age-care programs.

4. Subcommittee updates:

- Regulations Subcommittee: Kim Ricker, chair: The sub-committee continue to review regulations and looking for guidance in how to continue to advise on regulation revisions.
- Provider Support Subcommittee: Matthew Hayden updated on the establishment of an application which would allow "unlicensed entities" such as temp. and substitute agencies to be listed by Children's Services Licensing as a child care employer for the purposes of completing background checks. This would allow those entities' employees to act as a substitute pool for child care providers in need of immediate staffing.

## **CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT**

### **MOTION:**

Adjournment- Denita Julius -1st and Michelle Lawson -2nd