

**MINUTES of the
Child Care Advisory
Committee
April 12, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Child Care Advisory Committee, held at the Quality Inn and Conference Center, Grand Island, Nebraska, was called to order at 10am. 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 physical copy at the room entrance.

ROLL CALL

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

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| • Penny Gerking | • Stephanie Dowding |
| • Sabrina Glynn | • Erin Branch |
| • Denita Julius | • Michelle Lawson |
| • Kim Ricker | • Christopher Dean |
| • Stoney Straatmann | |

The following Advisory Committee members were absent: Adriana Chavez, Lisset Christian, and Sandra Kosierowski. Adela Yanez attended by phone and was not included in the quorum. The following staff members from the Department were also present during all or part of the meeting:

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| • Nicole Vint, Program Manager, Office of Economic Assistance | • Matthew Hayden, DHHS Public Health, Program Manager, Children's Services Licensing |
| • Rita Krusemark, DHHS Public Health, Program Specialist, Children's Services Licensing | |

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Kimberly Ricker made the motion, seconded by Sabrina Glynn, to adopt the agenda for the April 12, 2025, Child Care Advisory Meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Kimberly Ricker made the motion, seconded by Erin Branch, to adopt the minutes 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 presented. For the month of March 2025, Children's Services Licensing processed 857 applications, received 893 CHRI results, and average 8.5 business days to process a full background check. 97.5% of applications were processed in less than 45 days.

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

- An update of the LiveScan Fingerprinting pilot project, a joint endeavor of Public Health and Economic Assistance, was provided. 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 enforcement locations. The pilot project will begin Lincoln and will expand to other DHHS locations throughout the state.
- Committee Members shared experiences and difficulties and delays in getting background checks completed and discussed continuing ways to improve processing times and communication between licensing staff and child care providers.

2. CCDF Subsidy Policy and Grant Opportunities Updates – Nicole Vint

- Title 392 Regulations are in the process of being revised.
- As previously shared, there are new federal requirements:
 - a. Prospective pay – paying providers the first of the month for the month. (i.e., paying October 1 for care to be provided in the month of October)
 - b. Pay enrollment vs. attendance
 - c. Use contracts to hold spots for infant/toddlers, children with special needs, and children in underserved areas.
- Plans are in development for Economic Assistance to partner with child care providers (10 total programs) to develop new child care grants.
- Several audits of Economic Assistance and Children’s Services Licensing are ongoing:
 - Single State Audit ensures that state services and inspections are being completed and requires corrective action plans to address non-compliance.
 - An internal audit of grant projects.
 - Child Care Development Fund Federal Monitoring visit will occur the week of April 14, 2025.
- The Committee discussed the difficulties in the application process and limited funds that can be allotted for improvement projects and discussed ways to improve grant programs.
- The Committee discussed the differences in requirements between Subsidy and Child Care Licensing regulations and how revisions to the regulations to shore up those differences will lead to fewer non-compliance.

3. Legislative Update and Discussion – Matthew Hayden

- LB13: Change state requirements to where subsidy funds will be dispersed based on enrollment instead of attendance. This would match federal requirements.
- 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: Was passed and signed by the Governor. Adds 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 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 a 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 was passed and is awaiting signature by the governor. Bill 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: Has not advanced past hearings. 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. Discussion of Committee Organization and Rules:

- Committee Rules were reviewed:
 - 2 absences each year will be reviewed by the committee
 - Expected to RSVP by accepting the invite sent associated with the meeting WebEx meeting.
- The Committee discussed the replacement of three vacant committee seats and decided that Children's Services Licensing staff will continue to select new members without input from the Committee.
- The Committee requested the Committee bios be posted on the Children's Services Licensing Website.

5. Discussion and Vote on Date of the Next Meeting:

- Kimberly Ricker made the motion, seconded by Sabrina Glynn, to hold the next Committee meeting, via WebEx, on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, 6:30 to 8:30pm CDT.
- Penny Gerking made the motion, seconded by Stephanie Dowding, to hold the next in-person Committee meeting on Saturday, October 18, 2025, 10am to 2pm CDT (location TBD).

6. Public Discussion:

- A provider in attendance discussed the difficulty in obtaining, tracking, and maintaining all child care staff background check documents and inquired about what steps could be taken to streamline and simplify the process of obtaining these documents. The Committee discussed the potential of child care staff being able to have their own license or registration number in order to better track their background check eligibility throughout the licensing, subsidy, and Department of Education systems. Hurdles to such a system, regulatory and technical/infrastructural related, were also discussed.

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:37am.