

**MINUTES of the
Child Care Advisory
Committee
April 18, 2026**

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 10:03am. 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:

- Penny Gerking
- Kim Chase
- Sandra Kosierowski
- Kimberly Ricker
- Shannon Hampson
- Michelle Lawson
- Christopher Dean
- Dena Kotinek
- Brandy Price

The following Advisory Committee members were absent: Erin Branch, Shannon Burke, Adriana Chavez, Lisset Christian, Stephanie Dowding, and Adela Yanez. The following staff members from the Department were also present during all or part of the meeting:

- Nicole Vint, Administrator, DHHS Office of Economic Assistance
- Rita Krusemark, Program Specialist, DHHS Public Health, Children's Services Licensing
- Lindsay Braddock, Unit Administrator, DHHS Public Health, Children's Services Licensing
- Matthew Hayden, Program Manager, DHHS Public Health, Children's Services Licensing

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 April 18, 2026, Child Care Advisory Meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Kimberly Ricker made the motion, seconded by Penny Gerking, to adopt the minutes for the July 23, 2025, Child Care Advisory Meeting.

OPEN SESSION DISCUSSION

1. Introduction of new Committee Members and discussion of Committee organization and rules.
 - The Committee welcomed new members in attendance: Kim Chase, Shannon Hampson, Dena Kotinek, Brandy Price. Additional new member not in attendance: Shannon Burke.
 - Attendance rules:

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

- Two absences per year will be reviewed by the Committee.
 - Members are expected to RSVP to the Web-Ex meeting invitation that is sent out.
2. Criminal Background Check Update and Discussion – Matthew Hayden
- Fingerprint data was presented. From December 1, 2025, until present date, DHHS has received approximately 4000 results, and over 3000 applications. In October 2025, it took approximately 10 business days to send the eligibility letter. In April 2026, it takes approximately 9 business days to send the eligibility letter. Volume increased significantly since October 2025, due to the five-year renewal requirement. A recent change is DHHS is now receiving results from the Nebraska State Patrol via email instead of interoffice mail. It is anticipated that this will expedite the process in the future.
 - An update of the LiveScan Fingerprinting pilot project, a joint endeavor of Public Health and Economic Assistance, was provided. The pilot project was started in Lincoln 3 days/week. A lot of time slots have been filled, and the process is working well. The pilot project was expanded to Norfolk DHHS office 1 day/week beginning December 2025. Additional sites will be established where staff and technology resources are available.
 - 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.
3. CCDF Subsidy Policy and Grant Opportunities Update and Discussion – Nicole Vint
- Title 392 Regulations are in the process of being revised and moving forward. Regulations regarding presumptive pay and enrollment have been placed on hold at this time pending receipt of further Federal guidance.
 - In April 2025, the Child Care Development Fund Federal Monitoring visit/audit occurred. The findings from the audit led to the enhancement of the Prepare to Care training to address health and safety requirements. This training should be available in May 2026. All providers/staff will be required to take this 3-hour training. Information about requirements will be communicated to all providers via letter.
 - Safe with You Training required by Child Care Licensing was revised approximately one year ago and is currently available online.
 - Committee Members discussed the differences in training requirements between licensed and license exempt subsidy providers, and general concerns regarding in-person vs on-line safety training.
 - Child Care Resource Development and Child Care Licensing are partnering to do unannounced inspections in response to audit findings. Calendars will be requested at these inspections. These inspections are intended to be quick. Five Resource Develop staff have recently been hired to conduct these inspections in the future.
 - Committee members expressed concern over the extra time and work that is required to submit calendars multiple times as DHHS as requesting.
 - Committee members discussed subsidy payment being made based upon enrollment instead of attendance and expressed concerns that this is not moving forward in Nebraska.
 - Market Rate Survey will be completed in 2027. Committee members suggested items to include in the survey.
 - Start-up grant money is available. Nebraska no longer prohibited from set amounts of \$5,000 and \$10,000.
 - Intergenerational Child Care grant funding. Have successfully funded two programs in Newman Grove. Grant money is still available for more programs. This was the result of passage of LB 904.
4. Legislative Update and Discussion – Matthew Hayden, Nicole Vint
- LB304: The sunset date of September 30, 2026, has been removed from sections of Nebraska Law which increased provision of child care assistance to families with incomes of up to 185% of the federal poverty level at initial and 200% at redetermination.

- LB867: Creates a youth after school credential for 16-and 17-year-olds who are seeking employment in school age child care or temporary non-residential child care programs. Child Care Licensing is working on implementation. This Law would require training, background checks, and submission of an application.
 - LB912: Allows prospective child care staff members to begin supervised work for a child care provider when qualifying results are received from either the national criminal history information check or from the state where the perspective staff member resides. Supervised work will continue until both national and state checks are received. Additionally, language is added to clarify that a staff's initial national criminal history record information check eligibility would not require a new check when seeking new child care employment, except when not employed for over 180 days. A complaint tracking system that includes complaints, inspections, and self-reports is required. Language allows volunteers to be included in staff-to-child ratio for supervised and supervised care depending upon their qualifications and training. Political subdivisions are allowed to have residency requirements for family child care homes.
5. Update, new assignments, and discussion of Sub-Committees-Matt Hayden
- There continue to be two active sub-committees, Provider Support and Regulations.
 - Kimberly Rickert gave an update on the Regulations Sub-Committee. Family Child Care Home regulations have been reviewed by the Sub-Committee and Child Care Center, School-Age-Only Center, and Preschool regulations continue to be reviewed by the Sub-Committee.
 - Child Care Regulation revision at DHHS should be opening next month. Sub-Committee members will be informed when this occurs.
 - The Provider Support Sub-Committee has worked on establishing a substitute pool for child care staff.
 - New members joined Sub-Committees.
6. Discussion and Vote on Date of the Next Meetings:
- All Committee Members present were in favor of scheduling the next Committee meeting, via Video Conference, on Thursday, July 23, 2026, 6:30 to 8:30pm CDT.
 - All Committee Members present were in favor of scheduling the next in-person Committee meeting on Saturday, October 17, 2026, 10am to 2pm CDT (location TBD).

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:25pm.