Welcome/Opening Statements

Ms. Cora Lee Rogers called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Cora Lee Rogers requested a motion to approve the minutes of December 2016. Mr. Larry Nobles made the motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Tumutual Norton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

New Business

- Mr. Festus Simkins stated that Ms. Natalie Mahaffey, Director of Policy Evaluation, and Government Relations, MSDH, would present at the Council meeting. Mr. Simkins informed the Council about HB1329 which has died. HB1329 sought to establish a Children’s Cabinet to coordinate services for young children. He stated that the concern
was that all advisory councils would have been abolished under this bill. He acknowledged that had the bill passed it would require that the Council would have had to serve voluntarily because the section of the child care licensing statute that gives authority to the Department to reimburse members for travel and other expenses would have been rescinded. HB1329 was read three times and died on the calendar. Mr. Simkins noted that it might be brought up again.

- Dr. Cathy Grace stated that she had spoken with several members of the legislature concerning HB1329, including Senator Brice Wiggins and Representative Jerry R. Turner. Dr. Grace expressed that they did not fully understand the ramifications of the bill, particularly its impact on First Steps. Dr. Grace spoke with John Davis, Director of DHS, asked if more thought could be placed on developing a coordinated system by involving various stakeholders in the process, and reflected in a bill later. Dr. Grace suggested that the Advisory Council could offer the MS State Department of Health assistance, including having meetings with parties who are interested in establishing a coordinated system between the agencies.

- A guest speaker addressed the Council – Ms. Katherine Bryant, Senior Director, Government Relations, from the American Heart Association, regarding the national standards for physical activity in childcare facilities. Ms. Bryant states that the mission of the American Heart Association is to focus on better nutrition and active play in early childcare. Ms. Bryant states that the American Heart Association would like to propose to the MS State Board of Health an update of the regulations to include an addition of thirty more minutes to toddler active play. That can be moderate to rigorous play activities, structured or unstructured play.

- Key points regarding the recommendation were highlighted. Ms. Bryant explained the standards of the American Heart Association and opened the floor up for further discussion.

- Mr. Festus Simkins addressed the regulatory requirements regarding outdoor play. The facility would have to make those decisions based on their knowledge of their communities, families, and children. In addition, MSDH can publish best practices in the PSA and information memorandums. In addition, encourage providers to do the one-hour vigorous play or toddlers.

- Mr. Festus Simkins gave clarification regarding the process for making changes to the regulations.

- Mr. Jim Craig reaffirmed the agency’s commitment to supporting the recommendations of the Council and offered considerations regarding the Administrative Procedures Act.

- Dr. Cathy Grace posed the question if it is possible to modify the definitions without modifying the regulations.
• The Council opened discussion regarding the Child Care Advisory Council’s role in addressing proposed changes to the regulations.

• Ms. Lori Rolison made a motion to add the one-hour requirement of vigorous activity for toddlers to the regulations. Ms. Rebecca McKeehan seconded the motion. Ms. Cora Lee Rogers called for a vote. Motion Passed.

• Ms. Gay Logan provided an update regarding the acceptance of the handwritten Immunization Form 121. Per the office of Dr. Byers, if there is a question of forgery or authenticity, then a form issued by the health department may be requested.

• Mr. Festus Simkins presented updates regarding the Public Health District II pilot program regarding four (4) childcare inspections per year.

Old Business

• Ms. Janise Pettus requested feedback on the training courses that were offered by the Early Years Network, Mississippi State University. Mr. Festus Simkins that MSDH will recognize the Early Years Network Directors Credential as long as they continue to receive the fifteen contact hours per year, for licensing standards. Mr. Festus Simkins stated that the Child Care Licensure Memorandum provides a listing of approved providers.

• Council members offered suggests regarding approved training providers and sources of contact hours, including inquiries, concerns, and suggestions regarding obtaining a CAD credential and the renewal of the credential

• Mr. Simkins stated that according to the by-laws the Council would be electing officers at the next meeting. For some members, because of the termination of the Early Years Network, they are no longer eligible to serve in their current positions on the Council. If the members wish to continue to serve on the Council, their new organizations will have to nominate them to serve.

• Mr. Jim Craig clarified that recommendations must be in on or before the second week of April 2017.

Public Comments

• Ms. Mary Stanton offered suggestions regarding training geared toward classroom management and an appreciation for the opportunities the CDA program offered her staff.

• Ms. Jean Freeman requested clarification from the Council regarding the expanding the licensing program to four (4) child care inspections per year and changes to the CDA requirement. Ms. Gay Logan offered clarification regarding the pilot for four (4) child
care facility inspections per year. Mr. Festus Simkins suggested researching the national providers for the CDA credentials, such as Care Courses.

- **Other Business**

  The next Child Care Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2017, at 1:00 p.m.

  The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

  

  [Signature]

  Council Chairperson

  [Signature]

  MSDH Representative

  6/12/2017

  Date