Mississippi State Department of Health

Child Care Advisory Council
Minutes
August 18, 2017

Council Members Present
Larry Nobles
Janice Pettus
Candice Pittman
Cora Lee-Vone Rogers
Lori A. Rolison
(Via Phone Conference)
Cathy Grace Ed. D.
Rebecca McKeehan
Tunga Otis

Council Members Absent
Dean Bobo
Whitney Herring, MD
Tumutual Norton
Shea South

MSDH Staff Present
Jim Craig
Melissa Parker
Fetus Simkins
Chad Allgood, Ph.D.
Kelly Carmody
Marlinda Beck-Lee
Ellen O’Neal
Tonya Broger

Public Present
Margie Nobles
Colleen Smith

Welcome/Opening Statements
Mr. Larry Nobles called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes
Ms. Janice Pettus requested a motion to approve the minutes of May 12, 2017. Cora Lee-Vone Rogers stated that her name was spelled incorrectly in the minutes. The motion was modified to approve the minutes as corrected. Ms. Lori A. Rolison seconded the motion to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion carried.

New Business
- Ms. Melissa Parker (Director, Officer of Licensure) informed the committee of the travel reimbursement changes. MSDH staff will complete and submit the proper paperwork for Child Care Advisory Council travel vouchers.

Old Business
- Dr. Cathy Grace stated that she met with Lee County providers about screen time and that they were concerned about being penalized for getting children prepared for using a computer and mouse for when they were tested for entrance into kindergarten. Mr. Simkins stated that there should be a focus
on the verification and documentation that the programs are using the computers for the preparation of the four-year-olds to take the kindergarten readiness assessment test.

- Dr. Cathy Grace wanted to review what was discussed at the May 12, 2017, meeting regarding the Child Care Advisory Council being able to review any changes to the State Early Childhood Advisory Council (SEAC) Plan for 2018 and that a motion should be passed for this to be on the minutes.

- A motion was made to review the SEAC educational opportunities to emphasize healthy behavior. Jan Pettus second the motion.

- An amendment to the Child Care Regulations that would increase the physical activity requirement for toddlers, i.e., 1 & 2-year-olds is currently being reviewed.

- The restructuring of the Child Care Licensing Program regarding the CDA. The plans to refer individuals to other sources for the training since the Early Years Network program has been discontinued have been well received.

- The vacancy on the CCAC - Rebecca McKeahan was reappointed to the Council. Cathy Sykes retired and Mr. Davis was asked to recommend someone from Department of Human Services to serve on the Child Care Advisory Council.

- Mr. Festus Simkins stated that the old child care database will be turned off at 5:00 p.m. on August 17, 2017. The Licensing and Reporting System (LARS) will be the new electronic database system set up for Childcare Providers to complete the renewal process and will also give the general public access to additional child care facility information that was previously available. In addition, a new applicant will be able to begin the licensing application process online.

Public Comments

- No public comments.

Other Business

- The next Child Care Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2017, at 1:00 p.m.
- The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Council Chairperson

MSDH Representative

Date