



State Child Care Advisory Committee May Meeting

Meeting. The State Child Care Advisory Committee met on May 12, 2016 in West Des Moines. The following topics were covered and presented on.

Kids Count Report. The committee received a presentation from Mike Crawford of the [Child and Family Policy Center](#) about the [Kids Count 2014 Report](#) on the Trends in the Well-Being of Iowa Children. Data is examined at the county, sub-state, state, and national level. The sub-state levels are divided by rural counties (45), small urban counties(45), and metropolitan counties (9). Indicators measured fall in the areas of Public Health, Education, Human Services, census bureau data, and other economic indicators. Many indicators presented in the data book have shown improvement from 2000 to 2014. Data discussed at the meeting included:

- Infant mortality, child deaths, and teen deaths have all decreased. The majority of deaths for child and teens are attributable to automobile accidents, but suicide is trending upwards.
- Teen birth rates are dropping. Mothers receiving healthcare in the first trimester has increased to almost 84%, which Mr. Crawford attributed to being driven by older mothers. Low birth weight is increasing, which was attributed to younger mothers.
- Percent of children using the WIC program has decreased.
- Fourth grade proficient reading scores have decreased slightly, but eighth grade proficient math scores have increasing.
- High School graduation rates have improved.
- Free and reduced price lunch eligibility has increased 55.5% since 2000.
- The number of individuals receiving Food Assistance has increased 205.2%.
- Preschool enrolment has increased 8.1%.
- Single parent families have increased by 23.7%, but Iowa at 30.8% of single parent families with children, is still below the national average of 34.8%.
- Child poverty rate increased 44% since 2000 to 15.5%.

Overall, health indicators are doing well, but all other indicators are mixed. The 2015 data is anticipated to be released in July

Child and Adult Care Food Program. Robin Holz from the Department of Education (DE) presented on the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program. The Program covers partial reimbursement for serving healthy meals. Currently, a federal reauthorization has led to large program changes which are currently taking place.

Emergency Preparedness. Tami Foley with Department of Human Services (DHS), Melissa Juhl with Mid-Sioux Opportunity, and Heidi Hotvedt with the Department of Public Health (DPH), gave a presentation on the federal requirements in Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) related to emergency preparedness. A guide is being designed to be a tool and template for providers to use, but it will not be a mandated format. Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) will be having trainings with Districts Emergency Response directors in June, and then will host webinars for CCR&R consultants. Once this is complete, webinars for county emergency managers will be held, who will then be contacted by the local CCR&R consultants to work with local emergency managers about established plans.

Workgroups. The Committee broke into workgroups to discuss future plans in the following areas:

- Assistance Workgroup: Review eligibility expansion, provider rates, infant-toddler ratios and rates, nanny-care, and night shift needs
- Regulatory Workgroup: Review the Infant/Toddler care ratios and reimbursement rates in Iowa and other states. Review different licensing mechanism for half day and after school programs. Review

differences in the consolation guide (CCR&R) and DHS Checklist for providers. Examine underserved populations in the program such as non-English speaking clients and night-shift care.

Reports and Updates. Written and oral updates were provided covering the recent Legislative Session, DHS, DPH, and DE. Highlights included DHS reaching around 1,000 providers in the process of creating the new State Plan and Administrative Rules Process, and the DPH discussing the recent rise of Baby Boxes in eastern Iowa.

July Meeting. The next meeting of the committee will be in July.

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