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### STATE CHILD CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - MAY 11, 2017

**Meeting.** The State Child Care Advisory Committee met on Thursday, May 11, 2017, in the Legislative Dining Room at the Iowa State Capitol. The Committee's Licensed Centers and Family Homes workgroups met separately to discuss each workgroup's main priorities and desired outcomes for Iowa's child care system.

**Licensed Centers Workgroup.** The Licensed Centers Workgroup discussed key priorities, and the following were pinpointed as focus areas:

- Provider concerns, such as a limited workforce
- Unregulated, unregistered child care assistance
- Barriers to high-quality child care

The Workgroup was concerned about early childhood credentials for instructors and child care professionals. Incentives to complete requirements needed to enter the profession, such as salaries and benefits, are often not enough to compensate for resources invested into higher education and credentials. The Workgroup will collaborate with other subcommittees, such as Early Childhood Iowa Professional Development, to explore the issue further and provide recommendations.

The Workgroup discussed inviting other groups to present to the Committee and discuss the work each is doing to address the child care access barrier.

**Market Rate Survey.** The Workgroup was interested in pursuing a five-year plan for bringing provider rate reimbursement in line with 75.0% of the current market rate. The Department of Human Services (DHS) has provided some estimates on the increased costs of providing child care when provider reimbursement is 75.0% of the 2014 market rate.

**Sliding Scale Recommendations and Webinar.** The Licensed Centers Workgroup discussed developing a sliding scale webinar and providing technical assistance to child care centers interested in offering sliding scale payment options.

**Child Care and Economic Development.** The State Child Care Advisory Committee had a larger discussion about the economic benefits associated with access to high-quality child care. The 7 Rivers Alliance Regional Authority, which is an economic development leadership council that encourages collaboration between northeast Iowa, southwest Wisconsin, and southeast Minnesota, is conducting research on this topic.

**Next Meeting.** The next State Child Care Advisory Committee meeting has not been scheduled, but is expected to take place sometime in July 2017.

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