
Report to the Iowa General Assembly

Membership of the State Child Care Advisory Committee

The 83rd Iowa General Assembly required the Early Childhood Iowa State Board to develop a legislative proposal to identify membership slots for the State Child Care Advisory Committee on or before December 15, 2010. (2010 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2088, section 361)

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Overview

With Senate File 2088 being signed into law, the State Child Care Advisory Council (SCCAC) changes from a “council” to a “committee” beginning July 1, 2011. Besides the name change, the SCCAC moves from under the umbrella of the Department of Human Services (DHS) to the Early Childhood Iowa Initiative which is administered by the Department of Management. See Attachment A, Organizational Structure.

The central responsibility of the SCCAC is to advise and make recommendations on issues concerning child care to the Governor, General Assembly, Department of Human Services and other state agencies. Many of the other duties of the Council outline in the repealed section of Iowa Code 237A.22, *Duties of State Child Care Advisory Council and Department*, remain the same for the Committee. (See 2010 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2088, section 354)

Duties of the SCCAC include (paraphrased from law):

- Consulting with DHS and making recommendations concerning policy issues related to child care
- Advising DHS about services related to child care, including but not limited to the following:
 - Resource and referral services
 - Provider training
 - Quality improvement

- Public-private partnerships
- Standards review and development
- The federal child care and development block grant, state funding, grants and other funding sources for child care
- Assisting DHS in developing an implementation plan to provide seamless service to recipients of public assistance, which includes child care services
- Advising and providing technical services to the director of the Department of Education or the director's designee related to pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and before and after school programming and facilities
- Making recommendations about child care expansion programs that meet the needs of children attending a core education program by providing child care before and after the core program hours and during times when the core program does not operate
- Making recommendations for improving collaborations between the child care programs involving DHS and programs supporting the education and development of young children, such as, the Head Start Program, Statewide Voluntary 4-Year-Old Preschool Program, early childhood at risk programs, and other programs administered by the Department of Education
- Making recommendations for eliminating duplication and otherwise improving the eligibility determination process used for the state child care assistance program and other programs supporting low-income families
- Making recommendations for the most effective and efficient means of managing the state and federal funding available for the state child care assistance program
- Reviewing program data from DHS and other departments concerning child care
- Advising and assisting the ECI State Board in developing the strategic plan

To fulfill these duties, it is important to have individuals on the SCCAC who have children in child care and individuals who provide child care services from a variety of program and facility types. It is also important to have SCCAC members with expertise in the field of early childhood, school-aged children and child care. The next section identifies the current membership requirements in Iowa law and recommendations for future membership slots on the SCCAC.

Recommendations for Membership Slots

The Early Childhood Iowa Office gathered input from a committee of the State Child Care Advisory Council and stakeholders on the voting membership of the SCCAC identified in the 2010 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2088, section 354, subsection 4.

Membership Slots Identified in Law

Iowa Code section 135.173A (new section)

4. The voting membership of the advisory committee shall be appointed in a manner so as to provide equitable representation of persons with an interest in child care and shall include all of the following:

- a. Two parents of children served by a registered child development home
- b. Two parents of children served by a licensed center
- c. Two not-for-profit child care providers
- d. Two for-profit child care providers
- e. One child care home provider
- f. Three child development home providers
- g. One child care resource and referral service grantee
- h. One nongovernmental child advocacy group representative
- i. One designee of the Department of Human Services
- j. One designee of the Department of Public Health
- k. One designee of the Department of Education
- l. One Head Start program provider
- m. One person who is a business owner or executive officer from nominees submitted by the Iowa Chamber of Commerce executives
- n. One designee of the Community Empowerment Office of the Department of Management
- o. One person who is a member of the Iowa Afterschool Alliance
- p. One person who is part of the local program implementing the statewide preschool program for four-year-old children under chapter 256C
- q. One person who represents the Early Childhood Iowa Council

Recommended Changes in Law

Recommendation 1: Modify Iowa Code section 135.173A(3) to allow SCCAC members to appoint a nominating committee and approve nominees for vacant membership slots. Also in this section, require the nominating committee to submit a name for each appointment. Rationale: Currently, committees in the ECI structure select and approve members for their own committee. The ECI Stakeholders Alliance only approves component group co-chair nominees.

Recommendation 2: In Iowa Code section 135.173A(4)(a-q), remove the required number of persons to represent each of these interests. Allow SCCAC members to develop policies on the required number of persons to represent each interest. Rationale: The number of required persons on the SCCAC to represent different interests must be flexible based on state and federal mandates, trends and initiatives.

Recommendation 3: In Iowa Code section 135.173A(4)(m), revise language to have representation from a non-child care related business. Rationale: While we recognize the importance having “business” representation on the SCCAC to expand private sector support and provide an employer’s perspective of the need for child care for their employees, we do not believe that it is necessary to require the Iowa Chamber of Commerce executives to nominate potential members.

Recommendation 4: Remove the required membership identified in Iowa Code section 135.173A(4)(n). Rationale: The Community Empowerment Office is now the Early Childhood Iowa Office and is responsible for coordinating the work of the SCCAC based on Senate File 2088.

Recommendation 5: Remove the required membership identified in Iowa Code section 135.173A(4)(p). Rationale: Based on the types of child care providers required in Iowa Code sections 135.173A(4)(b-d), at least one of these child care providers may provide representation from the Statewide Voluntary 4-year-old Preschool Program.

Recommendation 6: Remove the required membership identified in Iowa Code section 135.173A(4)(q). Rationale: Beginning on July 1, 2011, the SCCAC is under the Early Childhood Iowa initiative based on Senate File 2088.

Recommendation 7: In Iowa Code section 135.173A(4), add language to ensure representation from the following special requirements: urban, rural, school-aged and participate in the state child care assistance program. (Note: A child care provider may represent more than one of the special requirements.) Rationale: The additional language ensures that there is diverse representation from different types of child care providers on the SCCAC. As mentioned in Recommendation 2, the SCCAC can identify needed representation in the policies and procedures of the committee.

Recommendation 8: In Iowa Code section 135.173A(4), add language to ensure that the SCCAC strives to have geographic representation (i.e., membership representing all congressional districts). Rationale: Ensures broad representation of members on the SCCAC from across the state.

Future Challenges/Concerns

While the current membership of the SCCAC recognizes the Iowa Legislature's need to reduce expenditures by reorganizing state government and reducing councils and advisory committees, they want the opportunity to discuss the benefits and ramifications of moving the SCCAC under the ECI initiative. Through input gathered from SCCAC members and a committee composed of SCCAC and Early Childhood Iowa leadership, the committee identified the following concerns.

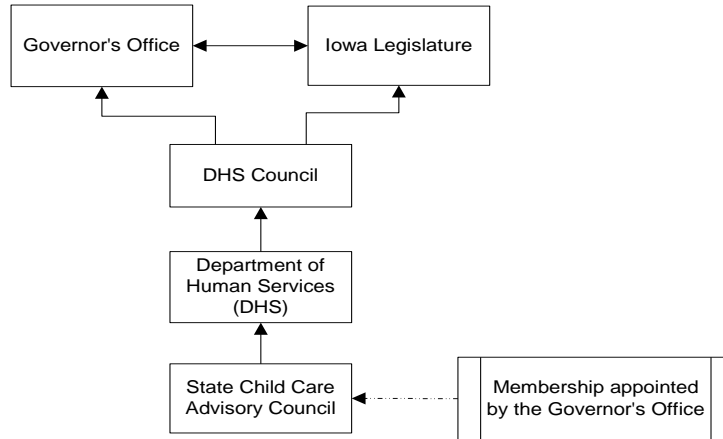
1. Most of the SCCAC duties in the "Overview" section of this report are to advise, consult and assist DHS. By moving the SCCAC under the ECI initiative, the SCCAC will work less directly with DHS, where most of the duties are legislated.
2. The population that the SCCAC serves is broader than ECI because of the age range of the children. SCCAC addresses child care needs for children age 0-13 to assist DHS in meeting its' federal funding requirements. ECI's mission statement, committees and work targets early childhood (prenatal through age 5).
3. Currently, SCCAC members that attend meetings and are not state employees receive reimbursement for travel expenses. This financial support is crucial for participation from child care providers and parents. Child care providers must hire substitutes to leave their child care facility and attend SCCAC meetings. Most parents have to take time off from work to attend SCCAC meetings. Since other committees within the ECI structure do not receive financial support for participating on the committee, it would be difficult to justify offering financial

support to SCCAC members. Without financial support, it may be difficult to fill parent and child care provider membership slots which are crucial to the SCCAC.

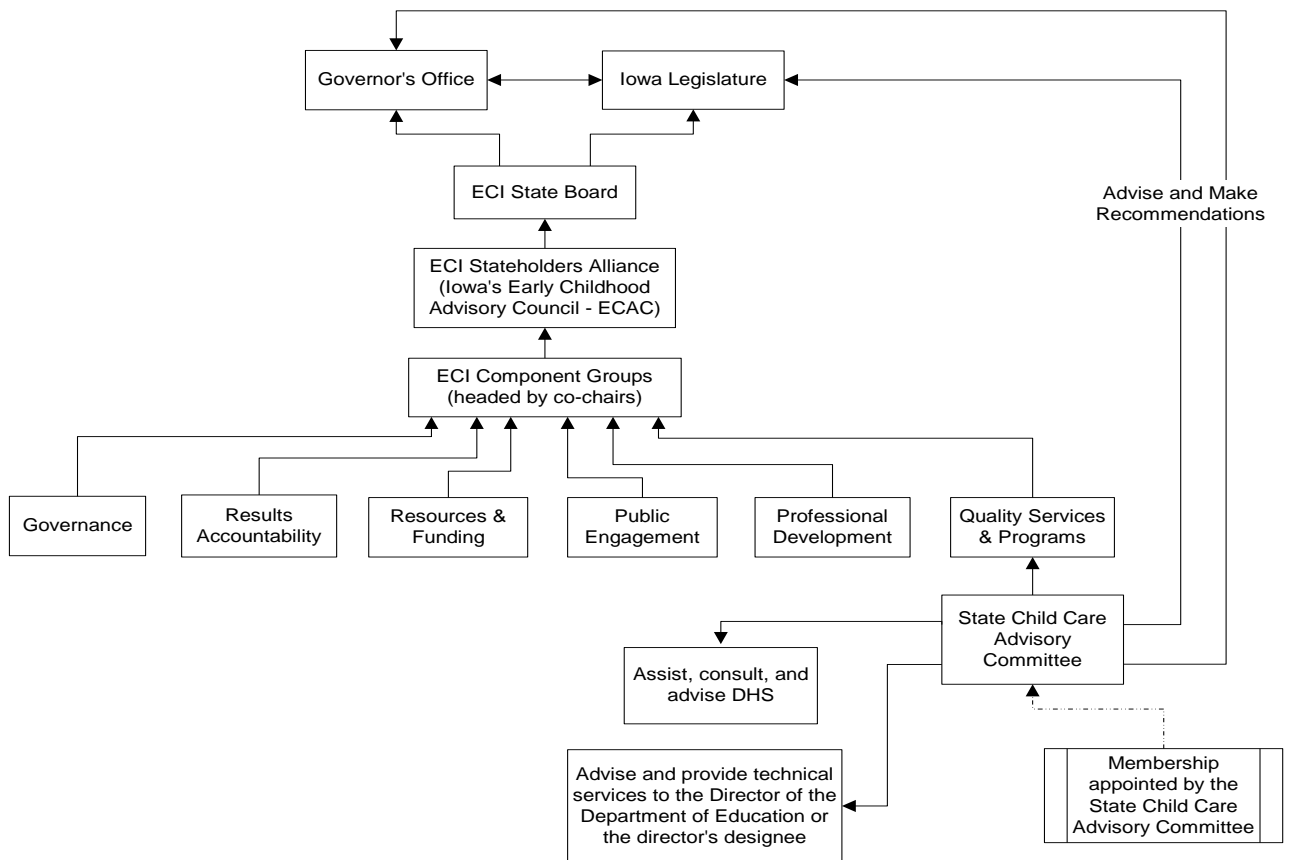
Thank you for the opportunity to share our recommendations for membership slots on the SCCAC. We look forward to meeting with you individually or with a legislative committee to share our concerns and possible challenges with moving the SCCAC under the ECI initiative.

Appendix A: Organizational Structure

State Child Care Advisory Council - Before July 1, 2011



State Child Care Advisory Committee - On July 1, 2011 (Senate File 2088)



Updated 12/1/10