

Early Childhood Advisory Council

September 15, 2016

MINUTES

Handouts Associated with the Meeting:

- COMPASS Step Up To Quality Validation Study
 - Budget Items in HB64
- ODJFS Layering Estimates

In Attendance: Valerie Alloy, Anita Armstrong, Todd Barnhouse, Michael Batchelder, Kara Bertke-Wente, Stephanie Wright Byrd, Day Chesney, Joni Close, Rebekah Dorman, Marcia Egbert, Wendy Grove, Kimberly Hauck, Barbara Haxton, Margaret Hulbert, Shancie Jenkins, Karen Lampe, Robyn Lightcap, Susan Peet, Angel Rhodes, Judy Romano, Stephanie Siddens, Yolanda Talley, Debe Terhar

Absent: Tess Elshoff, Asyia Haile, Lowell Howard

Facilitator: Jacqueline Romer-Sensky

Guests: Anne D'Agostin, Jye Breckenridge, Laura Chalker, Laura DiCola, Lynette Forde, Sara Heinemeir, Eric Karolak, Melinda Kowalski, Wendy Patton, Jason Smith, Kim Tice

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve: Todd Barnhouse; Second: Barbara Haxton; Unanimous approval.

Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) Validation Study Update

Kara Bertke-Wente, Sara Heinemeir, Anne D'Agostin, Melinda Kowalski

Representatives of COMPASS Evaluation and Research, Inc. presented the SUTQ Validation Study scope of work, progress-to-date, and future actions to complete the study and its findings. (See Handout). The two-part study is primarily supported by ODJFS and ODE and focuses on answering 16 questions around the:

- A. Validation of the five-star rating system
- B. Validation of the relationship of SUTQ and child outcomes

Data from a stratified random sample of sites informs the study, inclusive of family child care, centers and preschool settings in urban and rural areas and across all levels of quality. The study also draws from interviews, classroom observations, archival documents, and a comprehensive literature review. Inquiry is inclusive of

- Site Management
- Classroom Quality
- Child Development
- Parent and Family Factors

The expected completion date for the study is December 2016.

Member Discussion

- All children participating in the study are fully consented, with family approval. Data analysis works from unique identifiers, so no child will be identified by name or site in the final study.
- It was clarified that the literature review includes analysis of quality rating information systems in other states.
- The study's goal was to obtain data on 10-20 children per site. If all children in each setting enrolled, the study had the potential for an estimated 1,500 participants. To date, 500 children

have been enrolled in the study and completed a pre-assessment. Post-assessment child processes are now underway. The expected attrition rate is 20-25% from the time of the pre-assessment.

- The study is accounting for the fact that some enrolled children may have not had full attendance over the summer months. Members cautioned that “dosage” must consider daily attendance, hours of attendance daily, and length of attendance.
- Initial literature reviews demonstrate the difficulty capturing good child data.
- The study is striving to differentiate a child’s outcomes based on a program affect versus maturation affect. An appropriate normed tool is being used to account for this factor. Family demographic are also being accounted for in the analysis.
- Teacher length-of-service and teacher education is captured in site data. Teacher turnover/shuffling is a more difficult number to account for in the study because it is such a dynamic factor.
- Data analysis will hopefully reflect multi-level findings. The goal is to demonstrate the strength of the relationship between quality programs and child outcomes.
- Home-visiting program history is only being identified for children with special needs.
- Members discussed the importance of how to communicate the study’s findings to a wide variety of target audiences who will to understand the information. This may require technical assistance.

General Updates

Dr. Angel Rhodes

In support of the Kasich Administration early childhood vision discussion, the early childhood budget items in House Bill 64 were reviewed (See Handout) and each investment was linked to the 2020 and 2025 goals for increasing the number of high-quality childcare providers. All decisions have been based on strengthening the overall system, and there have been no “one-off” investments. The investments represent the overall effort to ensure the 116,000 children in publicly funded child care (PFCC) receive high quality programming. Investments decisions were made to generate an aligned, predictable flow of funds to elevate the quality of the early childhood system for children with high needs.

Member Discussion

- Policy changes have gradually increased the number of families receiving PFCC who earn between 200 and 300 percent of the FPL. As of June 2016, 973 families now fall in this income category.
- Approximately 18% of PFCC providers received the increased rate due to collapsing payment categories to A, B, and C categories.
- A portion of the FY 2015 Casino funds were used for existing enhanced rates and GRF was used for OCLQS infrastructure.
- Over 130 programs registered to be highly-rated programs prior to July 1, 2016. Those programs who meet the standards will receive the final round of Quality Achievement Awards.
- In SFY 2016, approximately \$9 million in casino funds were not expended. All appropriated SFY 2017 funds will be expended. Any effort to secure SFY 2016 appropriation authority for the \$9 million in lapsed funding would need to take into account the one-time nature of the funds.
- The \$12 million rate increase authorized during the “layering” clarification process took effect September 4, 2016 as the one-year extension period commences. These new funds are not represented on the handout.

ODJFS Update

Kara Bertke-Wente

The Ohio Administrative Code 5101:2-16-41 “layered State” federal designation was explained in context of the 116,000 children enrolled in PFCC, the 38,000 children in Head Start, and the current 4,000 children enrolled in both programs (3,400 now layering, 800 not). The funding considerations

associated with State Policy were shared. The conversation was in context of honoring the work of both Head Start and child care programs.

For definitional purposes:

- Extended Day State: State Policy says programs may bill the state for a publicly funded child care (PFCC) eligible child for the hours they serve a child outside of the federally required Head Start hours.
- Layered State: State policy says programs can bill State programs and Head Start for the same hours for the same child.

In Ohio's federal region, three states follow the extended-day model and two follow the layered model. Ohio has followed the extended-day model.

Member Discussion

- Qualifying employment for PFCC can be a wide range of hours. There is no set employment hour standard. PFCC eligibility is adjusted according to the adjusted need.
- The cost of the current "layered" children is included in the \$102 million projection estimate.
- OHSAI shared that historically the Head Start/Child Care Partnership expenditures have remained fairly consistent. The reasons for expenditure consistency vary. OHSAI stated that it would be considered "double-dipping" if a Head Start provider collected both Head Start and PFCC funds without a partnership.
- Some members shared that federal reviewers don't look at services on an individual child basis; rather on the classroom or program level. These members explained that the previous layering interpretation has been that the Head Start program brings services to a child care setting. This prompted debate about the permissibility for a sole provider (Head Start grantee) serving dually eligible children in full-day programs to draw both sources of revenue. The State's assertion is a Head Start provider could draw both sources of revenue which is part of the draft cost estimates.
- The State clarified that the ECAC presentation was designed to share part of the rationale for the Administration's final policy decision. The debate is not being re-opened. The go-forward focus needs to be on how to maintain high-quality service for children and ensure more children receive high-quality service.
- OHSAI shared that some grantees are concerned about State utilization of submitted information. The State clarified that this is actually public information, not proprietary, and OHSAI agreed. The State reminded members that programs serving six or more children or receiving funding for PFCC are already licensed by the State. ODJFS clarified that the requested information is public information. Director Cynthia Dungey is on the record that there is no State intention to audit or recoup funds from any program based on previous interpretations of the "layering" policy. The State reiterated that this rule clarification came because the State was made aware of the confusion and inconsistency, not because there was belief of fraud or malicious intent.
- By October 14th, ODJFS will know the number of slots that were approved for layering in the federal 2016/2017 program year Head Start/Early Head Start budgets. In turn, this will provide the number of children being layered and affected by the one-year extension. This does not mean a child must be enrolled prior to October 14, 2016 to be layered during this extension period. The overall expectation is that the extension/transition plan affects no more than the 4,200 children currently being funded in this manner. Anyone layering after the October 14, 2016 without having submitted the required paperwork will be out of compliance.
- Members inquired if it would be possible to know the SUTQ rating of the providers who are in partnership with Head Start.
- The group debated how to streamline the child identification public release form process.

SUTQ Curricula Update

The contract for the curricula vendor is on the September 24th Controlling Board agenda. By the end of the month, ODJFS should have a communication to the field.

ODE Update

Dr. Wendy Grove

A conference call for ECAC members to provide feedback on a draft Professional Development Career Pathways proposal will be held at 2:00 p.m. on September 20.

Next meeting

The ECAC next meets on October 20, 2016 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at OCCRRRA.