

**Louisiana Advisory Council on Child Care and Early Education**  
**Advisory Council Meeting – June 3, 2011**  
**Iberville Building 10:00 am to 12:00 am**

Members Attending: Rev. Tommy French, Tiffany Hinton, Lois Jordan, Brenda Leonpacher, Gilda Duplessis, Carrie Prochaska,, Cindy Rushing, John Dupre (represented by Carolyn Trivette), Capt. Leland Falcon, Carey Foy, Mary Sciaraffa, Ph.D., Dr. Mary Louise Jones (represented by Cindy Ramagos), Gail Kelso

Unexcused Absence - Members Not Attending/Without Advance Notification: Todd Battiste, Barbara Pickney, Steve Gogreve, Rhenda Hodnett, Al Mancuso

Excused Absence – Advance Notification: Patricia Crocker, Tonia Loria

Interested Parties: Gina Forsman, Kahree Wahid, Claude Jackson, James Evans, Jennifer Nunes, Brenda Pikes, Rhonda Cheek, Jacinta Settoon, Millie Lewis, Joy McCall, Dara Shackelford

Others: Susan Delle Shaffette (Facilitator), Dorothy Jones (Recorder)

**I. Introductions and Welcome**

Vice Chair Rev. Tommy French called the meeting to order at 10:05 am on the 9th floor of the Iberville Building. Attending Advisory Council members introduced themselves and the organizations they represented. Those persons attending as interested parties were also invited to introduce themselves. The purpose of the Advisory Council was stated for review.

Minutes from the Advisory Council meeting on March 18, 2011 were introduced by Cindy Rushing, Secretary. A motion was made by Rev. Tommy French to approve the minutes and seconded by Gilda Duplessis. Motion passed.

**II. Old Business**

**a. Website Information**

Susan Shaffette presented a brief introduction to the new web pages that were on the Google Pages website. The pages look and act like individual websites, but there is no cost involved. The web address for the home page is: <https://sites.google.com/site/lacceeweb.home>. The first page includes the members of the Advisory Council and meeting dates for 2011. The second page includes links to organizations and information on how to reach the Resource and Referral Agencies. A motion to accept the new website was made by Rev. French and seconded by Cindy Rushing. Motion passed.

**III. New Business**

**a. Meeting Date Change**

Due to the date the current facilitation contract ends, it was requested that the meeting be moved up two weeks so that the next meeting will have facilitation and support. Gail Kelso made a motion to move the date to August 26, 2011. It was seconded by Carrie Prochaska. Motion passed.

#### **IV. Updates from DCFS**

Gail Kelso was representing both the Child Development Section and the Licensing Section today. She informed the group that Guy Sylvester had accepted another role within DCFS and that his position was currently open.

##### **a. Licensing Revision – Class A Regulations Update**

The department has pulled back the revisions in order to allow for additional modifications due to comments received at the public hearings. They will essentially need to start process of revisions, comments and public hearings again. The full process takes 6-7 months after another final version is completed.

##### **b. Disaster Planning**

Disaster planning is moving forward with information posted on the DCFS website. When a disaster occurs there may be a suspension of all licenses to Child Care providers in the areas impacted. A re-opening form will be completed and submitted to DCFS. Depending on health and safety conditions an inspection may be required. For example, if the center is re-opening with use of generator, then a Fire Marshall site visit/inspection may be required.

##### **c. New Crib Standards**

As of 6/28/2011, all manufacturers of cribs will be required to submit to new standards for safety. They will not be allowed to make cribs the old way. The major concerns focus on drop sides, depth of mattress, slat/bar width, distance between slat/bars, etc. As of 12/28/2012 all child care centers must use new cribs. This applies to all centers, family child day care homes, and places of public accommodation. A letter will be sent explaining the new requirements. Some manufacturers may have adopted the standards early – these cribs will have a sticker or certificate on them showing compliance.

*Be aware that DCFS is moving to requiring an email address of Child Care Centers. The cost savings is the main reason for this.*

##### **d. Budget Concerns**

There will be changes to how DCFS Child Development and Early Learning Section does business due to budget concerns. Changes to Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) impact in the number of families they are able to serve. This will impact less than 5000 families. As of June 1, 2011, DCFS will require more work hours from parents (30hr). The family income guidelines have changed.

##### **e. School Readiness**

Louisiana Comprehensive Literacy Plan involves DCFS, DOE and DHH. They are partnering for school readiness, developing a comprehensive literacy plan for all grades. There will be three levels: Emergent literacy (birth to 4), elementary literacy and adolescent literacy. DOE is making LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) training available to support

the development of appropriate strategies and materials for preschool classrooms. Potential collaboration opportunities were discussed.

**f. CCDF Re-application**

The application is almost finished. The forms were changed and the final version is not yet available. A hearing on the current form of the application is scheduled for June 13, 2011 at 9am in Room 129 of the Iberville Building.

**g. ARRA**

The ARRA Stimulus funds that were allocated to Louisiana have been spent or are targeted to be spent as originally planned. The funding period ends this fall. Some projects are continuing to take place, such as the licensing regulations revisions, online training and the interpretive guide for licensing. The interpretive guide will include sections on best practice and interpretation/application of the rules.

**h. Louisiana Pathways Approved Trainers**

It is being proposed that all University faculty and staff who are child care trainers be approved through Louisiana Pathways. University staff will not be automatically approved to be trainers. Conferences will submit their list of speakers for review. Out-of-town speakers can be given temporary or one-time registry numbers. Communication from Pathways will go out prior to this requirement taking place.

**i. Background Checks:**

The criminal background check documentation was discussed in relation to the letters from schools or copies of background checks being sent from schools. Neither of the prior mentioned documents is considered acceptable. The individual teacher must bring the portable CBC with the raised seal or the Center can run the teacher/counselor check just like the center does for its staff. The center can copy the portable CBC for their files. The school's copy of a background check cannot be shared with another entity. The State Police's position is that the writing of a letter by a school to another entity regarding the status of a background is not second party dissemination. DCFS' position is that the letter in itself is not acceptable thus a background check is required.

Capt Falcon added that the fingerprinting in each parish is almost ready. It is being tested in Caddo Parish. You will be able to obtain state CBC within 24 hours and federal CBC within 72 hours.

Joy McCall was asked about board members of nonprofit centers. She focused on whether the board members were in the building during the time students were present. The officers would be required to have the CBC, but not the others if they have no contact with the children.

The group decided to compile a list of questions/solutions that could be discussed further in August. Members and interested parties are asked to consider issues that need clarification or to share solutions and send the information to Susan.

**j. Early Learning Guidelines (ELGs) - Core Knowledge and Competencies (CKCs)**

The CCDF State Plan asks “How do you align standards?” The goal is to identify what teachers need to know with what children should know and be able to do at specific ages. ELGs describe what children know and can do as they develop and then transition into specific grade level expectations during the K-12 years. CKCs will support teacher preparation. There may be three levels such as: basic, intermediate and master level. Teachers might use the CKCs as a self-assessment or tool to help them decide the next steps in their professional development.

This work is being coordinated with the Early Childhood Advisory Council (BrightStart) and could use input and collaboration. For those who want to get involved, contact Jacinta Settoon.

**V. Public Comments, Announcements and Department Updates**

Kahree Wahid of Head Start informed the Advisory Council that the Head Start strategic planning group would be at noon following our meeting. Members were invited to stay and participate. He was asked to come to the August meeting and provide an overview of the strategic plan.

Dara Shackelford, Executive Director of LACAL (Louisiana Advisory Council on Afterschool Learning) which is housed in Education’s Next Horizon, attended to introduce herself and the organization to the Advisory Council members. This is a new association of afterschool program leaders.

**VI. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Advisory Council will be on August 26, 2011.

**VII. Adjourn**

Rev. Tommy French adjourned the meeting at 11:50am.