

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY EDUCATION

NORTH CAROLINA CHILD CARE COMMISSION

Fourth Quarter Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 20, 2020

Teleconference

Commission Members Present

Zac Everhart, Chairperson

Rhonda Rivers, Vice Chairperson

Sheresa Blanchard

Melissa Burroughs

Susan Butler-Staub

Victor Coffenberry

J. Lanier DeGrella

Sharon Foster

Elizabeth Gilleland

Mitchell Gold

Rev. Charles F. McDowell, III

Perry S. Melton

Beth Messersmith

Amelie Schoel

Iheoma Iruka Thompson

Janie R. Truesdale

Commission Members with an Excused Absence

Kimberly J. McClure

Division of Child Development & Early Education Staff Present

Kristi Snuggs, Interim Director

Heather Laffler, Administration/Policy

Arlette Lambert, Administration/Policy

Dedra Alston, Administration/Policy

Rachel Kaplan, Administration/Policy

Branda Watford, Administration/Policy

Laura Hewitt, Administration/Policy

Kylie Bezdek, Administration/Policy

Theresa Roedersheimer, Administration/Policy

Tammy Barnes, Regulatory Services

Andrea Lewis, Regulatory Services

Lorie Pugh, Regulatory Services

Alison Keisler, Regulatory Services

Regina Brooks, IT

Carleton Jones, IT

Willie Miller, IT

Attorney General's Office Staff

John Green, Commission Attorney

Amber Davis, DCDEE Attorney

Welcome

Interim Director Kristi Snuggs welcomed everyone to the web session. Chairperson Zac Everhart called the meeting to order at **9:10 a.m.** and reviewed housekeeping items.

Chairperson Everhart thanked everyone for being here and DCDEE and DHHS for everything they have done during these unprecedented times.

Roll Call

Chairperson Everhart read the conflicts of interest statement and asked whether there were any conflicts noted for today. Dr. Rachel Kaplan conducted roll call.

Chairperson Everhart reviewed the agenda and discussed the materials and the processes by which the meeting will run via teleconference.

Chairperson's Report

Approval February 10, 2020 Third Quarter Meeting Minutes

Commission Action: Chairperson Everhart asked for approval of the February 10, 2020, Third Quarter Meeting Minutes. Vice Chairperson Rhonda Rivers motioned for approval. Rev. Charles McDowell seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval March 7, 2020 Special Teleconference Meeting Minutes

Commission Action: Chairperson Everhart asked for approval of the March 7, 2020, Special Teleconference Meeting Minutes. Ms. Amelie Schoel motioned for approval. Mr. Perry Melton seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report—Dr. Kristi Snuggs, Interim Director

Connecting Families to Child Care Options

- Staffed by Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Network
- Referrals to child care for families of critical workers and priority groups
 - Emergency and first responders
 - Hospital employees
 - Health care providers
 - Nursing and group home staff
 - Child care workers
 - Food service employees
 - Any essential worker who needs care for their child(ren)
- Care for children who are receiving child welfare services, who are homeless, or in unstable or unsafe living arrangements are also prioritized.
- **1-888-600-1685**

Child Care Providers

As of April 15th

Approximately **2000** child care centers operating

Approximately **1100** family child care homes operating

Facility status is confirmed daily by child care providers via online survey response.

56% of child care facilities are open.

Help Finding Supplies, Food, and Needed Resources

DCDEE has heard that it is difficult to find critical supplies for child care programs. To address this need, NC leveraged the relationships between child care providers and local Smart Start partnerships (Local Partnerships). DCDEE acknowledges that communities have come together and organized in unique ways to respond to COVID-19, and that Local Partnerships often have a pulse on the community and what resources are available. The statewide Smart Start Network has stepped up to help.

Safety Precautions

- Increased health guidance issued to help reduce exposure and spread of virus:
 - Parents and caregivers encouraged to keep children at home, if they are able
 - Only staff to maintain ratio compliance suggested inside classrooms
 - Facilities should restrict teachers to one classroom with one group of children and should not use “floater” teachers throughout groups
 - Signs with screening criteria required to be posted at all facility entrances, where parents and children are checked for symptoms each day
 - Required Entrance Sign that must be read by all that enter facility

Provider Declaration

In order to re/open, all providers had to agree that:

1. My facility will adhere to the updated interim coronavirus disease 2019 guidelines for health and safety and comply with all interim policy and regulatory flexibilities.
2. My facility has adequate staffing to comply with licensing requirements and implement updated NC DHHS interim coronavirus 2019 guidelines for health, screening, and safety.
3. My facility has adequate supplies to implement updated interim coronavirus disease 2019 guidelines for health, screening, and safety.
4. My facility has adequate resources for children.
5. My facility will update attendance, vacancy, and staffing information daily.
6. If, at any time, my facility is unable to meet the requirements in this document I will immediately notify my facility’s licensing consultant.
7. To the extent possible, I will make temporary slots available for:
 1. Children of critical workers
 2. Children living in unsafe situations
8. My facility will ensure all new families seeking to enroll will complete the COVID-19 Parent Application & my facility will keep a record of this for each family receiving child care.
9. My facility will waive all subsidy parent co-payments for April and May 2020. I understand that NC DHHS will pay for all subsidized family co-payments.
10. My facility will provide teachers and staff with bonus pay, at no less than the amounts funded by DCDEE, at the time of staff’s regular payroll during the COVID-19 crisis, effective April 1, 2020.
11. My facility will ensure that families who were enrolled in child care prior to the COVID-19 crisis, but temporarily not in attendance, will be given priority to return to my child care facility when the crisis is over.

***Provider online survey completed and submitted daily.**

Federal Updates

Child Care & Development Fund (CCDF) Block Grant regulations:

Federal law allows states to apply for waivers to the CCDBG Final Rule in extraordinary circumstances. 45 CFR §98.19(b)(2) allows states to apply for waivers of no more than two years “in cases of extraordinary circumstances which are defined as temporary circumstances or situations, such as a natural disaster or financial crisis”.

NC Waiver Requests to Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Child Care (OCC)

- 1) To temporarily suspend certain routine facility inspections pursuant to 45 CFR §98.42(b)(2).
- 2) To temporarily waive the timeframe to complete certain staff orientation training requirements pursuant to 45 CFR §98.44.

Whenever a state takes an action in the child care system that is against Child Care and Development Block Grant Final Rule, the state must submit to the Office of Child Care a request for a waiver of the CCDBG requirement. Many of the inspections conducted are required by Final Rule. Therefore, the first waiver request, if granted, allows NC to temporarily suspend pre-licensing inspections, annual monitoring inspections, fire inspections, sanitation inspections, and star-rated license visits.

DCDEE noted in the waiver request that the health and well-being of children would not be compromised because DCDEE will not be opening new programs during this time (so pre-licensing visits will not be needed).

2019-2021 CCDF Plan Amendments

- To pay all child care providers who are (have been) providing care to families receiving Subsidized Child Care Assistance, based on enrollment, whether the facility is open or closed during the crisis period
- Waiving certain subsidy eligibility requirements and copayments during COVID-19 crisis
- Allow 60 days instead of 30 days for providers to receive child's health assessment and immunization record
- Once these waivers are approved, DCDEE will include them in amendments NC will need to make to the 19-21 CCDF Plan. Other amendments to the Plan will include amendments to the subsidy sections of the CCDF plan and one amendment to a place in the plan where children's records are discussed.
- The CCDF Plan amendment would describe how the state, in response to the COVID-19 crisis, based payments the months of March, April and May 2020 on enrollment rather than attendance. North Carolina also allowed persons due for redetermination in March, April or May 2020 to remain eligible for subsidy until next March, April, or May. The Division also covered the cost for parent co-payments for April and May. Though NC had a number of regulatory flexibilities during COVID-19, the only one that needed to be amended in the Plan was the allowance for 60 days instead of 30 days for parents to submit child's health assessment and immunization record. The other flexibilities NC allowed were either not mentioned in the Plan or not mentioned in enough detail to warrant an amendment.

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, & Economic Security (CARES) Act

- Funds to prevent, prepare, or respond to coronavirus
- Grant award of \$118,135,976
- Discretionary allowances, to fund:
 - Continued payments to child care providers in the case of decreased enrollments, and assure that providers are able to remain open or reopen
 - Cleaning & sanitation of facilities to maintain or resume operation
 - Child care assistance to health care sector employees, emergency responders, and other essential workers
 - Any other allowable routine CCDF use

Regulatory Responses

Criminal Background Check (CBC) Adjustments

- Temporarily extend time to complete 3-year CBC recheck by 6-months (up to 3.5 years)
 - Law enforcement agencies are not conducting fingerprint scans/collection at this time
- Request made to OCC to waive requirement for pre-employment fingerprint check, will complete local and state name check
- No relaxation on the timeframe for a complete initial CBC is being considered at this time

Temporary Flexibility in Regulatory Policy and Requirements

- Facilities asked to continue maintaining compliance with all child care rules to the extent possible

- Routine monitoring visits and environment rating scale assessments are not taking place
- Suspension of monitoring does not include investigations of complaints and allegations of child maltreatment

Activity Schedules, Plans and Areas

- Flexibility to child care facilities regarding the completion and posting of activity schedules and plans (10A NCAC 09 .0508)
- Allow flexibility in the requirements for activity areas and focus on providing age appropriate activities for children in care.
- Temporarily allow up to 2 hours of screen time per day for children three years old and older (10A NCAC 09 .0510)

Staff Qualifications

- If new staff are hired, employee Medical Report and Tuberculin (TB) Test requirements may be waived to allow staff to begin work, provided they are not symptomatic, and all requirements can be completed within 60 days. (10A NCAC 09 .0701(a))
- Suspension of requirement to maintain certain information in an individual's staff record. (10A NCAC 09 .0703(c), (d))

Staff/Child Ratio and Group Size

- Child care facilities, regardless of star-rating, may operate using minimum allowable staff/child ratios and group sizes, rather than enhanced ratios
- Maximum group sizes may be increased, as long as staff/child ratios are maintained for the youngest child in the group, not to exceed two combined groups
- Must adhere to Centers for Disease Control guidance of not gathering more than 50 people in a single space (10A NCAC 09 .0713(a))

Nutrition Requirements

- Temporarily waive requirements that facilities provide additional food to meet the USDA Meal Patterns for Child Care requirements when meals/snacks are brought from home (10A NCAC 09 .0901)

Staff Orientation

- Temporarily waive time frame requirement for staff to complete orientation
- For any staff who have recently been hired, and their employer, completing orientation training under current circumstance may present an unusual hardship (10A NCAC 09 1101(a))

Training Requirements

- Provide additional six months for administrators and any child care staff to complete CPR, First Aid (FA) and ITS-SIDS training
- This change is allowed as long as at least one child care provider, who has completed the CPR and FA training, is present while children are in care, and as long as at least one child care provider who has completed the ITS-SIDS trainings is present in the infant room while infants are in care. (10A NCAC 09 .1102)

Indoor/Outdoor Space

- Temporarily allow child care facilities to exceed current indoor and outdoor space capacity requirements. (10A NCAC 09 1401(a), (f), 10A NCAC 1402(b), and 10A NCAC 09 .2504)

Record Retention

- Temporarily waive requirement that Child Medical Report and Child Immunization Record be included in an enrolled child's record within the first 30 days of enrollment.
- All required records should be provided within 60 days. (10A NCAC 09 .2318(6))

Family Child Care Home Nutrition Standards

- Temporarily waive compliance with Meal Pattern requirements if availability and access to food components is impacted due to COVID-19, including if a parent brings in their own food for meals and snacks. (10A NCAC 09 .1706)

Family Child Care Home Inspections

- Temporarily waive requirement for announced or unannounced visits, other than in response to a complaint or investigation of child maltreatment (10A NCAC 09 .1709)

Family Child Care Home Activity Plans and Schedules

- Temporarily allow flexibly to family child care homes regarding the completion and posting of activity schedules and plans
- Temporarily allow up to 2 hours of screen time per day, and unlimited usage of electronic/screen devices for school age children when working on school assignments (10A NCAC 09 .1718(a)(6), (b))

Family Child Care Home Records

- Temporarily waive requirement that an enrolled child's Health Assessment and Child Immunization Record be included in the child's record within the first 30 days of enrollment.
- All required documents should be provided within 60 days. (10A NCAC 09 .1721(a)(1),(2))

School-Age Children Age Appropriate Activities

- Continue focus on providing age appropriate activities
- Temporarily may allow up to 2 hours of screen time per day, and unlimited usage time periods when working on school assignments
- Make rest areas available if a child wants to rest, but not required, as related to space and number of cots/mats available. (10A NCAC 09 .2508)

NC Pre-K

NC Pre-K Attendance

- Temporarily waive requirement to contact parents of enrolled children for more than three consecutive absences, when such absences are related to COVID-19. (10A NCAC 09 .3003)

NC Pre-K Child Health Assessment

- Temporarily extend 30-day requirement for completion of child health assessment to 60 days (10A NCAC 09 .3005)

NC Pre-K Payments

- DCDEE will pay all NC Pre-K providers, regardless of site location or if the program is open or closed, based on March enrollment, through the remainder of the program year
- DCDEE will pay all NC Pre-K contractors their full program administrative rates

Teacher Licensure

- Typical rate increases for classrooms, based on teachers completing licensure, will be honored
- This includes any retroactive payments that may be requested for previous months of service

Teacher Compensation

As previously commented, NC DHHS will pay ALL NC Pre-K providers, regardless of site location or if the program is open or closed, fully through the remainder of the program year.

- NC Pre-K programs should continue to use salary funds appropriately, including ensuring that NC Pre-K teachers (Lead Teachers and Teacher Assistants) receive their customary compensation for a full week of work.
- NC Pre-K sites will not be penalized in payment if they have children who are no longer attending or participating in NC Pre-K due to the COVID-19 crisis

Remote Learning Expectations

- NC Pre-K contractors will receive guidance for supporting NC Pre-K children and families remotely during the remainder of the program year
- Additional remote learning information on the DCDEE website
- <https://sites.google.com/dpi.nc.gov/nck-3fap/remote-learning>

Subsidy

Subsidized Child Care Payments

- Subsidized Child Care Program payments will be made to ALL subsidized child care providers for
 - Service months of March, April, and May
 - Regardless of whether the facility is open or closed
- The payment for March service month will be based on providers entering attendance for all subsidy children as present for all service days during the month of March.
- The payment amount for April and May service months will be consistent with the March payments for February services for all providers (as recorded in NC FAST).
- DCDEE will pay child care providers serving school age children the difference between the blended rate and the full-time rate, based on attendance, for April and May.

COVID-19 Child Care Payment Schedule

Payment Date			
Service Month	Subsidized Child Care Program Payments	Emergency Child Care Subsidy Program Payments	Bonus Payments
March 2020	April 9, 2020	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
April 2020	April 30, 2020	May 15, 2020	May 15, 2020
May 2020	May 29, 2020	June 12, 2020	June 12, 2020

Family Supports**Recertifications**

Recertifications of eligibility for subsidized child care due in March, April, May, or June 2020 will be extended for 12 months – to 2021

90-Day Transition

- Flexibility in the policy
- Families who are unable to work can receive an extension of 90-day transition during the crisis and will not be terminated from subsidy if they are unable to work due to the crisis

Emergency Child Care Subsidy Program**Family Eligibility**

- Parents or caregivers can receive financial assistance to pay for child care if they
 - Are essential worker(s)
 - Have no other safe child care options AND
 - Have household income below 300% federal poverty level

<u>Persons in Household</u>	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<u>Income Limit</u>	\$51,720	\$65,160	\$78,600	\$92,040	\$105,480	\$118,920	\$132,360

Application Process

- Families must complete a COVID-19 Parent Application for Financial Assistance for Emergency Child Care and submit the application to their child care provider
- Child care providers are **NOT** asked to verify whether a family is eligible for financial assistance
 - It is the responsibility of the parent/primary caregiver to self-attest to meeting eligibility criteria
- Child care providers should review submitted Parent Application form for completeness, and maintain Parent Application submissions

Emergency Child Care Subsidy Rates

Child care providers will receive the following rates for children served through the Emergency Child Care Subsidy program:

Age	Child Care Center	Family Child Care Home
Infant	\$1200	\$905
2 Years Old	\$1125	\$830
3-5 Years Old	\$1070	\$880
School Age (6+)	\$870	\$645

Rates were established using the state average for 75th percentile of the 2018 market rates for each group and adding an additional \$200 per child per age group.

Family Co-Payment Assistance

For regular child care subsidy assistance:

- DCDEE will pay the cost of all parent copayments for April and May 2020.
- Child care programs may not collect parent copayments for these months.

Emergency Child Care Subsidy Program does not require parent copayments

Supports for Child Care Staff

Child Care Staff Bonus Payments

All child care employees working on-site at a facility that is approved to provide emergency child care in April or May 2020 will receive a bonus for their service during the COVID-19 crisis.

Eligibility

- Bonus payments are available for both child care centers and family child care homes and to both teaching and non-teaching staff.
- Employees may be full or part-time.
- Teaching staff includes lead, assistant, and other resource teachers working directly with children in the classroom.
 - Non-teaching staff includes administrators, directors, cooks, and janitorial staff.
 - An employee is considered part-time for the purpose of these bonuses if they are working onsite at a facility 20 hours a week or less.

Process

Some GS-110 religious sponsored programs operating under the Emergency Child Care guidelines have requested to be exempted from all COVID-19 related funding. If a GS-110 program has chosen to be exempted, staff will not receive these bonuses.

- NC DHHS will pay staff bonus payments to child care programs.
- All child care programs approved to operate under the Emergency Child Care guidelines have attested that they will provide teachers and staff with bonus pay, at no less than the amounts funded by DCDEE, effective April 1, 2020.
- Providers must pay staff pro-rated amounts of the monthly bonus payment at the time of typical employee pay periods.

Child care programs have the flexibility to offer additional bonuses to staff using their own funds

Bonus payment amounts

Staff are eligible for the full bonus payment amount shown in the chart above if they are not absent from work for more than 10 days during the month. If an employee is absent from work for more than 10 days during the month, the bonus payment will be prorated using a daily rate. (To calculate the daily rate, divide the bonus amount by 21.67 then multiple that by the number of days the employee worked.) • NOTE: Bonus payments are subject to payroll taxes, which would be partially paid by the employee through payroll reductions and partially paid by the provider.

	Full-Time Employees	Part-Time Employees
Teaching Staff	\$950 per teacher per month	\$475 per teacher per month
Non-Teaching Staff	\$525 per staff per month	\$262.50 per staff per month

Additional Resources

[DCDEE What's New - Coronavirus Information for Child Care](#)

DCDEE website

[DHHS COVID-19 Child Care Guidance](#)

NC DHHS website

CHILD CARE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) FOR PROVIDERS**Information Outreach**

- March 30 and 31, 2020 - NC DHHS held a series of interactive calls for child care providers, during which NC DHHS Deputy Secretary Susan Gale Perry and DCDEE Interim Director Kristi Snuggs provided guidance and resources and answered questions.
- April 2 and 3, 2020 - DCDEE hosted a webinar to review updated health, screening, and safety guidelines for child care providers operating after April 1, or reopening in the future. This webinar described screening and exclusion criteria and enhanced health and safety practices required in child care during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- [Recordings and materials](#) from these are available on the DCDEE website.
- More webinars to come, Including a Q&A session

If You Have Questions About Child Care Issues During the COVID-19 Crisis...

- Questions related to:
 - Emergency or regular **Child Care Subsidy Assistance** – call **919-814-6380**
 - **NC Pre-K** Program – [State NC Pre-K Contact List](#)
 - **Regulatory Services** – Contact your assigned Child Care Consultant or [Regulatory Licensing Supervisor by County](#)
 - All other Questions – dcdee.commuications@dhhs.nc.gov or call **1-800-859-0829**

CCDF Monitoring

Conducted by the Office of Child Care is postponed.

DCDEE is awaiting further details on when this will be rescheduled.

On behalf of DCDEE, thank you to Zac Everhart , Rev. Charles McDowell, & Elizabeth Gilleland for your years of service & commitment to the NC Child Care Commission.

Chairperson Everhart expressed his gratitude to the Division for their work and to the providers for all of their work.

Questions:**Ms. Schoel asked:**

“Are you aware of any centers that are closed but still collecting some % of tuition in order to hold a spot for whenever they reopen? Or ones that are open and collecting some part of tuition for a child that is enrolled but not attending?”

Interim Director Snuggs responded that there are some facilities that are closed, but because of financial policies, they are charging families; the Division has asked facilities to be flexible with families, but the Division does not have authority to dictate policy.

Ms. Beth Messersmith asked:

Can you explain a bit about what is happening to address health/ safety concerns when PPE and cleaning supplies aren't available? Are there particularly communities where this is a particular concern?

Vice Chairperson Rivers asked:

Will you please provide data of open programs at the county level?

Interim Director Snuggs commented that, while the data is available, it is not publicly dissemination, but this information is shared with sister organizations; Any requests should be made directly to Interim Director Snuggs.

Ms. Schoel asked:

Is there guidance for taking temps for everyone entering the center?
Why is it not a requirement?

Interim Director Snuggs responded that the most recent guidance information does include guidance on temperature taking. It is not currently a requirement because facilities already to conduct health checks and, if there are signs of temperature, then temperature will be taken.

Ms. Messersmith asked:

Are providers checking their own temperatures as medical providers are?

Dr. Lanier DeGrella asked:

I'm wondering if we have an idea of the number of infants and toddlers in care during this pandemic? I think a recommendation/precaution might be that parents bring infants directly into their child's classroom from their outdoor areas. This avoids their interaction with as many individuals as they arrive and depart.

Mr. Mitchell Gold asked:

I know difficult, but can we teach children masks are good and fun? this is very possibly going to be the new normal.

Ms. Susan Butler-Staub asked:

Has any thought been given to the creation/provision of information/training/support about working with children who are experiencing trauma? It is highly likely that child care providers are going to be facing a number of behavioral changes in young children now and after programs start to re-open. I just want our workforce to have the information and resources they need in order to understand these behaviors and support children.

Interim Director Snuggs commented that we are continuously working to provide resources to providers and families, such as Healthy Social Behavior Project.

Dr. Sheresa Blanchard responded to Ms. Butler-Staub.

That's a great idea Susan. There are so many resources out there. I would be happy to assist with reviewing and screening what is out there and/or helping to determine if a unique and different training might be needed

Ms. Janie Truesdale commented:

There are FCCH providers who have implemented their own safety precautions due to the fact they are serving children in their homes to protect their families beyond the required listing. Many of these providers are extremely skilled at keeping their environments safe by sanitizing and disinfecting as a daily routine.

Ms. Schoel asked:

Was there guidance about collection of tuition from non-subsidy families?

Ms. Butler-Staub asked:

Are there any funds available to provide bonuses for any staff who come onboard after 4/1 if centers need it?

Interim Director Snuggs responded that as long as the staff are on board during April and May, they are eligible; it needs to be documented and the attendance recorded.

Ms. Truesdale commented:

If any money is left over or should surface, I would like to suggest that the \$300 Bonus for FCC Providers be increased. For a 40-hour week they are getting less than \$2 per hour to put themselves on the front line for our communities.

Dr. DeGrella asked:

Is SIDS training still required for new I/T teachers?

Vice Chairperson Rivers asked:

Is the background check waiver only for renewals?

Interim Director Snuggs commented that the waiver is for renewals right now, but initial checks are not included yet, and, because of State legislation, might not be able to be include in waiver.

Ms. Schoel asked:

How much of that amount will be for childcare?

Ms. Messersmith responded to Ms. Truesdale's comment:

I share concerns that the bonus needs to be increased to at least time and a half of the state average for providers. Too many of our providers lack access to health care. This additional bonus would not be nearly enough to help support a family if the provider were to become sick because of their increased exposure in caring for children of essential workers.

Ms. Messersmith asked:

Could you talk a bit more about what is being done to support providers? Is there support for centers in accessing federal supports such as access to paid leave and paid sick days under the federal packages? Are center owners and workers being made aware of these benefits, aided in being able to use them?

Vice Chairperson Rivers added to the discussion about bonuses:

In addition to that question/comment- the increased bonus will assist as there has been great concern with not being able to retain staff with unemployment rates being higher than their salaries. Concerned about the workforce retention further declining during and beyond this virus.

Mr. Vic Coffenberry asked:

Who made decision to make Back Ground checks 3 years and not use the Federal 5 years? Was the commission involved in this decision? I am concerned because of the cost to our employees. Also, I still think that fingerprinting only needs to be done once....because they don't change. Again, another cost cutting measure. One time fingerprinting and background checks only every 5 years could also reduce administrative costs.

Ms. Schoel asked:

Is the school work screen time required/used included in the 2-hour limit?

Interim Director Snuggs commented that for school work they have unlimited time and providers are encouraged to use discretion. Preschool children's screen time will be under the 2-hour limit due to developmental appropriateness.

Ms. Schoel asked:

Is there a plan for recovery of funds if a center is closed and does not reopen?

Ms. Truesdale commented:

I am so glad that the Child Care Payment Schedule has been adjusted to pay on time and or earlier.

Dr. Sharon Foster asked:

Have there been any cases of Covid 19 diagnosed in child care centers in NC? If so what process took place?

Interim Director Snuggs responded that health consultants have been keeping a list. There have been cases where children have had exposure or suspected exposure that are isolated and then sent home and worked with local resource facilities. However, there have not been any "outbreaks" in any facilities among any staff or children in childcare facilities. There was a report of a parent of a child that contracted and passed away.

Dr. Iheoma Iruka Thompson commented:

So thrilled to hear eligibility will be extended for a year! Great job!

Ms. Schoel asked:

Are the emergency subsidy dollars being paid directly to the center or to the family?

Ms. Messersmith asked:

What will happen with the emergency subsidies when the stay at home order is lifted?

Vice Chairperson Rivers asked:

How are we paying for NC PreK- through CCDF dollars or regular state funding for NC PreK?

Interim Director Snuggs commented that this is through the regular allocation which includes TANF, State dollars and Lottery; CCDF dollars will not be used for the most part.

Ms. Truesdale commented:

The Subsidy Payment Rates are significantly different for Centers and FCCH. I get it! But when it comes to daily operations and quality care many see this a concern. Not everyone wants to be a large center. (advocating for FCCH)

Additional Comments on staff bonuses:

Vice Chairperson Rivers

Wonderful! Words cannot explain how impactful this is to help retain our staff!

Ms. Schoel asked:

Is bonus amount the same for full time teachers as well as full time non-teaching staff?

Ms. Truesdale commented:

The Subsidy Payment Rates are significantly different for Centers and FCCH. I get it! But when it comes to daily operations and quality care many see this a concern. Not everyone wants to be a large center. (advocating for FCCH)

Ms. Messersmith

This is fantastic. Thank you for the division's leadership on this.

Dr. Blanchard:

Excellent news and work!

Ms. Butler-Staub:

Great news about the bonuses!

Dr. Foster:

Finally, Child Care teachers and staff are getting the recognition that they deserve!!!

Ms. Truesdale:

YES! Finally

Ms. Schoel:

A HUGE thank you to the division for putting all of this together!!!!

Vice Chairperson Rivers asked:

Will you confirm if bonuses are for staff on payroll or staff physically working in the program. Some programs have some staff that are not physically in the school due to being higher risk.

Ms. Schoel asked:

Will you please let the commission members know when webinars are taking place?

Ms. Messersmith asked:

Will there be support for centers filing small business loans when the federal small business fund is refilled?

Interim Director Snuggs commented that some of the Partners, such as CCR&Rs will develop resources for providers.

Ms. Schoel commented:

I have heard VERY POSITIVE feedback from providers about the support they are receiving from the division....Thank you Kristi & team for everything you are doing!!!

Ms. Messersmith commented:

Appreciate you and your team for your tireless work and responsiveness.

Ms. Butler-Staub commented:

Thank you DCDEE! You have all done tremendous work.

Mr. Gold commented;

THAT WAS REALLY FANTASTIC KRISTI AND TEAM. WOW.

Dr. Blanchard commented:

Yes, I agree Zac! I hope that the silver lining in all of this will lead to positive changes and support for our child care provider community. Thank you to Kristi and team!!!

Vice Chairperson Rivers commented:

Kristi and staff, thank you so much for your endless work and commitment! Your support and concern for providers, children and families gives us great hope!

Mr. Melton commented:

Kristi, great job to you and the DCDEE Team.

Many great ideas to help failing and struggling providers. I do think it is essential for some facilities to be able to use NC PreK at their centers. Many centers planned on using these teachers and made real time decisions to aid their cash flow. Changing that in mid-stream was really challenging, especially if they had already laid off employees.

Ms. Messersmith commented:

That is something we are hearing continuously from private pay parents who don't have the resources to pay right now, but are afraid to lose their spot. Families who used to be able to afford care may no longer be able to do so, especially if they were contractors, have had hours decreased, etc.

This question may be too late, but I'm wondering if there is support for facilities to pay fixed operating costs like health care, paid leave, paid sick days. I know many child care centers should be able to access the federal PFML and paid sick days, but they must pay upfront and be reimbursed later by the federal gov't. Child care centers may not have the money to do that up front with decreased cash flow.

Ms. Schoel asked:

Are families being notified if there is a case at a center?

Ms. Butler-Staub commented:

Thank you!

Ms. Truesdale commented;

Very informative meeting!

Ms. Schoel asked:

Do we need to schedule meetings beyond September?

Chairperson Everhart commented that since the members of the Commission will be changing, it is probably best to wait until the September meeting.

Ms. Arlette Lambert reminded the Commission about the Constant Contact communication.

Mr. John Green asked when the Commission expects to hold elections for Chair and Vice Chair? Ms. Dedra Alston commented that the vote will be done in September meeting. Chairperson Everhart and Vice Chairperson Rivers will attend if nobody has been elected prior.

Rev. Charles McDowell commented that this will be his last meeting and he would like to say it's been a pleasure to serve for seven years.

Interim Director Snuggs thanked him for his many years of service. DCDEE & the Commission thanked those members whose terms are ending for their years of service.

Chairperson Everhart adjourned the meeting at 11:06 am.

**The next meeting of the North Carolina Child Care Commission is scheduled for
September 14, 2020 9:00 am-3:00 pm (First Quarter Meeting)**