



WSFCCA State Meeting Public Policy Minutes

October 6, 2018

Public Policy Report by Mary Curry, WSFCCA Public Policy Rep

Since July 2018 - the State has had a myriad of changes from the new Red Ribbon Campaign to the introduction of our new Department of Child, Youth, and Families from its formal DSHS/DEL department. Now all programs will live under the same umbrella (i.e. TANF, unemployment, Early Learning, Foster Care- Childcare Administration and Juvenile Rehabilitation starting in January 2019).

The Union had to bargain for changes for the next Collective Bargaining Agreement - moving from bargaining to mediation and ultimately having to spend a week in arbitration. The decision of the arbitrator was not announced until Sept 7th and now the members are in the process of ratifying the contract through midnight tonight.

Mary Curry, Public Policy representative met with Carol Gibbs during arbitration and Carol discussed with Wendy Avery, WSFCCA President, there is a lot pending decisions that Mary would take (paid release) from her general personal Family Child Care duties to compile the reports to inform the WSFCCA members. As the time spent at each meeting requires time and then waiting for materials to receive permission also takes time, because all information is not public knowledge.

During Labor Management, Debbie O'Neil (Negotiating Rule Making Coordinator for new WAC alignments) reported that she would like to set up meetings/conferences through each Association Presidents for training to start with providers as soon as January 2019. As the WAC implementation date is August 1, 2019.

Currently, the validation period is happening statewide as licensors are going out to many, FCC (Family Child Cares)/FFN/Centers to test drive the new WAC alignments. From this process, DCYF is looking to put together a manual for the FCC (Family Child Cares)/Centers /ECEAP-Headstart programs.

ECEAP expansion is another hot topic, as the State will be introducing Universal Pre-school and open slots beginning January 2019. However, DCYF & ECEAP administrator positions were just filled 2 weeks ago, so they are playing catch up and preparing for the legislative session will be their primary work.

Friday, September 29th -- letters were sent out to 300 providers for noncompliance of the mandated electronic attendance project. (meaning that families and providers will be feverishly working toward this federal compliance mandate); resulting in stopping care for thousands of children/families.

Early Achiever & Early Start ACT -- with the passing of the Early Start Act there are over 352 providers in the waiting queue to have their program rated -- this was an unexpected consequence of the program. Now there is a huge shortage of coaches. However, new coaches are receiving more training.

ELO - initiative is heading into its last (3rd) year, to align the school-age program with the current Early Achiever mandates. The alignment tool has changed 4 times so this year will be crucial to programs involvement and input. The program originally was lead/funded through the University of Washington but for our state' alignment process, it is now under the DCYF umbrella too.

Professional Development is two-tiered (this project, Mary will work on with Carol Gibbs). As the Imagine Institute is the lead trainer for FCC/FFN the State has put together a work group that Carol Gibbs has just joined to determine the alignment of an individual experience vs formal education.

New mandatory training: under the new WACs the state has added additional training to ALL license providers (Trauma Informed Care, practical business practice, restraint training, caring for the Special needs child and a few more). New providers will be able to receive the core of their training in the initial 30 hours STARS, however, the state is working with stakeholder to figure out how current providers will receive the Federal Guidelines for the training.

Carol Gibbs has reached out to the SEIU FCC 925 president, Patti Bailey to see if she could assist the association by attending many of the work groups/ committees so that the State association can have more up to date reports. Ms. Patti has agreed. However, last week her mother in law died. She is taking time to grieve with her family.

I have also asked the State for the list of all impact (committees) that FCC could assist with representatives.

The challenge that the providers would have is going to meetings that the STATE holds in the middle of the day without compensation and subs in our home FCC programs; in addition to the MASS changes that are coming down the pipe. DCYF extended their work poll to an addition of 3000 employees -- so where does that leave the everyday FCC provider.

Mary is committed to getting full reports on the committees that mentions above on this week. So that by the meeting on October 6th, Mary should have a copy of the Governor's fiscal report to share with all. Monday, Oct 1st, Early Achiever is coming to my Childcare for a pre-rate, so I am unavailable, HOWEVER, Tuesday - Thursday I have hired a 4-hour sub for each day so that I can take the time out for our members to get the information they need.

In addition, at our meeting on Saturday, I will ask the board if I could have release time to allow for reporting on current "happenings" throughout our State.