



Child Care Taskforce Meeting

February 17th, 2022

Taskforce Members Present:

- Commissioner Clarence Carter (DHS) (Virtual)
- Commissioner Jeff McCord (DLWD)
- Jamie Stitt: Designee for Commissioner Bob Rolfe (DECD) (Virtual)
- Sophia Kostelanetz: Designee for Commissioner Lisa Piercey (TDH)
- Senator Becky Massey
- Phil Acord
- Pat Sheehy
- Chloe Moore
- Blair Taylor
- Ryan Hughes

Staff Present:

- Jude White
- Gwen Laaser
- Eric Dunn
- Dakota Simpson
- Suzanne Carr
- Trevor Lauri
- Cherrell Campbell-Street

Taskforce Members Absent:

- Representative Patsy Hazelwood
- Misty Moody: Designee for Commissioner Penny Schwinn (Education)
- Jeremy Biggs

1:02 p.m. Welcome and Commissioner's Update

Commissioner Carter welcomed the group and initiated the roll call. A vote was taken to approve the previous month's minutes. Commissioner Carter motioned and Commissioner McCord seconded the motion. They were unanimously approved by acclamation.

Commissioner Carter thanked Chloe Moore and Phil Acord for their work in helping to choose the consultant for this Task Force.

1:06 p.m. Public Consulting Group Presentation/Discussion

Zane Wyrick introduced the PCG team and Paul Lefkowitz gave background on the history of the firm.

Zane presented the project goals and schedule to the Task Force. Chloe Moore asked clarifying questions about if the Focus Groups section in the project schedule would be the only thing happening for the three months it was shown for. Zane responded that there would be other research happening at the same time. Commissioner Carter requested a deliverable showing the "state of is." Zane responded that this would be something included in Phase II of the project.

Vice-Chair Taylor asked for the group to build in a briefing in a future meeting from AC Jude White on their current work and redesign of QRIS. Vice-Chair Taylor also suggested that the group be open to future subcommittees or break-off groups to tackle other peripheral topics.

Chloe requested a study on the parental level be conducted as part of the consultant's work. Vice-Chair Taylor responded that her organization is already doing a survey like that soon and would be happy to collaborate with the group on this effort.

Zane asked the Task Force to give their definitions of what is or is not childcare. The group discussed their differing definitions.

Zane proposed virtual, smaller workgroups for the Task Force. He also discussed that interviews and surveys to further clarify the definitions and discussions the Task Force had would be conducted shortly.

Chloe Moore requested of PCG that a resource inventory be a part of their deliverables. Commissioner Carter further clarified that this inventory would need to take stock of not just Child Care specific funds, but also funds that are allowed to be used for Child Care that is not dedicated specifically to it (i.e., TANF funds).

2:27 p.m. AC Jude White QRIS Overview

AC Jude White explained to the Task Force their recent partnership with Tyson to provide childcare for their new plant in Tennessee, as well as recent work in Lewisburg.

AC White gave the group an overview of the recent staff reorganization in DHS Child Care, as well as the redesign of QRIS.

2:45 p.m. Next Steps

Zane promised to have a more comprehensive view of what "as is, is" for the next month's meeting.

Suzanne Carr is following up with General Counsel Hodges to discuss how the smaller subcommittees and groups from this Task Force can proceed.

Dakota Simpson agreed to resend the report from the Policy Equity Group to the Task Force.

2:49 p.m. Adjournment

Commissioner Carter made a motion to adjourn, and Phil Acord seconded. The meeting adjourned at 2:49 p.m. The next Child Care Task Force meeting will take place on March 17th, 2022.