Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council

November 9, 2015

DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

Louisiana Believes

Early Childhood Advisory Council Quarterly Report– Q3 2015

Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council

Expectation for Quarterly Reports

From Bylaws:

"The ECCE Advisory Council will receive quarterly reports from the LDE on the implementation and progress, activities, and status of the Early Childhood Care and Education Network, including the creation and implementation of an accountability system for early care and education programs and the transition of the Child Care and Development Block Grant and licensure to the Department of Education."

Leading Up to 2015: Background, Vision, and Shared Challenges

Progress to Date

Louisiana's fragmented early childhood system led to Act 3 (2012), which calls for a unified system to ensure all children enter kindergarten ready.

2012
BESE approves multi-year plan for implementation

2013
13 Early Childhood Community Network Pilots launch

2014
16 more Community Network Pilots launch
Additional legislation is passed to unify licensing, enrollment, and funding

2015
33 more Community Network Pilots launch
Full implementation of Act 3 required by August

Early Childhood Community Networks
Key Activities in Quarter 3

Together, the Department and Community Networks have begun implementing Bulletin 140 as part of the Learning Year

- **Planning Jointly for the Learning Year**
  - Lead Agencies attended a series of webinars on Bulletin 140 implementation
  - Department launched weekly office hours to address questions and provide support
  - Lead Agencies attended the first statewide Supervisor Collaboratives, and received guidance and feedback on their *CLASS* observation plans
- **Completing *CLASS* observations**
  - Lead Agencies identified observers, completed a *CLASS* observation plans for fall 2015 and spring 2016 and began completing fall observations
  - *CLASS* data system launched, enabling observation results to be shared and reported
  - Third party contract with ULL-Picard began in July 2015, ensuring auditing of local observations by reliable and independent outside observers
- **Supporting Coordinated Enrollment**
  - 100% of Community Networks completed self-assessment
  - Nearly 90% of communities reported improvement in coordination from prior year

Supporting Teachers to be Successful
Key Activities in Quarter 3

Teachers received support to help them understand new expectations and improve instructional skills

- **Continuing CCR&R and Mental Health Consultation Contracts**
  - CCR&R Contracts and Mental Health Consultation contracts were renewed as of July 1 to provide ongoing support for directors and teachers
  - Publicly-funded programs are the priority and focus continues to be interactions, instruction and best practices
  - Contracts were renewed at 2014-15 amounts - 5% higher than 2013-14 amounts
- **Streamlining Pathways Trainer Approval: Fast Track**
  - New Fast Track Trainer Approval process launched to enable individuals who work closely with the Community Networks to be easily approved as Pathways trainers
  - Process has increased number and ease of access to valuable training opportunities
- **Participating in Teacher Leader Collaboratives**
  - Two teachers from every Community Network were invited to attend the statewide Teacher Leader collaboratives in September
  - Teachers received guidance on interconnectedness of *Birth to Five Standards, GOLD*™ by Teaching Strategies® and the *Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS*)

Child Care and Development Block Grant
Quarter 3 - Transition Milestones

On July 1 the LDE became Lead Agency for Child Care Development Block Grant

- **CCAP Eligibility moved to Department of Education**
  - Full CCAP eligibility team joined the LDE staff on July 1
  - BESE approved an increase in CCAP rates in August 2015 (Bulletin 139)
  - New website with family application and FAQs
- **Department became CCDF Lead Agency**
- **New licensing regulations went into effect**
  - Regulations cover all types of child care centers in Louisiana
  - Requires Academic Approval for publicly-funded centers (Type III)
  - Additional support for providers has been made available through online training course modules

Early Learning Center Licensing
Key Activities in Quarter 3

The Department has strengthened approaches to keep children safe and healthy

- **Creating Online Registry of Individuals Prohibited from Operating Centers**
  - Department launched an online Registry of Individuals Prohibited from Operating Unlicensed Early Learning Centers in July 2015
  - Registry includes names of individuals prohibited by court order from operating an unlicensed child care center
  - Louisiana's sheriffs and police chiefs were notified to increase awareness, resulting in the identification of unlicensed child care centers
- **Promoting Increasing Public Awareness of Licensing Revocations**
  - Department began issuing press releases when licenses are revoked
  - Helps increase public awareness of centers that have been deemed unsuitable for care of children
- **Publicizing the Process for Identifying Unlicensed Centers**
  - Public is encouraged to call Licensing and staff investigate complaints
  - If the child care meets definition of a child care center and is operating without a valid license, the Department takes multiple steps to keep facility from serving children without a license (e.g., cease and desist order)

Quality Start Participation
Monitoring Change Over Time

There has been little change (<2%) in Quality Start enrollment for Quarter 3

Publicly-Funded Licensed Early Learning Centers
Monitoring Change Over Time

Early Learning Centers have begun to be reported as Type I, Type II and Type III

Early Learning Centers by License Type	
Type I	315
Type II	131
Type III	1140

Change in number of centers by type will be reported each quarter in the future

Proposed Revisions to Bulletin 137

Child Care Licensing Policy
Proposed Revisions to Bulletin 137

Here are proposed revisions that will be reviewed by BESE in December:

1. **Adds Requirement to surrender invalid licenses**
   - Adds a requirement to surrender license to Licensing Division when center has closed or had its license revoked
   - Adds ability to immediately close and deny a center's ability to remain in operation during the appeals process to a center whose license has been revoked, if the health, safety, or welfare of children requires the immediate closure of the center
2. **Revises process for changing license types**
   - Changes the process for changing license type to be easier and less expensive
3. **Changes to continuing education requirements**
   - Removes CPR/RFA from orientation training
   - Allows staff members who are never left alone with children, nor have supervisory or disciplinary authority over children to only need three hours of continuing education
   - Adds a list of continuing education topics
   - Provides that CPR/RFA and medication administration training may count
4. **Removal of duplicated information in Chapter 19**
5. **Clarification of vehicle staff**
   - Clarifies which vehicular staff may be counted as a staff members and aligns with requirements for 4 year olds in PreK