Provider Link Newsletter ~ Region 12
January 2022

Serving Susquehanna, Wayne, Pike, Monroe, Lackawanna & Carbon counties

Community Services for Children continues to serve families and the childcare community. We are scheduling meetings and visits remotely when possible. If you do need to visit our offices, please wear a mask regardless of your vaccination status, limit visitors to only those whom must be in attendance and stay home if you are feeling unwell.

Region 12 Updates

Child Care Works Update!

- **MCCA Increase** - OCDEL is increasing the Maximum Child Care Allowance (MCCA) effective 1/1/2022. The MCCA is the highest rate OCDEL will allow the ELRC to pay for subsidized child care services.
- **Non-traditional Add-on** - Effective 1/1/22, a 25% add-on rate will be paid for a child who receives at least 2 hours of care during non-traditional hours on a weekday or any care received on the weekend.

- Updated C-1 and updated published rates are due to the ELRC by 1/31/22.
- Click here to read all the details on these increases.

		Full-Time Care					Part-Time Care			
Region	Provider Type	INFANT	YOUNG TODDLER	OLD TODDLER	PRE-SCHOOL	SCHOOL-AGE	INFANT	YOUNG TODDLER	OLD TODDLER	PRE-SCHOOL
12	CENTER	$42.49	$37.40	$36.00	$34.00	$32.00	$35.67	$33.27	$30.00	$28.00
	GROUP	$35.00	$34.00	$31.00	$30.00	$30.00	$30.00	$25.42	$24.50	$24.00
	Family	$31.83	$31.42	$31.42	$27.50	$25.88	$26.45	$26.45	$26.45	$21.32
	Relative	$15.68	$14.28	$14.28	$14.28	$14.28	$14.94	$11.99	$11.99	$11.99

Directors Network with Guest Speaker Tom Copeland

January 20th 1:00 pm

ELRC Regions 11, 12, 13, 14, & 16 are invited to attend the Region 11's Directors Network group for the January meeting. Renowned speaker, Tom Copeland, is joining the group in this meeting. Tom is a leading expert in the business of family child care and he will answer questions regarding the ARPA grant, financial implications and tax law. All provider types (family, center and group) are encouraged to attend. Please submit questions to mbeckhorn@cscinc.org by January 10th.

Pre-registration is required. Click here to register.

Collaborative Movement Cohorts!

A number of collaborative groups are forming to support providers in maintaining their current quality indicators or to help move to the next STAR level! Reach out to your Quality Coach to sign up for one of these groups:

- Director Boot Camp
- STAR 2 Move Up Cohort
- STAR 3 & 4 Move Up Cohort

Visit our Region 12 Provider Communication page to view the plans for these groups.

Provider Supports

PQA - Let's Talk Quality Monthly webinar series

- January topic: Exploring Books with Infants and Toddlers

Information on Keystone STARS Quality Coach Supports

- Free supports offered to all certified providers

ELRC Region 12 - New Management Announcement

Region 12 is pleased to announce the hiring/promotion of two new managers who are ready to support your needs!

~Family Services Manager - Lauren Leombruni
Email: lleombruni@cscinc.org
Phone: 570-468-8144 x302

~Provider Services Manager - Melanie Walker-Gaughan
Email: mwalker@cscinc.org
Phone: 570-468-8144 x303

ELRC Updates

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

ARPA Grant applications are continuing to be processed. Providers who have not yet submitted their grant application will have until mid-January to do so. Please reach out to your Quality Coach if you have any questions.

Grant monitoring will take place in the summer of 2022 so it is important to keep receipts organized. Begin to track expenses into these categories:

Providers will receive 6 installments for the ARPA grant. Your last payment will be 6 months from the date of your first payment. Payments are scheduled to be released via direct

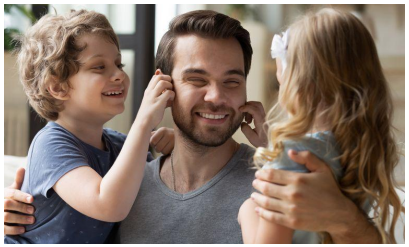
- Personnel costs
- Rent/Mortgage & Utilities
- Facilities Maintenance & Insurance
- PPE, Cleaning & Health & Safety Practices
- Equipment & Supplies
- Goods & Services
- Mental Health Supports for Staff & Children

deposit or paper check on the following dates:

- 1/21/22
- 2/22/22
- 3/22/22
- 4/22/22
- 5/20/22
- 6/22/22

STARS Movement Tip of the Month - Tracking Staff PD

Investing in the professional development of your staff is an essential part of building and maintaining a high quality program. However, tracking staff PD and ensuring everyone has what they need can feel overwhelming. Join Quality Coach, Michelle Beckhorn, as she walks you thorough some strategies for tracking PD in this short video. Click **here** to watch.



Co-Pay Updates

OCDEL will be using part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to reduce family CCW co-pays. Adjustments will be made to families who qualify and you will be notified of any changes in January.

Inclement Weather & Winter Reminders

- Emergency Closures – if you are not able to update your closures through Provider Self Service, these must be reported within 3 business days of the closure to the ELRC.
- Drop-in Care - General payment practice does not cover the cost of drop-in care for children. If a parent requests a drop-in enrollment, for example a school snow day, usually it will be the parent's responsibility to cover the cost of care. Check with your

provider specialist before expecting the ELRC to cover this child's enrollment.
- Invoices are due to the ELRC by the 5th of the month.

Health & Safety

Face Coverings

On 12/10/21, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court issued a ruling that ended the Secretary of Health's order that masks were required to be worn by children over two and by staff in a child care settings. This decision does not impact the Federal directive requiring all Head Start and Early Head Start programs or those driving and riding on school buses to continue to wear face coverings. While face coverings are still encouraged for children and staff, certification will no longer cite programs for noncompliance.

Special Announcement: Message from Acting Secretary Meg Snead - Mask Guidance

Reporting Communicable Diseases

With the addition of COVID-19 to the list of reportable communicable diseases, child care providers are reminded of certification regulations regarding reporting of these cases.

Any child or facility person reporting positive test results or showing symptoms of COVID-19, cannot be in attendance at the child care facility. Upon return, the individual must provide a written note or a negative test result signed and verified by a physician or nurse practitioner (CRNP) clearing them to return to the child care facility. A home test or any other negative test results that have not been reviewed, signed and verified by a physician or CRNP will not be acceptable for a child or a facility person to return to the child care facility.

Review additional information and a helpful reporting guidance chart **here**.

Want to add staff or other members of your team to this newsletter? Email croman@cscinc.org and specify which Regional Newsletter you would like and requests will be added to next month's distribution.

Visit ELRC Region 12

Community Services for Children | elrc12@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

Connect with us

Community Services for Children | 1520 Hanover Ave, Allentown, PA 18109

Unsubscribe pcho@cscinc.org

Update Profile | About Constant Contact

Sent by estair@cscinc.org in collaboration with

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!