

Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 13 March 2022

Serving Berks & Schuylkill counties

Community Services for Children offices are open to the public. We have put preventative measures in place to keep both our staff and visitors safe. Please wear a mask regardless of vaccination status and stay home if you are feeling unwell. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Region 13 Updates

Director's Network

The February Director's Network meeting was held on Wednesday, 2/9. We shared ELRC updates and took some time to celebrate those programs that moved to the next STAR level in January! The group discussed the most recent policy updates regarding COVID-19 protocols and recommendations. We also shared innovative ways providers are spending ARPA funds for program improvements, business sustainability and staff retention. Providers are also beginning to plan for summer programming and shared ideas as well.

Our next virtual meeting on March 9th will include a presentation from an Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant. See the flyer below for more information.

[Director's Network](#)

American Rescue Plan Act

The Early Learning Resource Center has been able to award over \$22.3 million in ARPA funding to eligible providers. Payments will continue until all programs have received their six-monthly installments. ARPA payments are taxable income so we recommend programs work with their tax advisor for any questions.

In addition, all providers should have received their IRS form 1099 from Community Services for Children. Amounts WILL include ARPA payments received in 2021 so your amounts will look higher than typical. If you have not received your 1099, please reach out to your Provider Specialist.

ELRC Region 13 Provider Supports



The STARS Bootcamp Series is an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding and implementation of the STARS Standards. We will review the standards one by one while offering samples, resources, and strategies.

- [STARS Bootcamp](#)

The Work It Wednesday Series is a monthly session that takes a deeper dive into a specific Keystone STARS standard or topic to provide an increased understanding of the value and scope of the concept. Join this webinar on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

- [Work It Wednesday](#)

Print out a copy of the Monthly Calendar for a quick reference of all regional support activities and professional development opportunities.

- [Calendar of Events - March 2022](#)

PQA - Let's Talk Quality Monthly webinar series

- [March topic: Art](#)
-

ELRC Updates

Is Your Email Address Up to Date in PSS?

OCDEL uses email to communicate with child care locations about important announcements including additional grant and award opportunities in the coming months. Providers should visit PSS and confirm that their contact information is up to date as soon as possible.

Log into Provider Self Service

- Click on Location Profile.
 - Review all location information including the email address.
 - Contact the help desk with any issues at 877-491-3818 and select option #2 twice.
-

CCW Reminders

Correctly completing your attendance is essential to receiving an accurate Child Care Works payment.

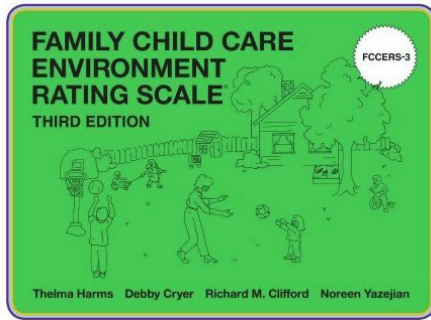
- [Paper Attendance](#) - Mark "CA" for COVID Absence for each child out for COVID related absence
- [Online Attendance](#) - Mark the child absent for every scheduled day that they do not attend. Click on the blue hyperlink to access the comment box. Place a comment for the COVID absences

(ex: COVID absence: 2/11-2/15)

Examples of COVID Absences:

- Child must quarantine

- Child or family member is positive for COVID
- Facility needs to close due to positive cases
- Child or family member is waiting for COVID test results



Family Child Care Environmental Rating Scale PD

The FCCERS tool assists family providers in assessing program quality. This tool can be used to meet the STARS quality indicator EC2.1. Two live sessions will be offered by the assessor team for \$7 a session and the FCCERS tool is included in the cost of registration.

- Foundations of FCCERS - 3/23 @ 6:00 pm - This session will give you an overview of the scale and will help you to learn how to use the 7 point scoring system.

Event ID: 335260

- FCCERS-R - 4/20 @ 6:00 pm - This session goes into detail about specific items and indicators in the FCCERS-R.

Event ID: 335264

Family Child Care providers should reach out to their Quality Coach for support in registering for these events.

Certification News

[Announcement C-22-02](#) includes information related to pre-service training for all child care staff. In summary of this announcement:

- All child care staff must complete 12 hours of annual training

As of 4/29/22:

- All staff must complete the required CCDBG health and safety training which is found on the Better Kid Care website, before caring for children unsupervised. Click [here](#) to access this page
- Shaken Baby Syndrome, Abusive Head Trauma and Child Maltreatment is also a required training. This training **IS** embedded as part of the CCDBG training listed above.
 - If you took this training after 9/2016, you are in compliance
 - If you had taken CCDBG prior to 9/2016, it is recommended that you take the updated 10-hour module
- Certification requires all staff to take 12 hours of ongoing professional development. Health & Safety topics should be prioritized but other topics may be included in those 12 hours.

Updated Policies

Child care providers must have a policy and procedure to help staff identify shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment. The policy must include, but is not limited to:

- Recognition of potential signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma
- Strategies for coping with a crying, fussing, or distraught child

- Address the prevention and identification of child maltreatment

Week of the Young Child



The Week of the Young Child is a fun-filled week celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers, families and communities. This year's WOYC is April 2-8. NAEYC has developed resources and ideas so your program can celebrate and raise awareness on the needs of young children and their families. Visit [NAEYC](#) for daily activity idea.

Keystone STARS Updates

Providers with STAR expirations through September 30, 2022 may accept the one-year extension offered by OCDEL. Providers are using this time to work with their Quality Coach to prepare for an evidence review next year and many are working on moving to the next STAR level!

Quality Coaches provide supports including individual meetings, Movement Cohorts, Learning Communities, Director Networks and other assistance to walk you through every step of the designation process. Check out all the Regional Groups above and join in!

Tax Assistance

The **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program offers free tax help to people who make \$57,000 or less, persons with disabilities, and limited English-speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their tax returns. Families can usually find VITA sites in community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls, and other convenient locations. To locate an open site near you, use the [VITA Locator Tool](#) or call (toll-free) 888-227-7669.



Health & Safety

Face Coverings in Child Care

As of 12/10/21, masks were no longer required to be worn by children or staff in a child care setting. However, CDC continues to recommend masking as a critical public health tool for preventing the spread of COVID-19.

- Masks are effective at reducing transmission of the Coronavirus when worn consistently and correctly.
- Choose a well-fitting and comfortable mask that your child can wear properly. A poorly fitting or uncomfortable mask might be worn incorrectly or removed often, and that would reduce its intended benefits.

· Choose a size that fits over the child's nose and under the chin but does not impair vision.

· Clear masks or cloth masks with a clear plastic panel are an alternative type of mask that may be helpful when interacting with certain groups of people.

Visit [PA Key](#) for up-to-date guidance.

Reporting COVID cases

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) has provided two options for Department of Human Services (DHS) certified child care facilities to report positive COVID-19 cases, either by email or phone. This resource has updated counties and provides an [outline of the process](#) that should be followed when reporting cases to DOH. Click [here](#) for more information.



PQAS First Aid Instructors

Instructors delivering First Aid/CPR modules must be PQAS approved and use an OCDEL approved Pediatric curriculum. The approved curriculum list can be found on the [PA Key website](#).

Any questions regarding PQAS status of trainers can be directed to Amanda Janeshefski amajan@pakeys.org.

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

[Visit ELRC Region 13](#)

Community Services for Children | elrc13@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

Connect with us



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

[Unsubscribe pcho@cscinc.org](mailto:unsubscribe_pcho@cscinc.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [About Constant Contact](#)

Sent by estair@cscinc.org in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!

