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## Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 12 January 2023

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

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### Region 12 Updates

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*The ELRC offices will be closed on January 2, 2023.  
We wish you all a safe and healthy New Year!*

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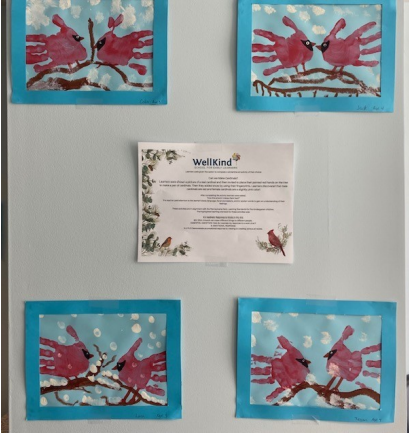
The Early Learning Resource Center would like to welcome the following new programs to our region! We look forward to supporting you and hope to hear from you soon! Early Learning Resource Center staff are here to assist you with your participation in Child Care Works and Keystone STARS, and to provide you with local resources and referrals.

- LHH Learn & Play Childcare Center Inc. - Lehighton, PA
  - Miles of Smiles - Old Forge, PA
  - Mind Builders Music and Science Center - Pocono Summit, PA
  - Pocono Family YMCA at Smithfield Elementary - Stroudsburg, PA
  - Pocono Family YMCA at Middle Smithfield Elementary - Stroudsburg, PA
  - Pocono Family YMCA at Resica - East Stroudsburg, PA
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#### **PD Opportunity**

NEIU 19 will be hosting a professional development event, Teaching Preschool Children with Challenging Behaviors. This two-hour training will focus on social emotional supports, positive behavior interventions, and is open to all staff. There will be two opportunities to attend this event in February and March. The content will be the same for both dates, so please

choose one that best fits your schedule. Please click [here](#) for more information and to register now! Please contact Amanda Jacobino at [amjacobino@iu19.org](mailto:amjacobino@iu19.org) or (570) 876-9390 with any questions.



### Art Displays

We would like to thank *The Wellkind School for Early Learners* in Scranton for graciously donating artwork to be displayed in our Scranton office! These winter scenes have been warming our hearts! Should you be interested in donating art to our offices for future seasons, please click [here](#) to sign up and contact your Quality Coach!

## Region 12 Provider Supports

### Directors Network

Thank you to all who attended our Director's Network on Friday 12/16/22. During this meeting we were joined by Lauren Kryston of the Infant Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) team. Lauren shared information about the IECMH program, the referral process, and a variety of resources. Thank you to all who attended and contributed to the conversation! We would also like to extend a special thank you to Lauren for her time! We hope to see you all at our next Director's Network meeting on Friday, January 20th, at 1:00 PM. During this meeting we will be collaborating to discuss how we can create healthy work environments for our staff. We hope to see you there!

- [Director's Network Group Invite](#)



### Technology Tuesday

Our next Technology Tuesday will be on 1/10/23 at 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM. This month we will be focusing on navigating CQI Plans on the PA PD Registry. Join us as we walk you through how to create a CQI Plan and pull reports to help you achieve your goals. We will be sharing our screen to walk you through every step of the way! Click [here](#) to register now. Should you have any questions or would like assistance with a specific topic, please contact Lynda Castro at [lycastro@cscinc.org](mailto:lycastro@cscinc.org).

### STAR 2 Cohort

Are you interested in moving to STAR 2 and don't know where to start? Please join our upcoming STAR 2 cohort! This will be a series of meetings where participants can work together to navigate the Keystone STARS Performance Standards and gather evidence. Our first session will be held virtually on January 25, 2023 at 1:00 PM. Please see flyer below and contact Aubryn Wojtkielewicz at [aubrynw@cscinc.org](mailto:aubrynw@cscinc.org) with any questions.

- [STAR 2 Cohort](#)

### Director's Boot Camp Returns!

Join Quality Coach, Deb Swartout, for the return of Directors' Boot Camp

on Wednesday January 11, 2023! This year our Director's Boot Camp will explore team building and ensuring your staff have the tools they need to be successful. To accommodate your busy schedules, there will be an afternoon and evening session. Please register in advance for the session that best fits your schedule. Click [here](#) to register now and contact Deb Swartout with any questions at [dswartout@cscinc.org](mailto:dswartout@cscinc.org).

### Virtual Office Hours

Quality Coaches will be conducting virtual office hours in January! Should you need assistance with Work Force Support Grants, technology or individualized support to achieve your Keystone STARS goals, please call or email your coach to schedule an appointment! Click [here](#) to see our schedule for January.

### PQA - Let's Talk Quality Webinar Series

This month's webinar focuses on running effective staff meetings. Session will be held January 12th and registration is required.

- [Let's Talk Quality Webinar](#)
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## ELRC Updates

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### Work Force Support 2.0 Payments

Work Force Support Grant 2.0 payments will begin to be sent in January. Providers will receive their payment via the same format (direct deposit or check) as their CCW payment. All awards will be sent no later than 3/17/23.

#### Staff Retention Award

These funds must be paid in full by the provider, through employer payroll, within 45 days of receipt of payment to the staff person for whom the funds were applied.

- If a staff person leaves employment before you receive payment, these funds should be transferred to the Staff Recruitment bucket OR return those funds to the ELRC.
- If a staff person has given notice but is still employed at the time funds were received, the provider must pay the eligible staff person.

#### Staff Recruitment Award

These funds can be used for expenses from 7/1/22 - 6/30/23 related to recruiting and hiring new staff but must be spent within 90 days of receipt of award.

Grant closure forms are due to the ELRC no later than 6/30/23. Closures should be emailed to [elrc-ksgrants@cscinc.org](mailto:elrc-ksgrants@cscinc.org).

Please reach out to your Quality Coach with any questions regarding Work Force Support Grant 1.0 or 2.0.

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## CCW Reminders

### Appendix I

The Appendix I (Attestation of Professional Development) were due to the ELRC by **December 30, 2022**. Any provider with an active CCW Provider Agreement

who did not submit their Appendix I by the due date, has had their agreement terminated and will no longer receive payment for children receiving subsidized child care. If you missed sending in your Appendix I, please submit it as soon as possible to your Provider Specialist so that your agreement can be reinstated.

Click [here](#) to access the Attestation.

### **Private Pay Rate Update**

This past Fall, OCDEL requested that providers complete the Market Rate Survey. The rates submitted were then used to update each provider's rates in Pelican and COMPASS.

Providers who completed their Market Rate Survey should have received an updated C-2 form from the ELRC, listing your private pay rates. It is important to review this information and immediately report any inaccurate rates to your Provider Specialist. If your rates were updated, your CCW reimbursement rates may have been affected on your November invoice.

### **Registration Fees**

OCDEL has announced that as of 1/1/23, certified child care providers will receive a registration fee for all newly enrolled CCW children. This registration fee will be automatically added to the provider invoice for the service period in which the enrollment was effective, regardless of whether the provider charges a registration fee.

Please note that providers cannot charge CCW families registration fees or the difference between what the ELRC pays for a registration fee and what the provider charges private pay families.

Read the full announcement [here](#).

Please reach out to your Provider Specialist with any questions regarding these updates:

**Marcia Shaw - [mshaw@cscinc.org](mailto:mshaw@cscinc.org) 570-994-1135 x404**  
**Mary Ruth Tanner - [mtanner@cscinc.org](mailto:mtanner@cscinc.org) 570-468-8144 x310**

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### **Early Childhood Credential Survey - Closes January 10th**

Pennsylvania's Career Pathway will be enhanced through the development of two competency-based credentials offering an alternative pathway for child care staff to achieve a credential showing equivalence to Career Pathway level A or Level B.

The Early Childhood Credential Project Team is interested in understanding the ways in which early childhood providers access educational opportunities. This survey is intended to discover how providers access opportunities and what barriers they may face.

Respond to this survey to be entered in a drawing for a chance to win a \$250 Amazon Gift Card.

You can click [here](#) to complete the survey.

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### *Nature Sketching - A Tool in the Educators Palette*

This workshop is a special Better Kid Care event focused on developing your observation skills. You do not need to be an artist to enjoy this training.

In addition, this in-person event will be filmed to create an online course in the BKC On Demand system.

**Saturday, January 28th**

**9:00-noon**

Berks County Ag Center

1238 County Welfare Rd

Leesport PA, 19533

Capacity is limited and registration is required. Click [here](#) to register.

### *Virtual Mandated Reporter*

This free, three-hour live training is approved by DHS and meets all requirements for training on recognizing and reporting child abuse.

Click on the date and time to register:

- [1/9 - 1:00-4:00 pm](#)
- [1/10 - 9:00-noon](#)
- [1/11 - 9:00-noon](#)
- [1/11 - 1:00-4:00 pm](#)
- [1/12 - 9:00-noon](#)
- [1/12 - 6:00-9:00 pm](#)
- [1/13 - 9:00-noon](#)
- [1/17 - 1:00-4:00 pm](#)
- [1/18 - 9:00-noon](#)
- [1/18 - 6:00-9:00 pm](#)

For additional offerings or questions, email [training@pafsa.org](mailto:training@pafsa.org).

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## **Certification Regulations Rewrite Project**

The proposed Certification Regulations for Chapter 3310 (Family Child Care Homes) and Chapter 3320 (Child Care Centers) were submitted to the DHS Regulatory Review process in November 2022. OCDEL will move into the next phase of the Certification Regulation Rewrite Project which will be the Training and Resource Development Phase.

You can view former Deputy Secretary Tracey Campanini's [video](#) for this project along with a [recorded presentation](#) that provides updates on next steps.

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## **2023 PA Equity in ECE Champion Award**

Applications open through 2/1/23

Applications are now open for the OCDEL 2023 Pennsylvania Equity in Early Childhood Education Champion Awards.

The Pennsylvania Equity in Early Childhood Education Champion Awards bring awareness to and highlight the equity work being done within Pennsylvania's early childhood education and afterschool settings.

Submissions can be an application (apply on your own or a program/organization's behalf), or nomination (submit another individual or program/organization) to be acknowledged for their work around equity. Applications should be submitted electronically by the Feb. 1, 2023, deadline and can be submitted in English or Spanish.

Click [here](#) for more information.

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## **Keystone STARS Update**

### **OCDEL Approved Curricula & Assessment Tools**

The optional requirements for STAR 3 and 4 providers to use OCDEL-approved curricula and development assessments in order to earn points in EC 3.4.1 and EC 3.4.2 has **not** changed in recent years. However, OCDEL recognizes these requirements may not have been communicated effectively or implemented consistently across the commonwealth. Effective December 1, 2022, only current OCDEL-approved curricula and developmental assessment tools will be accepted in meeting EC 3.4.1 and EC 3.4.2 for STAR 3 and 4 designations as outlined in this policy announcement.

[\*\*\*Announcement ELRC 22-07 OCDEL-Approved Curricula and Developmental Assessment Tools in Keystone STARS.\*\*\*](#)

### **Alternative Pathway Providers**

Programs who hold accreditation through an OCDEL-approved Alternate Pathway accrediting body can apply for a Keystone STARS designation. The Announcement shares details relating to:

- The Professional Development (PD) Registry System: Initial Steps for Programs Using an OCDEL-approved Alternate Pathway
- The PD Registry Designation System: Applying for and Renewing a Keystone STARS Designation Using an OCDEL-Approved Alternate Pathway
- Functionality of the PD Registry Designation System for Alternate Pathway Programs

[\*\*\*Announcement ELRC 22-08 Requirements for Programs Using an OCDEL-Approved Alternate Pathway to a Keystone STARS Designation in the Professional Development \(PD\) Registry.\*\*\*](#)

### **STAR Certificates**

STAR Designations and renewals are now completed in the PD Registry. All STAR 2, 3 & 4 providers complete a 3-year cycle and are given a 3-year expiration date.

- Year 1 - Evidence review
- Year 2 - Renewal
- Year 3 - Renewal

New STAR Certificates will now reflect the expiration date of your 3-year designation cycle. However, this three year expiration is contingent upon providers completing their annual renewal request in Year 2 & Year 3.

Contact your Quality Coach if you have any questions.



# Health & Safety

## Prevent Indoor Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless, and deadly gas that can cause headaches, fatigue, nausea and vomiting, visual disturbances, and confusion in children and adults, even at low levels. CO can cause serious illness, unconsciousness, and death at high levels. CO can be emitted from defective heaters, furnaces, and appliances that use natural gas, oil, kerosene, propane coal, wood, charcoal, or other products that can produce CO. The Department of Health recommends that childcare facilities install an UL-approved CO detector in the hallway near classrooms. CO poisoning is preventable with properly functioning CO detectors.

Providers are encouraged to take [DOH's Choose Safe Places Survey](#) to learn more about best practices to ensure staff and children under their care are protected from CO poisoning and other potential environmental hazards. Providers can receive a certificate of acknowledgment to display at their business for completing the survey.

## COVID-19 Free Test Kits

Every US household is eligible to receive 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. Click [here](#) to request you supply.

If you need any help placing an order, call 1-800-232-0233.



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

Visit [ELRC Region 12](#)

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