



Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 13 January 2023

Serving Berks & Schuylkill Counties

Region 13 Updates

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



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.

- Little Steps Early Childhood Center - Berks
- St. Francis Academy - Berks
- Lovely Leaps and Bounds Child Care Facility - Schuylkill

Reading Area Community College Spring Courses

Enrolling now! Earn credits towards your Early Childhood Education degree. Click on the flyers below for more information



[Spring 2023 Course Offerings](#)
[Spring 2023 CDA Coursework](#)

Courses begin January 14th. Coursework is FREE to those who qualify!

CPR & Pediatric First Aid

The Berks County Intermediate Unit and the United Way of Berks County are offering Pediatric First Aid and CPR training. Funding is available through the PASSHE PDO. See the flyers below for details!

[Berks County IU First Aid/CPR](#)
[United Way First Aid/CPR](#)

Region 13 Provider Supports

Directors Network

At December's Director Network meeting we discussed tips to successfully recruit and retain staff. Don't miss January's Director Network Meeting to help kick-off a successful 2023! We will be adding depth to the agenda by taking a few minutes to be mindful, a quick activity for leadership building, and the *hot topic* for the month will be STARS designation and renewal supports. Please register for the event using the zoom link on the flyer.



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

Work it Wednesday

Take a deeper dive and gain an increased understanding of completing self-assessments and creating professional development plans on the PA PD Registry. This event will be a two-part session, with an opportunity for 2 PQAS professional development hours. For more details, check out the flyer!

- [Work It Wednesday](#)

Regional Calendar

Check out our calendar for a quick reference of all regional support activities and professional development opportunities.

- [Region 13 Calendar - January 2023](#)

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](#)

ELRC Updates

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 the

- 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.

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

CCW Reminders

Appendix I

The Appendix I (Attestation of Professional Development) was 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:

Kim Lamp - klamp@cscinc.org
Claribel Valentin - cvalentin@cscinc.org

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.



Smoking can lead to disease and disability, harming nearly every bodily organ. More than 16 million Americans are living with a disease caused by smoking. Secondhand smoke is also dangerous to both adults and children.

Smoking traditional cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes, and smokeless tobacco can all cause health problems. Smoking makes it more likely that a person will have tooth decay, gum disease, oral cancer, and poor birth outcomes. It also causes stained teeth, bad breath, and reduced ability to taste and smell.

Not smoking or quitting smoking is important for overall health, including oral health. When a smoker quits, it improves their health and quality of life. It also improves the health and quality of life of those around them, especially young children.

Explore this website to find out about different [ways to quit smoking](#).

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

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