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## Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 14 January 2023

Serving Lehigh & Northampton counties

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### Region 14 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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#### Welcome!

The Early Learning Resource Center Region 14 would like to welcome the following new child care programs who opened in October, November and December. We look forward to working with you in the future. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions. The ELRC staff are here to help and to provide support to all our early learning child care partners.

- Calixto Child Care
  - Mechy Family Day Care
  - Nasya Family Daycare
  - Kids Learning Matters LLC
  - Perfect Time Family Childcare
  - Hanover Township Community Center
  - Tu Mundo De Alcoiris Es Espanis Inc
  - Nana Daycare
  - Little Oakes Hands on Learning Center LLC
  - In Arms Reach Child Care Services LLC, Bethlehem
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#### Region 14 Provider Supports

##### Directors Network

At our December Directors Network, Lindsay Seibert joined us from the PA Department of Education, Division of Food and Nutrition to discuss the application process



for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). We also had the new Professional Development Organization (PDO) Coordinator for our region, Anabela Araujo, introduce herself and share the free ECE college coursework opportunities available to you and your staff. Contact your Quality Coach for details!

Our next meeting will be January 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. We will be discussing child behavior supports and resources. Click [here](#) to register.

### **Quality Coach Office Days**

Do you need assistance with your Keystone STARS Renewal or Designation? Are you thinking about moving up in STARS and need some extra assistance? Your Quality Coach is here to help.

Quality Coaches are in the office weekly and are available to meet. Coaches are here to support you through your STARS journey to answer questions throughout the week. Click [here](#) for the January Office Day schedule. Email, call or schedule a time to meet.

### **Work Together Wednesdays**

Each Wednesday, the ELRC 14 is offering an opportunity for all directors and teaching staff to come together via Zoom to explore one specific topic together. In January we will be discussing Family Workshops and Networking, Assessments vs. Developmental Screenings, Curriculum, and Continuity of Care.

You will be able to ask questions, share resources, and network with other programs. Register for the sessions you would like to attend [here](#).

**Please note:** Work Together Wednesdays will now be from **1:00 to 1:30 pm!** We look forward to seeing you on Wednesdays!

### **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:

Abigail Araujo - [aaaraujo@cscinc.org](mailto:aaaraujo@cscinc.org) 484-898-8101 x711  
Damaris Nieves - [dnieves@cscinc.org](mailto:dnieves@cscinc.org) 610-437-6000 x2123  
Susan Ritter - [susanr@cscinc.org](mailto:susanr@cscinc.org) 610-437-6000 x2126

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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.

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## Health & Safety

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### 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.

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### 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.



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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.

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