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## Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 16 January 2023

Serving Bucks County

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### Region 16 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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#### Art Displays



We would like to thank New Beginnings Childcare and Early Learning for donating the Winter artwork displayed in our ELRC Fairless Hills office. We have very talented children in our community. Thank you for helping to brighten our waiting room and workspace.

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#### Connect now with the ECE PDO for Spring 2023 Coursework!

Contact the ECE PDO at PHMC to get matched with a PDO-funded degree or credentialing program. You will be assigned to an ECE/IHE Coordinators who will connect you with higher education partners as you advance on your unique career pathway.

Funded opportunities may include tuition, materials and resources to support students in earning a CDA, AA or BA in ECE! For additional information, please view the PHMC flyer.

- [PHMC Flyer](#)
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## Join Our Team

Community Services for Children is seeking an energetic individual for a rewarding career as a Quality Coach. Quality Coaches work with certified child care providers to support quality assurance and implementation of Keystone STARS.

For more information about the position requirements, benefits and to apply, visit <https://www.cscinc.org/careers/>

## Region 16 Provider Supports

### Bucks County Director Network Group

Join us for our monthly Bucks County Director Alliance meeting! Attendance is strongly recommended as there are important updates for all child care providers! Meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month from 1:00-2:00 pm. Click [here](#) to register!

- [BCDA January Invitation](#)

Providers are also invited to assist in planning these meetings. Please join us on 1/6 at 1:00 pm for a planning session. Click [here](#) to register.



### Coaches Calendar

Quality Coaches Are Here For You! There are many options for ways to connect with your Quality Coach for support and information. Please view our Quality Coach Calendar for the month.

- [Coaches Calendar January 2023](#)

### Coffee With Your Coach

Take some time away from the hustle and bustle of your program and meet up with your Coach! Our Keystone STARS Quality Coaches are available throughout the community for in-person meetings. Coaches will be available to address questions, concerns, provide supports or chat about any need you have!

- [Coffee With Your Coach](#)

### Coach Virtual Office Hours

Your Quality Coach is available to connect on Fridays with the availability of Virtual Office Hours. Please see flyer for dates and times and the office hours link.

- [Virtual Office Hours](#)

### Back to Basics

The Quality Coaches will be holding weekly virtual sessions for an in depth discussion on individual Keystone STARS Standards. Any STAR level is welcome to attend, however, all STAR 2, 3 & 4 directors should plan to attend any or all sessions in which they desire a better understanding of a particular standard. These sessions will last 15 - 30 minutes. Please see the flyer for zoom link. Registration not required, just click link to join. All

sessions begin at 1:30 pm.

- [Back to Basics - January Schedule](#)

### **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:

**Justine Weckerly - [jweckerly@cscinc.org](mailto:jweckerly@cscinc.org) 267-898-3980 x803**

**Lisa Welhaf - [lwelhaf@cscinc.org](mailto:lwelhaf@cscinc.org) 215-486-2524 x904**

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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**

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.

## 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 16](#)

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