

Community Services for Children

Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 11 March 2023

Serving Bradford, Sullivan, Wyoming, Luzerne, Columbia & Montour counties

Region 11 Updates

Artwork Showcase



Thank you to the budding artists at Starry Knights Learning Center, Mountaintop, and Discover the World Children's Center, Sayre, for sharing their winter artwork. Visitors and staff have been enjoying the display of this artwork in the ELRC Wilkes-Barre office.



Upcoming Professional Development

Quality Coaches will be offering professional development courses in March and April. These courses are free of charge, and you will earn two PD hours with each course.

Quality Coach, Fawn Unger, will be presenting **“Promoting Responsible Decision-Making”** at the YMCA in Towanda on March 11th. Participants will connect CASEL’s social-emotional competencies to PA Early Learning Standards and determine effective strategies to ensure the learning environment is supportive of the development of responsible decision-making. Click [here](#) for more information and registration.

Quality Coach, Michelle Beckhorn, will be presenting a course on motivating staff titled **“How to Get Your Staff to Show Up and Work as a Team- A Leadership Approach that Makes the Difference”** via Zoom on April 5th. Participants will be given ideas to use in their programs to promote inclusion and build strong relationships between staff and leadership. Click [here](#) for more information and registration.

Space is limited so don't wait to register!



Professional Development Organization

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) Professional Development Organization (PDO) at the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) is a Pennsylvania Department of Education grant-funded partnership among PASSHE universities to increase the educational credentials among those who teach and care for preschool-school aged children in childcare centers.

For more information on PDO funded coursework, please contact:

Amber Barkman
abarkman@eceptdo.org

Virtual Curriculum Fair

Have you considered purchasing a new OCDEL approved curriculum or would you like more information on how to effectively implement the curriculum you already use? Join us for a *Virtual Curriculum Fair* on Wednesday, 4/19 at 1:00 pm. Six different vendors will share out an overview and give participants the opportunity to join a breakout session to hear more.



Click [here](#) for more details.

Space is limited. Register now!

Region 11 Provider Supports

Director's Network

The Director's Network meets monthly to share ideas and resources and to build partnerships in the child care community. Join us on Thursday, **March 16th** at **1:00 pm** via Zoom to discuss **summer school age planning with guest speaker, Betsy Saatman, TA Specialist/SAC Initiatives at The PA Key**. Click the link below to register.

- [Director's Network March 2023](#)



Successful Strategies Teachers' Roundtable

The Successful Strategies Teachers' Roundtable is a monthly networking opportunity for teachers to share strategies that help support social emotional learning, guide behavior, build relationships and decrease stress. Join this webinar the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Click on the link below for more details and the Zoom link.

- [Successful Strategies Teacher Roundtable](#)

Move Up to STAR 2 Cohort

Quality Coach, Dana DeVito, is facilitating this group, open to anyone interested in moving up to STAR 2. The group is meeting virtually to work towards achieving this goal. Click below to see the flyer with more information and the Zoom link.

- [Move Up to STAR 2 Cohort](#)

Quality Coach Monthly Calendar

Print out a copy of the Region 11 Quality Coach Monthly Calendar for a quick reference of all regional support activities. Remember, your Quality Coach has office hours scheduled on the calendar and is available to meet with you and provide any needed supports.

- [Quality Coach Calendar March 2023](#)

Let's Talk Quality- Monthly webinar by the Program Quality Assessors

- [Learning Through Sensory Play](#)

ELRC Updates

CCW updates

Increase in CCW Base Payment Rates!

OCDEL has released [Announcement ELRC23-01](#). This announcement is notification of an increase to base rates paid by PA Department of Human Services (DHS) to certified child care providers participating in Child Care Works (CCW). Base payment rates are also known as the Maximum Child Care Allowance (MCCA). The new MCCA chart is posted [here](#).

If the provider's:

- private pay rates are HIGHER than the newly published MCCA, participating DHS providers will not have to submit a new Appendix C-1. The new rates will automatically be reflected in the payment for March.
- private-pay rate is LOWER than the new MCCA, they will receive the lower of the two rates.
- would like to update their private pay rates, communicate those changes to families and provide verification of the updated child care rates to the ELRC. The updated rate will become effective the first of the month following the date the verification was received by the ELRC.

Registration Fees

Effective **January 1, 2023**, Early Learning Resource Centers began paying a registration fee to DHS certified child care providers for all CCW children at the time of their initial enrollment. Registration fees for newly enrolled children will automatically be added to the provider invoice for the service period in which the enrollment was effective. No further action will be required. **Effective**

January 1, 2023, 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 for a registration fee. (\$75 for centers, \$50 for group/family providers).

Annual Registration Fees - If you charge an annual re-registration fee, the ELRC will pay this registration fee for your CCW enrolled children. This fee must be requested using the following form:

- [Annual Registration Fee Form](#)

Prior to authorizing these annual fees, the ELRC must receive a one-time verification of these charges. This may include a copy of your family handbook or family contract that states all families are charged an annual fee every year.

Please note that the ELRC will not pay any other type of fee such as waitlist fees, field trip fees, etc. If you have any questions, you can click [here](#) to read the full announcement or reach out to your Provider Specialist.

CCW Reminders

- Remember to report all children who are absent more than 5 consecutive days to your provider specialist prior to submitting your invoice.
- If you accept the blended rate, you are receiving a higher reimbursement amount for school age children to account for school closing days, inclement weather and other emergencies. Accommodations must be made to accept CCW school-age children for these full days of care if you have accepted the blended rate. Please reach out to your provider specialist with any questions regarding this expectation.



Work Force Support Grant 1.0 & 2.0

All grant payments have been issued for 1.0 & 2.0 through the ELRC. Please reach out to your Quality Coach with any concerns.

WSG 1.0 Reporting

It is now time to complete this reporting if you have not done so already. Please watch this video on reporting instructions.

<https://www.loom.com/share/990e21ab6aca46789a65ef83a1cfdca9>

If you discover that you have unspent funds, please return your reporting form with the payment to:

Community Services for Children
Attn: Jori Farley
1520 Hanover Ave
Allentown, PA 18109

Work Force Support 2.0

All staff retention funds must be paid out to the staff within 45 days of receipt.

- These funds must be paid out in one lump amount.
- Must be paid through payroll.

Staff recruitment funds may be used on expenses between 7/1/22-6/30/23. Please see your grant application for eligible expenses.

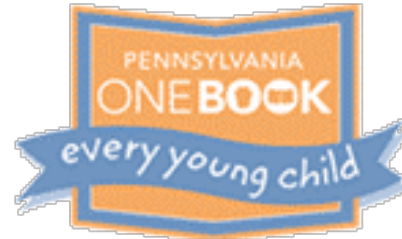
1099

If you have received grant funding or Child Care Works payments from Community Services for Children in 2022, you should have received your 1099. Please reach out to your Provider Specialist with any questions.

PA One Book

Mel Fell by Corey R. Tabor has been named the [2023 PA One Book Early Literacy selection](#).

The Pennsylvania One Book program promotes the value and benefits of reading early and often to preschoolers. PA One Book is a statewide initiative that encourages family engagement through books and offers activities designed to build key language, literacy, and social skills.



Mel Fell, is a triumphant tale of a young bird learning to fly, emphasizing the importance of self-confidence and encouraging children to feel brave. Certified early childhood education programs will be provided with a copy of the book in early 2023. In addition, resources and supporting information will be shared at a later date.

T.E.A.C.H Summer Scholarship

Staff interested in attending college for Summer semesters that begin in May/June 2023 should apply to T.E.A.C.H. now. T.E.A.C.H. applications must be complete and submitted with all required documentation/ information by Friday, April 7, 2023, to be considered for the Summer 2023 semester.

Need More Information? Click [here](#) to for details on eligibility, program requirements and to download a scholarship application.

Questions? Click [here](#) to contact a T.E.A.C.H. Counselor .

Health & Safety



Medicaid and CHIP Renewals

Starting April 1, 2023, Pennsylvania is required by federal law to review Medicaid and CHIP recipients' eligibility every year, which means that recipients must submit a renewal.

It is very important that renewal forms are completed and returned even if nothing has changed. Completing a renewal allows DHS to determine eligibility for MA or CHIP coverage. Coverage will continue for recipients who are still eligible.

There are a few ways for recipients to complete a renewal:

- Complete the forms DHS sends and mail them back in the envelope included in the packet.
- Drop completed forms off at the [local county assistance office \(CAO\)](#).
- Complete the renewal online at dhs.pa.gov/COMPASS.
- Complete the renewal over the phone by calling 1-866-550-4355.

Make sure contact information is correct with DHS. Recipients can opt-in to receive text messages and email alerts about their benefits.

- Visit [COMPASS](#) and log into their My COMPASS Account.
- Use the free [myCOMPASS PA](#) mobile app.
- Call 1-877-395-8930

Oral Health Tip - Please Share with Families

Before visiting a dentist, it is very helpful if a child's parent or guardian completes this form: [Getting to Know Me: Information for Your Child's Dental Office](#). The form gathers information about the child's ability to cooperate during dental visits. It also includes suggestions about approaches that might work best for the child. This information will help the dental office staff understand and meet the child's needs.

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 11](#)

Community Services for Children | elrc11@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

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

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