

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

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

Region 12 Updates

Art Displays



We have really enjoyed displaying artwork from local programs in our regional offices! We are currently seeking providers to sign up to display artwork for the Spring and Summer seasons. Should you be interested in donating art to our Scranton or Stroudsburg offices, please [click here](#) to sign up and contact your Quality Coach!

Professional Development Opportunity - Behavior Management

NEIU 19 will be hosting a professional development event, Teaching Preschool Children with Challenging Behaviors on March 23, 2023!

This two-hour PQAS approved training will focus on social emotional supports, positive behavior interventions, and is open to all staff.

Please [click here](#) for more information and to register now! Please contact Amanda Jacobino at amjacobino@iu19.org or (570) 876-9390 with any questions.

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT





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:

Lane Colburn
acolburn@eepdo.org

Director's Network

February's Directors Network was held on Wednesday, 2/15/23. During this meeting providers were joined by Amy Ellsworth, DHS Certification Supervisor, for a Q&A session regarding certification regulations. We would like to thank Amy for her time and guidance. Thank you to all who attended and submitted questions to guide our conversation with Amy!

Our next Director's Network will be held on Tuesday, 3/14/23 at 1:00 PM. During this meeting we will be discussing how to make staff meetings meaningful and engaging. We hope to see you there!

- [Director's Network](#)

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 12 Provider Supports

Technology Tuesday

Our next Technology Tuesday will be on 3/14/23 at 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM. This month we will be exploring how to engage families using technology! 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,

STAR 2 Movement Cohort

Are you interested in moving to STAR 2 and don't know where to start? Please join our STAR 2 cohort! This cohort is a series of meeting for those interested in moving to STAR 2. You will work together with a group of providers to navigate the Keystone STARS Performance Standards and gather evidence. To join this cohort, please contact Aubryn Wojtkielewicz at aubrynw@cscinc.org or (484) 560-4166.

Director's Boot Camp Returns!

Join Quality Coach, Deb Galloway, for the next Directors' Boot Camp on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, at 1:00 PM! During this session, we will be discussing strategies for proactive leadership. Please register in advance for the session by clicking [here](#) and contact Deb Galloway with any questions at dgalloway@cscinc.org or (610) 763-6263.

Quality Coach Office Days

Quality Coaches are back in the community and looking forward to meeting with you! Should you need assistance with grants, technology or one on one support to achieve your Keystone STARS goals, please call or email your coach to schedule an appointment for an upcoming community day! This month our coaches will be visiting Lackawanna and Monroe counties! Click [here](#) to see our Community Day schedule for March.

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.

Reporting forms for WSG 2.0 will be sent to each provider in March.

1099

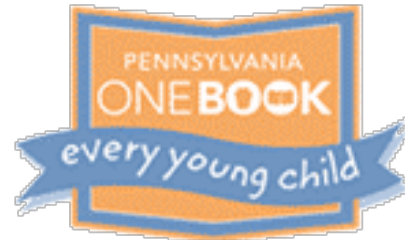
If you have received grant funding or Child Care Works payments from Community Services for Children in 2022, you should have received your 1099. Please reach out to your Provider Specialist with any questions.

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 12](#)

Community Services for Children | elrc12@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

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

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