

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

Serving Bucks County

Region 16 Updates



Bucks County Director Alliance - March 16, 2023

Our special guests this month hail from Western PA! We will welcome Lori McGonigal, Coordinator for Special Projects for the Tuscorora Intermediate Unit and Lindsey Brown, a Family

Child Care Owner from Venango County, who incorporates amazing Farm to ECE activities in her program. They will be presenting activities, information, and resources on CACFP, food tasting, gardening, and Farm to ECE as Spring is right around the corner! Farm to ECE is also a Keystone STARS Bonus Point, so this will be a great opportunity to learn how to incorporate these activities into your program!

March Meeting Registration Link: [Click Here](#)

***Please join our April BCDA Planning Meeting on March 3rd at 11:00. Register through the link at the bottom of the invitation if you plan to attend.

- [BCDA March Invitation](#)
-

RULES, ROUTINES, and the RIGAMAROLE of Classroom Management A Toolkit of Tidbits and Treasures

The Bucks IU Tender Bridges Advisory Council is sponsoring a workshop focusing on the complex nature of classroom management and those children that need extra support. Please see flyer to register.

- [Rules, Routines, and the Rigamarole of Classroom Management](#)
-

Advance your Career Pathway with the ECE PDO at PHMC

The ECE Professional Development Organization (ECE PDO) at PHMC coordinates funded degree and credential pathways for the ECE workforce. The ECE PDO will match you with higher education partners and necessary supports to help you advance on the Career Pathway and achieve your goals. Visit the [ECE PDO at PHMC](#) webpage to complete an inquiry form and begin working towards earning your degree or credential today!

Please use one of the links below to fill out the PDO intake form and one of the coordinators will contact you as soon as possible.

- Click [here](#) for the intake form for employees
- Click [here](#) for the intake form for employers

If you would like to be added to the weekly PHMC PDO newsletter, you can register [here](#). New communications are sent out each Wednesday.

The PDO also sponsors Pediatric First Aid and CPR. You can read recent announcements here: <https://www.pakeys.org/firstaidcpr/>

If you are looking for free CPR, please contact the PDO toll free : **1-877-201-6899**

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 16 Provider Supports

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 March 2023](#)



Quality Coach Community Days

Take some time away from the hustle and bustle of your program and meet up with your Coach! Our Keystone STARS Quality Coaches will once again be available for individual meetings through a virtual or an in person option. Coaches will be available to address questions, concerns, address supports or chat about any need you have! Please see the flyer for the availability of your

coach.

- [Community Day Flyer](#)

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 save flyer for zoom link. Registration not required, just click link to join. **All sessions begin at 1:30 pm.**

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

Dive Deeper into the Keystone STARS Standards

Take a deep dive into the 2022 Keystone STARS Performance Standards where we will review the intent and offer support on evidence to meet the indicators. These VIRTUAL sessions are not mandatory, however, highly suggested for all STAR 2, 3, & 4 directors, and STAR 1 directors looking to move up STAR levels or wanting to incorporate high-quality practices into their program. Register once for each time frame, then attend any sessions you like using the appropriate Zoom link.

[Registration for 10 - 12 pm times](#)

[Registration for 1-3 pm times](#)

- [Dive Deeper - Invitation](#)

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.

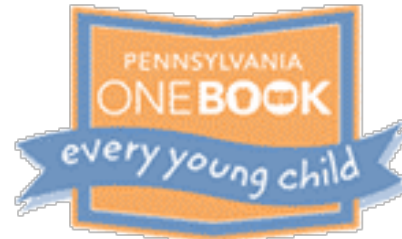
1099

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 16](#)

Community Services for Children | elrc16@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

Connect with us



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

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