CARES Act Funding Task Force Meeting
June 10, 2020
10:30-12:00 PM

Participants:

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<tr>
<td>Dr. Kanesha Bennett, Mississippi Early Childhood Alliance</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Margie Nobles, Pine Belt Childcare Network</td>
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<td>Andrea Sanders, MDHS</td>
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<td>Debbie Ellis, Delta Licensed Providers</td>
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<td>Beverly Peden, Rankin County Director’s Association</td>
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<td>Dr. Chad Allgood, MDHS</td>
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<td>Lori Gloyd, Gulf Coast Child Care Director’s Network</td>
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<td>Gena Puckett, Mississippi Early Childhood Association</td>
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<td>Angela Crockett, MDHS</td>
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<td>Terre Harris, Jackson Association on Children Under Six</td>
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<td>Cora Rogers, Mississippi Grass Roots Coalition for Families &amp; Children</td>
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<td>Laura Dickson, MDHS</td>
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<td>Christi Littlejohn, Northeast Mississippi Early Childhood Association</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Deloris Suel, Childcare Director’s Network Alliance</td>
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<td>Henry Sanders, Volunteer</td>
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<td>Guests: Representative John Hines, Lynne Black</td>
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Agenda:

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Facilitator</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Welcome and Introduction of participants</td>
<td>Andrea Sanders</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45</td>
<td>Overview of CARES Act and allowable expenditures</td>
<td>Laura Dickson</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Discussion of suggested use of CARES Act funds submitted to DECCD</td>
<td>Facilitated by Chad Allgood/Andrea Sanders</td>
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<td>12:00</td>
<td>Adjourn</td>
<td>Andrea Sanders</td>
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Documents: Compilation of suggestions for use of CARES Act funding

Meeting Notes:

- MDHS opened session with welcome from Andrea Sanders and Executive Director, Bob Anderson.
- MDHS questions posed to the group:
  - How many centers have continued to operate?
    - Christi Littlejohn- all open
- Beverly Peden - approximately 1/2
- Margie Nobles - 4 closed, 3 will reopen soon
- Debbie Ellis - all open

- Should payment to centers that are not open continue? If so, for how long?
  - Beverly Peden - all centers need help
  - Lori Gloyd - stop paying at end of month; also concerned about kids on Emergency certificates dropping when they expire; supports extending certificates but with income cap
  - Kanesha Bennett - some centers have orders from above that prevent reopening, possibly institute cutoff date by which a center has to reopen, Deloris Suel agrees
  - General consensus is to ask centers if they plan on reopening to provide funding, but not to those that do not plan on trying to reopen soon

- MDHS provided information on CARES Act funding and possible support strategies for the group to consider. Slides were provided for download in the meeting chat and sent via email to participants.

- Group discussion of needs and concerns was facilitated by Andrea Sanders:
  - Provider suggestions/concerns
    - Gena Puckett - long-term ability of providers to afford to stay open
    - Gena Puckett - programs need assistance to re-open, particularly in restocking food supplies and other necessary items that require payment upfront.
    - Acquisition of PPE, cleaning supplies, thermometers - top problem across the board
      - Collaboration between providers to help find and track PPE vendor - maybe DHS can establish a forum for sharing information. Terre Harris offered to work on a committee to support this effort.
      - Possible solution - sent up fund to repay providers who buy for themselves
      - Terre Harris - Dr. Grace "worked wonders" getting supplies in after Katrina
      - Debbie Ellis - "MLICCI has established a supply chain and I am certain would be willing to help.
      - Lynne Black - "www.shoplet.com is a good place for cleaning and disinfectant supplies reasonably priced."
- Lynne Black- Neutron is a good source for disinfectants, with various products for disinfecting a room, like with a mister.

- Terre Harris- A list of resources/vendors for providers would be helpful. Terre Harris offered to work on a committee to pull this together.

- A discussion of sanitation cabinets was had among the group. ZONO cabinets were discussed, however; it was noted that other options for similar items do exist.

- A discussion of other health and safety equipment was had, including walk-through thermometers and electrostatic cleaners.

- General consensus was that enrollment-based payment was very helpful in terms of supporting child care programs while attendance is low. Group requested that this continue until attendance can be more stable.

- Group members expressed concern from open providers in their area about low attendance. They are trying to stay open, but it is difficult when a fraction of children are in attendance.

- NOTE: Comments from Debbie Ellis were submitted in the chat. Responses were provided verbally by MDHS. Chat transcript of comments submitted for discussion:

  - Long Term and Short Term Considerations we are addressing today as follows: Redeterminations: Cannot provide four consecutive payroll stubs and therefore, families are being terminated from the program and providers are taking that hit as they cannot easily recruit at this time. Summer Care for School Age Children: Providers have generally budgeted for the full time rate for school age children for summer care. At this time, I believe the part time rate is in place. Finally, Child Support: The issue of providing proof that ALL children in the family are cooperating with child support was abolished in past recent months but appears to be reinstated suddenly (?). This, of course, is an undue burden... particularly during a pandemic.

  - Costs for addressing these issues would meet the goal of sustaining programs and restarting the economy in a way that could be closely monitored and evenly distributed throughout communities as block grants are designed to do. Any decision must consider long term SUSTAINABILITY. Will we be able to fund these policies beyond three years??

- Task Force Members consented to continue to meet regularly. Likely on a bi-weekly basis for the immediate future.
The following are a list of suggestions for CARES Act funding that DECCD has received from the public. Please review and share within your network or organization prior to the Task Force meeting on June 10, 2020.

**Topic: Staffing**
- “hazard pay” for staff
- additional staff to meet new ratios
- additional staff to support safe check-in/out procedures
- funding for substitutes
- extend unemployment payments
- training for new employees
- streamlined background checks
- professional development on distance learning platforms, curriculums, social/emotional health, CDC Health and Safety Training
- technical assistance for technology, devices, and CDC Health and Safety

**Topic: Supplies**
- ULV fogging monthly
- Cleaning supplies and PPE
- Commercial cleaning services
- Online storybooks, curriculum, and materials
- Laptops, tablets, etc. for a family lending library
- Educational learning packets for families
- Replacement of soft surfaces
- COVID-19 testing for staff and children

**Topic: Business Support**
- Emergency voucher rate for all certs
- Grants equaling 6 months of revenue
- Internet services
- Reinstitute the TANF Alternative Work Program
- Full pre-COVID tuition and copayment
- Suspend parent redetermination
- Align parent redet with school year
- Enrollment-based payment for emergency certificates
- Provide “good business practice assistance”