



Child Care Taskforce Meeting

December 16th, 2021

Taskforce Members Present:

- Commissioner Clarence Carter (DHS)
- Representative Patsy Hazelwood (virtual)
- Jamie Stitt: Designee for Commissioner Bob Rolfe (DECD)
- Misty Moody: Designee for Commissioner Penny Schwinn (Education)
- Sophia Kostelanetz: Designee for Commissioner Lisa Piercey (TDH)
- Senator Becky Massey
- Phil Acord
- Pat Sheehy
- Chloe Moore
- Blair Taylor
- Ryan Hughes

Staff Present:

- Jude White
- Gwen Laaser
- Eric Dunn
- Dakota Simpson
- Suzanne Carr

Taskforce Members

Absent:

- Representative Patsy Hazelwood (virtual)
- Commissioner Jeff McCord (DLWD)
- Jeremy Biggs

1:06 p.m. Welcome and DoHR Introductions

Commissioner Carter welcomed the group and initiated the roll call. DoHR facilitators Jennifer Harris Brown and Carlos Holmes introduced themselves to the Task Force.

1:11 p.m. DoHR Facilitated Discussion

Jennifer and Carlos asked the group to explain what they wanted to walk away from the day's meeting with:

- Phil Acord: A sense of what the possibilities are and what we can do to make Tennessee the best state in the nation around early childhood development
- Senator Massey: Actionable steps to increase access to childcare and solutions that are user-friendly and consumer-driven
- Jamie Stitt: Elimination of childcare as a reason that some are unable to enter the workforce and collaboration between daycares and companies
- Chloe Moore: Process mapping

Pat Sheehy noted that the objective shouldn't be actionable steps yet but starting at the beginning and adding shape and structure to the problem definition, as well as an inventory of challenges for the future consultant to tackle. Assistant Commissioner Jude White agreed and added that solutions should be built for the future state, not the current state.

Jennifer noted that DoHR has a team that handles process mapping that could help with that process.

1:27 p.m. DoHR Facilitated Activity

Jennifer and Carlos had the Task Force split into two groups and discuss what areas they wanted to prioritize bringing to the consultant.

Group 2:

- Accurate data landscape
- Well-defined deliverables
- Resources and funding streams
- Standard definitions/terminology
- Access
- Quality
- Understanding childcare as a business model/industry
- Affordability
- Business partnerships
- Understanding real supply and demand
- Workforce pipeline

Group 1:

- "State of Is," seeing where gaps in the current system exist
- Defining what access, affordability, and quality are
- Understanding barriers
- "A day in the life" project for the consultant

- Diversity in focus groups (including diversity of urban vs. rural)
- Basic understanding of regulatory landscape
- Recruitment and retention in the childcare industry
- Best practices in other states

3:00 p.m. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next Child Care Task Force meeting will take place on January 20th, 2022.