
Child Care Advisory Council Nominations

The Background:

Due to retirements and resignations there are vacancies on the Child Care Advisory Council. The Child Care Advisory Council was established by the following provision in statute:

T.C.A. § 49-1-302(4) (A) There is established a child care advisory council, which shall advise the state board of education regarding the establishment of child care standards and regulations for child care programs subject to the board's jurisdiction and to act as a hearing tribunal for appeals from actions of the state department of education regarding the certificate of approval issued to child care programs.

(B)(i) The council shall consist of a director of a local school system, a representative of a private, church related school organization as defined in § 49-50-801, a representative from an institution of higher education with expertise in early childhood development, a parent of a child in a child care program, a coordinator of child care programs, a representative of the department of education, a representative from the child care services staff of the department of human services as designated by the state board of education, and four (4) other members as may be designated by the board of education. The council shall fairly represent the racial and ethnic composition of the state. Members shall serve until replaced by the board. The representative of the department of education shall serve as chair of the council until the council elects a chair. The chair shall sign the orders of the council regarding certificate actions taken by the council.

The following advisory council positions need to be filled: director of a local school system, a representative from an institution of higher education with expertise in early childhood development, a representative from the child care services staff of the department of human services, and three of the four members designated by the board of education. The State Board designated the four members represent: School-age Child Care; Preschool; Special Education and state or afterschool enrichment programs (such as Lottery Education Afterschool Programs and 21st Century Community Learning Centers).

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends confirmation of new members to fill the vacancies on consent reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.

Nominations to the Child Care Advisory Council

- Dr. Linda Gilbert, Director of Murfreesboro City Schools
- Linda Venable, Center for Excellence for Learning Sciences TSU
- Hannah Dwyer, parent
- Joyce Turner, Interim Director Child Care Services, Department of Human Services
- Janell Wood, Director Project for Neighborhood Aftercare LEAPS & 21st Century Community Learning Center
- Christie Johnson, Director School-age Child Care, Shelby County Schools
- Heather Higgins, Director First Steps Inc.