

Child Care Safety Portal Ad-Hoc Committee of the Early Learning Council

Charge: The Child Care Safety Portal Ad-Hoc Committee is charged with advising the Early Learning Council on the issues, challenges, and expectations related to providing accurate, timely, and relevant information to parents via the [Child Care Safety Portal](#). This includes, but is not limited to, the federal requirements for posting information in accordance with the Child Care Development Fund.

Specifically, the Committee is charged with delivering recommendations to the Early Learning Council related to the breadth and depth of information included in the portal, how the information is represented, and other considerations for what information is available via the Child Care Safety Portal (CCSP). These recommendations will be delivered no later than November 1, 2019.

Principles: In addition to the principles established by the Committee, the Committee is required to, at minimum, ensure its recommendations take into account the need for the Child Care Safety Portal to provide information that is:

1. Helpful to families
2. Timely and accurate
3. Clear and easy to access
4. Consistent with CCDF requirements
5. Aligned with best practices in child care consumer education
6. Produced in collaboration with partner agencies
7. Balancing privacy and transparency

Committee Structure: The Child Care Safety Portal Ad-Hoc Committee will be chaired by a member of the Early Learning Council. The membership of the Committee will include stakeholders representing the following perspectives and areas of expertise:

- Parents, including a parent who has experienced a tragedy in child care
- Child Care Providers, including a provider who has experienced a tragedy in child care
- Parent Advocacy Organization
- Child Care Resource and Referral Organization
- Local Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Supervisor
- AFSCME Representative
- SEIU Representative
- Local chief/sheriff/police/detective
- District Attorney
- Early Learning Division (ELD) Child Care Director
- Office of Child Care – Licensing
- Office of Child Care – Compliance
- DHS Child Welfare – Field staff
- Legislators (House and Senate)

The Committee will be staffed by the Early Learning Division. The lead staff assigned to the Committee are Angela Rodriguez, Operations and Policy Specialist, and Jason Sloan, System Design Specialist.

The Committee will have access to representatives from the National Quality Assurance Technical Assistance Center and The Consultants Consortium Incorporated (portal vendor) in an advisory capacity. The committee will also have access to Department of Justice attorneys that specialize in child care regulation, privacy, and public records to ensure recommendations align with state and federal laws and regulations.

These meetings will be open to the public and comply with Oregon's public meeting laws. Compensation will be provided for parents and child care providers serving on the committee.

Background: As the agency responsible for administering the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) grant, the Early Learning Division is tasked with, among other things, providing consumer education information to help parents make informed choices about child care. The reauthorization of the Child Care Development Block Grant Act in 2014 and the 2016 CCDF final rule imposed new requirements regarding what information must be included as part of online consumer education resources, including the following specific information that must be posted online:

- Licensing, monitoring, inspection, background check, and exclusion policies
- Information on the availability of child care providers, searchable by zip code
- Quality of child care providers, if available
- Provider-specific monitoring and inspection reports
- Aggregate number of deaths, serious injuries, and substantiated child abuse in child care settings each year for the past three years
- Referral to local child care resource and referral organizations
- Directions on how to contact the Lead Agency to better understand the information on the website

To date, the Early Learning Division's Office of Child Care is meeting these new requirements in a variety of ways. The ELD's consumer education website (www.oregonearlylearning.com) houses the Child Care Safety Portal webpage and facility search tool. Launched in 2017, the CCSP provides online access to information about provider-specific monitoring and inspection visits as well as the aggregate number of deaths, serious injuries, and substantiated child abuse findings in child care settings. By September 30, 2019, the CCSP will include uploads of licensing specialists' monitoring visit reports.

Since initial release of the CCSP, the ELD has encountered challenges related to accuracy of data transfers and an interest in exceeding the CCDF requirements with regards to the specificity and length of time information will be available. The Early Learning Division will soon launch a new licensing data system known as the Early Learning Information System (ELIS). This new system will have implications for the CCSP in a number of ways. ELIS will replace the Child Care Regulatory Information System (CCRIS) as the primary source of data feeding into the portal's facility search tool and will provide reports that allow for portal webpage updates. Additional work is planned to enhance the usability of the portal, including gathering feedback from families about their experiences navigating the ELD's consumer education website, with a special focus on the CCSP. As such, it is an opportune time for the Early Learning Division to receive input from the Early Learning Council and other stakeholders regarding changes to the Child Care Safety Portal to help address some of the challenges in providing information.