Child Care Roundtable

With Congressman Steve Stivers & Senator Stephanie Kunze
Groundwork Ohio’s Mission

To champion high-quality early learning and healthy development strategies from the prenatal period to age five, that lay a strong foundation for Ohio kids, families and communities.
Congressman Steve Stivers
US House District 15

Senator Stephanie Kunze
OH Senate District 16
Pandemic Child Care

- All child care programs forced to close as of March 26, 2020 unless operating under a temporary pandemic child care (TPCC) license.
- TPCC programs can only serve essential workers, have limited teacher to child ratios and classroom sizes (1:6). Families who qualify for PFCC still receive subsidy, but those that don’t are paying full tuition. TPCC program are compensated for enrolled publicly funded children.
- Currently over 2,200 pandemic child care providers serving about 25,000 children.
Child Care Reopening

• Child care reopens May 31
• All child care programs will be allowed to resume operations under pre-pandemic license with new regulations
• Programs will receive pre-pandemic rates for publicly funded kids
• Programs don’t have limitations on who they can serve but teacher to child ratios and classroom sizes will remain lower
• Grant program to help fill the gap between pre-pandemic rates and cost of delivering the service with new assumptions
Responding to Reduced Ratios & Class Size

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<tr>
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<th>Pre COVID-19 Adult : Child Ratios</th>
<th>Post COVID-10 Adult : Child Ratios</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant</td>
<td>1:5 or 2:12</td>
<td>1:4 or 2:6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>1:7 or 2:14</td>
<td>1:6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preschooler</td>
<td>1:12 or 2:24</td>
<td>1:9</td>
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<tr>
<td>School-age</td>
<td>1:18 or 2:36</td>
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These limits on class size AND new adult-to-child ratios means programs will have to reduce their capacity by 30% to 50%. Fewer children can be served in the same space and more staff are required to provide care.
Federal Response to Child Care Crisis

• CARES Act passed in late March and included $3.5 billion in additional funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant Program (CCDBG). Ohio’s allocation is $117,440,585.
  • Pandemic Care
  • Grant Program Upon Reopening
• We are currently advocating for a national investment of $50 billion for child care in the 4th federal stimulus package—the Heroes Act. The House passed bill only included $7 billion.
• Child Care is Essential Act
Ohio Loss of Child Care Capacity

45% of child care supply could be lost in Ohio without your advocacy and intervention.

Children and families need your help!
Today’s Panelists

• Eric Karolak, Action for Children
• Barbara Haxton, The Ohio Head Start Association
• Carol Haynes, Kiddie Academy
• Dawn Blalock, Little Miracles EDC
Eric Karolak
Action for Children
About Action for Children

• Child care resource and referral agency for Central Ohio
  • Franklin, Fairfield, Licking, Union, Delaware, Madison & Pickaway counties

• 9,000 parents & teachers; 50,000+ children
  • info & referral, home visiting, parent coaching
  • professional development, technical assistance
Child Care is Essential

• Not just another business

• It’s vital infrastructure like roads and schools

• Child care sector is strained: as much as 45% of child care in Ohio could be permanently lost

Center for American Progress, April 2020
Temporary Pandemic Child Care

• Closure Order
  – 70% programs closed; 11,700 out of work

• Temporary Pandemic Child Care (TPCC)
  – March 26 – May 31, 2020, essential workers
  – Necessary changes in ratios, group size, cleaning & disease prevention requirements
Pandemic Child Care Lessons

• One-third of providers stepped up to serve essential workers
  – Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC) participating
  – Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) rated programs
  – Family Child Care

• Investments in subsidy, quality, and across all settings paid a dividend in this crisis
Pandemic Child Care Lessons

• Outlook is challenging and current situation is unsustainable
  – 1 in 5 TPCC closed or never provided care
  – Quit rate: Centers 3x > Family Child Care

• Too few children enrolled at prevailing tuition yields not enough revenue to cover increased costs.

Read Pandemic Child Care: Lessons from Central Ohio
Pandemic Child Care Lessons

• Protect state investments in children and in the infrastructure of child care
  – Child care subsidy (PFCC)
  – Step Up To Quality (SUTQ)

• Expand federal support for child care to the $50 billion level recommended by national experts
There are 60 providers of Head Start and Early Head Start in Ohio, serving all 88 counties.

2020 Funding stands at $376,457,370 for 27,632 preschool children and 6,055 Infants and toddlers in Early Head Start.

Of those, 1,366 are in Early Head Start / Child Care Partnerships.

HEAD START PROGRAMS SERVE OVER 4,700 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.
Head Start grantees in Ohio partner with ODJFS to provide PFCC to 3,305 children

- Eleven Head Start grantees have EHS/CCP grants that serve 1,366 infants and toddlers in partnership with local child care providers, AND
- Twenty-eight grantees partner with the Ohio Department of Education and serve 3,037 children in the public-school preschool model.
Head Start programs in Ohio serve a major population of at-risk children and provide the intervention services unique to Head Start.

• Head Start is not child-care, it is considerably more and serves to provide a major support system and education foundation for our nation’s most vulnerable children and their families. Each program – Head Start and Child Care have a unique and meaningful purpose.
Head Start just celebrated its 55th birthday!

The program has survived ten different administrations and 8 Congressional reauthorizations. There are a wide range of reasons for the program’s success.
The Comprehensive services provided each child
The intense two generation approach to services
The Compassionate Partnership developed between parents and staff

• The ongoing focus on cognitive development
• The commitment and belief in the program AND
• The way the program is funded
The Impact of Covid-19

Carol Haynes, RN, MS, NP
President & Owner

Kiddie Academy®
Educational Child Care
Our Story…

- 2011: Kiddie Academy of Reynoldsburg
- 2012: Creative Explorers Latchkey
- 2016: Kiddie Academy of Reynoldsburg Tusking
- 2017: Kiddie Academy of Hilliard
- 2020: Kiddie Academy of Downtown Columbus

March 2020 COVID-19 IMPACT
Financial Impact & Implications

The Business Model

Drivers of Cost
- Ratios
- Utilization
- Teachers Wages and Benefits
  - Rent/ Mortgage
  - Costs/Taxes/Insurance
  - Administrative Costs
  - Classroom Materials and Food Costs

Capacity & Access to care for families
Our Center Based Workforce...

Cost of new routines- Increase of 3 FTE’s tied to pick-up and drop off.

32 Additional Staff d/t increase in the number of groups

($12.24 \times 1.35 \times 40\text{hr} \times 52\text{wk} \times 32\text{ staff})

$1,099,837.44

Caregiver Fatigue & Stress/Training Costs
Restoring Caregiver Confidence

Web Visits

Inquiries
Covid-19 Issues related to Center-based Staff, Children and Access to PPE...

-Social distancing is known to prevent the spread of COVID-19

“Transmission of coronavirus mainly occurs via respiratory droplets generated during breathing, talking, coughing and sneezing. These droplets can directly infect the respiratory tracts of other people if there is close contact.”

(Safe working in education, childcare and children’s social care)

QUESTION??
Contact Information

Carol Haynes, RN, MS, NP
carol.haynes@kiddieacademy.net
(614) 309-9026
Dawn Blalock
Little Miracles EDC
History of Little Miracles EDC

- We have been servicing Franklin, Fairfield, & Licking county and as well surrounding counties for over 17 years.

- **Open 5am to 12am (midnight) Monday through Friday.**

- Currently operating as a pandemic site

- Location only affords us the opportunity to serve PFCC students.
Breakdown of Teachers Pay

$10.95 per hour

• Prior to the Pandemic; after taxes, teachers salary is around $1400 per month.

• The typical tenure for Childcare teachers is less than 1 year.

• Average hourly wage is valued the same as a fast food employees.

• With unemployment and additional $600 per week, employees are unwilling to return

• We can not compete with companies that are raising their salaries and including hazardous pay.
We are asking Teachers to return to work for less pay than unemployment.

Teachers will come back working harder re-teaching skills their students had developed prior to the pandemic such as number recognition, writing, or even potty training.
Pandemic Program

Guidelines

• We are currently operating as a pandemic program
  • First payment was 7 weeks later

• New guidelines of lower ratios has reduced our class sizes in half.

• Our program was servicing 90 students and now with the pandemic ratios we can only serve 60 students.
  • 30 students displaced
  • Split families and friends apart
Financial Effect of Maintaining High Quality Program

With Post-pandemic ratios decreasing our weekly payout

• How do we maintain highly educated teachers without any financial incentives for them?

• How do we continue to stay in business when the cost of living has increased dramatically over the years?

• How many additional centers need to open this year to account for the many children that have been displaced?
So what can we do to help maintain High Quality Child Care Centers & make the Childcare Workforce a more Respected Profession?
Childcare Workforce
Opportunity Suggestions

• $50 Billion Increase for CCDBG

• Increase Reimbursement Ceiling Rates

• Adequate Compensation for Child Care Professionals

• Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

• Sustained State Support
Recovery Principles & Policy Considerations

Laying the Groundwork for Strong Kids and a Strong Economy During COVID-19 Recovery

As we seek more answers to so many yet-to-be-asked questions about the coronavirus pandemic and its impacts on childhood success, we remain vigilant to these shared values that guide our important work. Groundwork is committed to Ohio recovery that leaves no one behind by building a stronger foundation for our youngest and most vulnerable children and their families.

Apply the Science of Early Childhood Development

The next months will make or break our response to COVID-19 pandemic. The basics principles of neuroscience indicate that early intervention is more efficient and produces more favorable outcomes than remediation later in life. Brain is built most rapidly with 80% of brain development occurring by the age of 3 and 90% by the age of 5. These early experiences, which occur before intervention, impact lifelong success and well-being. All children in all communities will be disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, just as there needs a commitment to protecting all children from contracting and eliminating the virus. We must also accept the reality that the economic impact of the pandemic falls disproportionately upon these vulnerable populations of children. Additional policy shifts, without consideration of equity, neglecting the importance of child learning systems and could exacerbate both the inequities brought by the virus and those historically present within our state systems prior to the pandemic.

Groundwork will continue to insist that policymakers and stakeholders apply what we learn from past policies and use that knowledge to prevent the exacerbation of inequities, and work to eliminate them.

Tackle Equity Squiresly

Race, rural geography, age, gender, and physical and emotional ability, among other social factors, play a disproportionate role in the gaps that emerge early and persist throughout the lifespan. These gaps wider for vulnerable children and families. Therefore, playing policies that build on existing strengths and communities will be disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Just as there needs to be a commitment to protecting all children from contracting and eliminating the virus, we must also accept the reality that the economic impact of the pandemic falls disproportionately upon these vulnerable populations of children. Additional policy changes, without consideration of equity, neglecting the importance of child learning systems and could exacerbate both the inequities brought by the virus and those historically present within our state systems prior to the pandemic.

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Demand Accountability through Timely Data

We use data to determine needs, measure outcomes, and evaluate impact. Our ability to quantify line and measure the progress and impact of policies in real time is a result of COVID-19 the system. Access to timely and accurate data is essential for policymakers, planning and providing the best possible outcomes for children, families, and communities. These data also help us shape our response and the role of child learning systems and informed that capacity to produce real-time analysis. Other limitations include the basic understanding and variant lack of commitment to transparency, especially as it remains negotiated populations. Failure to respond required to address COVID-19 may inhibit our ability to thoughtfully evaluate policy change.

Groundwork will continue to work with policymakers and administrators on reliable access to available data. We use data to inform policy recommendations, and will work to quantify and measure success of any policy proposal using thoughtful data.

Provide a Systems Framework

COVID-19 shines a light on both the strengths and weaknesses of Ohio's early care and education system. As the state seeks to recover from the inevitable loss of quality capacity in many of its systems serving young children, every opportunity to drive the foundation of these systems towards "better" or "stronger" over the coming months and years must be seized. We are here to provide that opportunity. Groundwork will work to push policies that support the state's efforts to lift up children and the adults who care for them.

Groundwork will continue to support policies that focus on preventing trauma and cultivating the right environment to support healthy development and thriving success and meet and meet the needs of young children.

Complex Considerations for the Recovery of Ohio’s Essential Child Care System

Groundwork Ohio

COVID-19 Child Care Considerations

Governor DeWine has made an incredible effort over the past weeks to protect the public health, support the health systems that are needed to fight COVID-19, address the severe economic impact on many businesses, and set the stage for a swift economic recovery. Child care is essential for every one of these efforts. In fact, none of them can happen without a well functioning child care system.

But the past several weeks have exposed even more broadly the fundamental weaknesses in our child care system that many families, early educators and employers have experienced over the past decades. We recognize this system must adapt to meet this crisis and continue providing essential support to children, families and the state’s economy. After all, high-quality child care is the foundation on which all other industries rely.

There is no quick fix or easy solution for Ohio’s child care system as we move into the recovery period of the COVID-19 pandemic. Child care requires investment, time, attention and creativity to get through this crisis and help our state get back on feet.

Recognizing the complexity of Ohio’s child care system and the unique needs of young children and families, Groundwork envisions the state and its stakeholders to consider all must cross-sectional strategies to support this child care system and continue providing essential support to children, families and the state’s economy. After all, high-quality child care is the foundation on which all other industries rely.

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The following issues for consideration create a foundation for state-wide family health-and-safety re-establishing of child care programs:

- **Keep kids at the top of the agenda.** It has been communicated that children often carry the virus but are not contracting the virus at the same rate as older adults and have a lower risk of complications if found to be positive for COVID-19. Additionally, the decisions around group sizes in child care settings have been motivated by reducing community spread to other children. While we would not argue with the best available evidence and medical science on this topic, this message should not undermine the state’s duty to protect children for the sake of protecting children from the virus. Additionally, perpetuating this message without adequately balancing it with the fact that children are being harmed deeply.

www.GroundworkOhio.org
Groundwork Ohio is Your Child Care Resource

- Subscribe to our newsletter and view COVID-19 updates at www.GroundworkOhio.org
- Contact Lynanne Gutierrez at (614) 204-6106 or lgutierrez@groundworkohio.org
THANK YOU!

The recording and resources shared will be available at www.GroundworkOhio.org/covid19webinars later today!