



# preschool PROMISE

August 12, 2021

Thank you for joining us at our Directors Forum today. If you weren't able to attend, we hope this recap is helpful. We're also sharing the slides that were shown in today's presentations.

## **See you next time on Thursday, November 4th**

### **From Sara Colyer, 4C for Children**

- 4C is moving to a new location — 2213 Arbor Boulevard, Moraine, OH 45439.
- 4C is starting a new CDA cohort in October. If interested, you must attend one of the following two orientation sessions: Tuesday, Sept. 7 from 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. or Tuesday, Oct. 5 from 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.
- 4C's conference this year — [Grow the Good, Sow the Seeds of Optimism](#) — will be held Oct. 22 and 23. There will be virtual and in-person options.

### **From Lauren Muran, 4C for Children**

- 4C is eager to work with 1-Star and 2-Star programs interested in increasing their Star Rating. Reach out to [Lauren](#).
- A menu of Ohio-approved trainings is available at the [Preschool Promise web site](#).

### **From Dr. Laurie Dinniebiel, Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence**

- The Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence is dedicated to fostering high quality inclusive child care for children with disabilities.
- It provides resources for early learning professionals at [www.cycsuite.org](http://www.cycsuite.org). All of the learning modules, which can be completed online at your convenience, are Ohio-approved.
- Laurie recommended "We can do this right where we are" – an introduction to evidence-based models that support inclusion. This module takes 75 minutes to complete; participants receive 1 hour of Ohio-approved credit.
- OCALI also offers certification on working with toddler and preschoolers on the autism disorder spectrum.
- Find seminars focusing on children from birth to 3 at [www.cycseminars.org](http://www.cycseminars.org).
- This year's OCALIONLINE conference is Nov. 16-19. There will be sessions related to children with all manner of disabilities — not just autism.
- OCALI also supports families of children with disabilities — not just educators. Please tell your families about the organization.
- Another valuable resource is the [Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center](#). Its resources are in English and Spanish and include performance checklists. Its trainings are not Ohio-approved. Training topics include arranging your classroom, how to modify centers and make adaptations, and helping families build their capacity. There also are trainings around instructional practice, including practice guides for teachers and families.

### **From Mindy Kowalski, Assistant Deputy Director at The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services**



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Ohio has raised the eligibility limit for receiving PFCC to 142% of the Federal Poverty Level.

- The eligibility cutoff for children with disabilities has been increased to 150% of the Federal Poverty Level, up from 130% of FPL.
- To be a PFCC provider, programs must sign a provider agreement and participate in *Step Up to Quality*.
- Children can qualify for PFCC support until age 13 — up to age 18 if the child has a disability.
- See Mindy's presentation notes for additional information about receiving enhanced PFCC reimbursement for children with disabilities. [Powerpoint here.](#)

## **From Esther Borders, Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities Services**

Esther shared that the Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities is eager to support your children with disabilities.

Contact Esther at [eborders@mcbdds.org](mailto:eborders@mcbdds.org) or 937-918-2132.

The agency can provide coaching. Click here to see the [pamphlet](#).

## **From Trentae Taylor and Kelly Paull, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services**

- **Transitional Pandemic Child Care Rules**-While programs are no longer required to follow transitional pandemic child care requirements, they should follow all guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Please use the following link to access updates and information; [COVID-19 Guidance for Operating Early Care and Education/Child Care Programs \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- **Temporary Pandemic School Age Child Care Centers**-Programs with this type of license ended June 30<sup>th</sup>. If providers want to continue caring for children, they must submit an application and complete the application process in order to resume care.
- **Budget Updates**- The 2025 requirement to be highly rated and the benchmarks have been removed. A committee is being established to evaluate PFCC and SUTQ. Eligibility for PFCC is being increased to 150% for special needs children and 142% for all families.
- **Technical Assistance (TA) Calls/Visits**-In light of pandemic challenges, licensing specialists were unable to complete technical assistance visits the past year. We will resume TA this fiscal year. If your specialist contacts you to set up a TA call/visit, please take advantage of the opportunity to help maximize compliance with licensing rules and SUTQ program standards.
- **Administrator Rules Training**-In order to meet the high demand for administrators who need to complete the rules review course, we will be offering more part 2 sessions between August and December. Please be sure to check the OPR weekly to register for a session. Please don't register for more than one session. If you are unable to attend the session in which you have registered to attend, be sure to cancel your registration if you are unable to join the training. The invitation/appointment to join the training in Microsoft Teams is sent via email (the email address associated with your registry profile). The invitation/appointment will be sent 2-7 days prior to the training date.
- **Five Year Licensing Rule Review**- Be on the lookout for the two five-year rule review packages due later this year. Review them carefully and reach out to licensing staff if there are any questions about changes or new requirements.



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- **Professional Development (PD) Certificate**-According to the trainings verified in the Ohio Professional Registry (OPR), you have at least one employee in a Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) role (Administrator, Lead Teacher, or Assistant Teacher) that requires a Professional Development (PD) Certificate who did not obtain their PD Certificate for the last biennium ending June 30, 2021. As a result, your program's SUTQ rating is in jeopardy of being removed. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, an extension for applicable staff to obtain their PD Certificate is being granted. In order to maintain your SUTQ rating, the employee(s) who did not meet the PD Certificate requirement are required to obtain their PD Certificate for the current biennium by Sunday, October 10, 2021. Your first action should be to confirm all employees for your program are current employees and have the correct roles. If there are any employees linked to your program who are no longer employed, unlink them from your program. If the professional has multiple OPR profiles, that may also affect the PD Certificate and the OPR will need to be corrected. For questions regarding the OPR, contact the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association at 1-877-547-6978. For questions regarding the SUTQ standards, contact the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Child Care Policy Help Desk at 1-877-302-2347, option 4.
- **Dayton Field Office Staff Changes**-Five licensing specialists retired in our office from July 2020 to June 2021 (Michele Miller, Chris Peterson, Sharon Shelton, Cathy Linqvist, and Susan Purvis). We have hired three new specialists, Carlie Bennett, Nicole Vadnais, and Steffani Roberts. We are in the process of hiring two more new specialists.
- **Hero Pay**- In December 2020, Congress passed the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021. The Act provided Ohio with funding to help support the child care workforce. Early childhood professionals who worked in an eligible role at a child care center, type A home or type B home licensed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) may be eligible to receive Hero Pay.
- **One-Time Pandemic Support Payments**- Child care programs may be eligible for financial support to help with operation expenses related to impacts of COVID19. Applications were not required, and payment processing began the week of July 19<sup>th</sup>.
- **Child Care Newsletter**-Volume 9 of the newsletter was issued July 2021
- **Updated Guidance Documents, Rules, FAQ's, and Resources**-Post-Pandemic Guidance for Child Care Centers, Family Child Care Homes, In-Homes Aides, and Day Camps was updated August 6, 2021.
- Here are some handouts that would have been shared.
  - [Search for Ohio Approved \(OA\) Trainings](#)
  - [Hero Pay](#)
  - [One-Time Pandemic Support Payment: Child Care Centers](#)
  - [Post-Pandemic Guidance for Child Care Centers](#)

## **From Ashley Marshall, Preschool Promise**

- Preschool Promise is working diligently to enroll children. If you have concerns about an application, call us at 937-329-2700.
- Programs will soon begin receiving monthly reports detailing which students are fully enrolled.
- Families will begin receiving their free monthly Play Boxes, Book-of-the-Month and postcards in September.



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- Thanks to the City of Dayton’s generous support, Preschool Promise can now enroll 3-year-olds living in Dayton or the Dayton Public School District boundaries. If a family has a question about whether their residence qualifies them, call 937-329-2700.
- Preschool Promise’s STAR Attendance initiative will be available this school year to Dayton families.
- If you hire a staff member after the mandatory kick-off meetings have been held, please share the Quality Menu with your new employee, explain our professional development opportunities (including stipends) and the Promise Stipend. All of this information is available at [PreschoolPromise.org](http://PreschoolPromise.org).
- You also can encourage new hires to take the workshop, 1st Year Mentoring and Onboarding, which will be held in-person on Saturday, Sept. 11 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. The workshop will be held virtually on the following Fridays — Sept. 10, 17, and 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.