



Wisconsin Child Care Advisory and Recommendation Exchange (WI-CARE)

October 7, 2025
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Attendees

Attended	First and Last Name	Location	Attended	First and Last Name	Location
	Annette Willburn	Milwaukee	X	Kishaunda Ransaw	Milwaukee
X	Bianca Hill	Milwaukee	X	Leighton Cooper	Milwaukee
X	Carol Jackomino	Rhineland	X	Liz Tittle	Little Chute
X	Cassie Koch	Madison	X	Lynda Nelson	Middleton
X	Christine Larson Salerno	Milwaukee	X	Margarita Ugalde	Madison
X	Corrine Hendrickson	New Glarus	X	Rose Catlett	Middleton
X	Courtney Zwick	New Glarus	X	Ryann Counce Barnes	Milwaukee
X	Cynthia Reineking	La Crosse		Sarah Smith	Menomonee Falls
X	Jay Martinez	Green Bay	X	Sheri Bishop	Pulaski
X	Jen Kalis	Onalaska	X	Suzette Mayotte	Ashland
X	Joahna Shelton	Spooner	X	Tammy Dannhoff	Oshkosh
X	Jolynn Wendt	Arcadia	X	Thanh Bui-Duquette	Eau Claire
X	Jose Martinez	Milwaukee	X	Tricia Peterson	Juneau
X	Kahlila Fennel	Milwaukee	X	William Hill	Milwaukee

DCF Staff: Andrea Cammilleri (tech/notes), Daria Hall (facilitator/notes), Danielle Karnopp (Q&A), Terra Klein (Q&A), Laura Knott (Q&A), Cassidy Peterson (tech), Nicole Schneider (Q&A)

Meeting Notes

12:00 – 12:15 **Welcome, Appreciation for Departing Members, Introducing New Members, Meeting Norms, Last Meeting's Outcomes**

*Daria Hall, Policy Initiatives Advisor
DCF Division of Early Care and Education*

Notes: Daria acknowledged departing and new members, read through the meeting norms and meeting agenda, and shared a recap of ideas that members shared about the topic of Business Information Form updates.

12:15 - 12:55 WI-CARE Year In Review, Reflection & Enhancements Discussion

*Daria Hall, Policy Initiatives Advisor
DCF Division of Early Care and Education
+ All WI-CARE Members*

The facilitator presented an overview of the topics that each bureau within the Division of Early Care and Education brought to WI-CARE over the last year. She then shared updates on what has been implemented within these topic areas and which items are still in progress. The following topics and updates were featured for each bureau.

Bureau of Early Care Regulation:

- **Online Licensing Applications:** The Expression of Interest form, Licensing and Certification initial applications, and Continuation applications went live in 2024-25. Pre-Licensing, relocation, adding locations for existing providers, changing regulation types, and board of directors updates are planned for the future. Initial data shows that in 2023, it took an average of 85 days to process an initial licensing application, and in 2025, it is down to 41 days.
- **Child Care Finder Changes:** When this goes live at the end of October, the landing page will be more user-friendly, reports will show all rules that were monitored during a visit instead of just the ones that resulted in a violation, and it will have icons showing serious/repeat violations for the provider. Finally, WI-CARE's request to show the closure dates for temporary closures will be implemented.
- DCF is continuing to work on **Licensing/Certification rules and the time-out policy.**

Bureau of Child Care Subsidy Administration:

- **Wisconsin Shares Subsidy Estimator:** language updates recommended by WI-CARE were implemented to clarify options for reporting income and multiple income sources for families using the tool.
- **Subsidy Usage Policy:** Shifting to full-time/part-time calculations instead of hourly attendance led to an increase in Voluntary Payment Agreements and a large amount of subsidy dollars not getting into the field. Effective Oct. 1, parents/caregivers are encouraged to use all authorized subsidy funds to pay the provider, even if it is above the provider's billed amount. Providers can also keep all subsidy funds, even if they exceed the billed amount.

Bureau of YoungStar:

- DCF is continuing to explore how staff skills and knowledge can be measured, and how to incorporate non-credit education and years of experience into **YoungStar Staff Qualifications**.
- **YoungStar Stabilization Pilot:** In response to feedback about the challenges of staff turnover and education requirements, DCF is launching the [YoungStar Rating Stabilization Pilot](#), which will run from November 1, 2025 to November 1, 2027.
 - Staff qualifications will be reviewed once a year—at your rating and again on your staff education verification date (typically your rating anniversary).
 - Your rating will not go down during that year due to staffing changes.
 - Your rating can still go up at any time if staff qualifications improve.
 - Ratings (and any changes) will continue to take effect on the first day of the following month.

Bureau of Operations and Planning:

- Provider Portal enhancement ideas have been added to our list of prioritized updates and will be implemented when funding/IT resourcing is available
- We are still discussing feedback from the September meeting about changes to the Business Information Form

Discussion Questions:

1. **What are your reactions to the ways your feedback has been incorporated at DCF?**
 2. **Do you like how WI-CARE operates? Is there anything we could do better in our second year? Is there anything we should make sure to continue?**
- **Are the alternating Tuesday/Friday mid-day meeting times still working for you?**

Discussion Notes:

- I'm excited and amazed to see the drop in licensing application processing time.
- A new member shared: Obviously, there is meaningful recommendations and impact coming out of this group. This gave me a great snapshot of the ways the ideas were shared. It means there is value in our feedback and input and I love that we can see how it is incorporated into each of the bureaus. I noticed that each of these bureaus had some topics for discussion. Is that intentional to find out if each bureau director has topics they want to bring for feedback, and each has an opportunity to come to talk to us?
 - **DCF Facilitator:** Yes, that is exactly how it works. Some of our efforts are required but we still have some choices around how we implement them so your

feedback is valued. Other projects we bring here to discuss are things we want to do based on what providers tell us, and you can help shape them.

- I appreciate the small group discussions and hearing perspectives from a diverse group of providers. The online licensing application that rolled out this summer was really nice for us, especially when we have multiple centers that need to be renewed at the same time, and don't have to print all the materials out and mail them to the bureau.
- I'm thankful that we gave the input and it was implemented so quickly. It's usually not expected that that happens. I'm also very appreciative of the online application form vs. paper. It's so wonderful hearing the upcoming changes with YoungStar, especially for some of the child care centers who have staff turnover and that affects their YoungStar rating month to month. That is just huge. Thank you so much for all you have done.
- I feel heard! Many times when you think about giving input at a level like this you are never sure what change may or may not happen. Your honest update of where things are, including if you are still reviewing information, is greatly appreciated.
- For me Friday mid day meetings would work better. However, I could meet on Tuesdays as well. Thank you for all that you do to support families, children and the early childhood staff.
- Thank you for taking our feedback seriously and creating WI-CARE, and then doing what you say you will. That doesn't always happen and it is appreciated when it does. It shows that DCF has integrity and is doing the best they can and truly listening to us.
- My schedule work best if there is a consistent day of the month instead of alternating.
- Noon works well any day.
- Alternating Tues/Friday works for me. I like that you let us know before the meeting what we will be talking about.
- Noon on both days work better for me. 11:00am is busier with lunch.
- Time and our rotating days works for me. As a solo in home provider, noon is perfect, kids are down for nap and I'm able to focus on the meeting.
- The content is thoughtfully planned. Reminders are appreciated. The current days/times work well.
- I appreciate the advanced notice on topics. It helps to be able to process it and be ready to speak.
- I think we could potentially skip the expectations part in detail at the beginning of each meeting.
- Being new, I am impressed with WI-CARE, it's nice to know we are being heard. Days for meetings are good but 12:30 would be better--I'll make whatever time work, though!
- The schedule works well for me, as long as we schedule out the way we have over the last year.
- I want as many collaboration opportunities and discussions as possible. Tuesday Talks does not allow that so it is nice when we can speak together in smaller groups.
- I enjoy the small groups and the opportunity to share in that setting. We are able to bounce ideas off each other more than when we discuss in the large group setting.

- As always, I want to see more trainings in Spanish, especially CPR offered more regularly in Spanish.

Action Items:

- Members want to have small group interactive discussions as often as possible.
- DCF should be sure to provide advance notice of the topics we will be discussing and send meeting reminders.
- Most members were open to continuing the same meeting days/times.
- Continue to work on offering more trainings in Spanish, especially more regular offerings of CPR training.

11:55 – 12:00 **Wrap-Up, Public Comment and Next Steps**
Daria Hall, Policy Initiatives Advisor
DCF Division of Early Care and Education

Notes

- Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 5 at 12:00 p.m. to discuss Revising the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards.

English

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Spanish

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