



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

December 10, 2024

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

### Attendees

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

**DCF Staff:** Julieta Atkins (notes), Andrea Cammilleri (tech), Daria Hall (facilitator), Cailey Jamison (presenter), Pirkko Moilanen (project team), Samantha Weishan (notes)

### Meeting Notes

**12:30 - 12:35pm**      **Welcome, Reminder of Meeting Norms**  
*Daria Hall, Policy Initiatives Advisor*  
*DCF Division of Early Care and Education*

**Notes:** Daria shared a recap of ideas that members shared about the Child Care Finder and Foundational Training Courses in our Nov. 22 meeting and read through the meeting norms. Members were invited to share something about their program.

**12:35 - 1:20pm**      **Wisconsin Shares Subsidy Estimator Presentation & Discussion**  
**Presentation & Discussion**  
*Cailey Jamison, Child Care Modernization Lead*  
*DCF Division of Early Care and Education*  
+  
*All WI-CARE Members*

**Discussion Notes:**

Cailey gave an overview of the tool and shared the link to the Subsidy Estimator tool for providers to explore. A new Federal rule requires DCF to publish consumer education related to the costs families can expect to pay while using child care subsidy. That is the purpose of the new online tool.

**What is your general reaction to the Subsidy Estimator tool? What specific details would you change or improve?**

- Do you have a document that shows the average price of child care per age group by county for WI?
  - The CCR&Rs have all of that, some of them publish it on their websites, some you have to ask. That is what the BIF forms are used for.
  - The 2024 Market Rate Survey includes average prices by region, but not by county: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/publications/pdf/5793.pdf>
- For providers who are not planning on accepting subsidy would there be a way to state that in the notification if a family selects them for an estimate?
- We don't offer part time care under age 2 so it's confusing to have it show any rate. I believe we have this noted in the Provider Portal but that might be complex to have this tool respond to every provider's policy like that.
  - At our center, we don't offer part time under two either, but a part time family could choose to pay full time for a part time spot. Could you just enter her full time rate as her part time rate?
- Total family income needs an option to enter 2 different income earners.
- I was playing around with the web link you gave us and I really liked the functions. Wondering if you could add in a question regarding child support. I think in so many cases this is a deciding factor in most of my parents' determination of them receiving county assistance. I'm not sure if we are relooking at the cost of living and wages again as they keep changing. I feel we are missing the families who are barely surviving.
- I also wish we as providers received more information on what they are getting each month to help them plan out what they need to pay each week for their copay. We do our best now, but I do feel in most cases I have to help these families a little more to remind them to pay their invoices weekly.
- The tool said 'The income you enter here may not be the total income that is counted for eligibility'—there are some obvious other types of income I can think of like child support or some parents receive pay for being in the service. Can you provide any other examples? It would be only income-related correct?
  - Yes, some examples include state and federal tax refunds, overpayment collections that are withheld from Social Security, unemployment compensation or payments from other programs that don't base their eligibility on income and assets.

- That's a great idea of breaking down the estimator prompts to include "other income" types and list them, that way a family is well informed if they even qualify, so breaking it down into wages, child support, etc. and the family can play with this to see the best case scenario before they apply.
- More clarification on the family's weekly and monthly income and more clarification on what the parents' out-of-pocket cost is as well as clear idea if the subsidy calculation is monthly or weekly.
- The 2nd sentence "either enter an hourly or monthly amount" can easily be skipped if a fast reader/skimmer. Adding "hourly/monthly" into the 1st sentence would be helpful: "What is your total hourly/monthly family income?"
- I'm loving this idea! I'm curious how accurate a self employed parent's estimate would be?
- I like the estimator and am wondering if there is going to be an app as this is a great way to let families know how this could really help them if they qualify.
  - We don't have any current plans to make it into an app but it is designed to be mobile friendly.
- Is the YoungStar level 4-5 payment difference reflected here or is that only for the center or provider to know?
  - Another provider responded, "We don't have to share the bonus with families."
  - DCF: It is not reflected. The only thing in the tool is the amount that will be potentially loaded to the family's EBT card. The quality dollars go directly to the provider, not the family.
- Change 'Add Childcare Need' to something like 'Add Another Child.'
- Worked great. Not ideal for certified family child care providers to show up in this tool.
- Do children with special needs get higher rates? Is that in this system?
  - No, they qualify for Wisconsin Shares through a separate process based on Birth to Three participation.
  - There is a form that the parent fills out, that you also fill out and they give to their county person. But not in general for children with special needs except the rate bump in Child Care Counts. The form is here: #2976:  
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/forms>
- I would be happy to see a standard Wisconsin Shares rate for all families without focusing on what families make nor what a provider charges for childcare service. I hope someday that would be an option. I believe that would be a great benefit to all families. It would be an amount set aside for each family.

The subsidy estimator is scheduled to go live in early 2025.

#### Action Items:

- Consider adding a notification for provider who does not plan to accept subsidies.

- Determine how to handle prices for providers who do not offer part time care for a particular age group.
- Work on ways to offer more information to providers about the subsidy amounts families receive so they can help them with planning for their co-payments.
- Consider providers' ideas for clarifying the income section.
- Display total out-of-pocket cost on the screen.
- Offer the ability to compare total cost for multiple providers.
- Reconsider wording of 'Add Childcare Need,' perhaps to something like 'Add Another Child.'
- Continue to pursue increased eligibility for and access to Wisconsin Shares for more families across the state.

**1:20 – 1:30pm      Brainstorm Topics for Tuesday Talks, Wrap-Up and Next Steps**

*Daria Hall, Policy Initiatives Advisor*

*DCF Division of Early Care and Education*

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*All WI-CARE Members*

**Discussion Notes:**

Daria provided information about Tuesday Talks:

- Information and updates about policies and programs that DCF oversees or that we collaborate on/fund
- Monthly webinar—third Tuesday of each month
- Recorded and available afterwards
- Average attendance ~ 180
- Examples of recent topics:
  - Child Care Counts and ARPA Wrap-Up
  - Wisconsin Shares and Child Care Foundational Training
  - Early Childhood Inclusion and Wisconsin Wayfinder
  - Child Care Supply and Demand Survey
  - Background Check Updates
  - YoungStar Analysis and Listening Sessions

**What topics would you like to hear about in Tuesday Talks webinars in 2025?**

- Emergency notification systems: for example, lock downs, shelter in place, evacuation... all the same things public schools have that certified providers are not included in.
- Highlight the additional resources that WEESN has and how much support they offer to providers, make sure providers are aware of it.
- Importance of the Provider Portal, why it is important, how it gets used-tips and tricks, upcoming changes, reminders of keeping provider details up to date.

- Updated Wisconsin Communicable Disease Chart.
- More consolidated documents, highlighted programs, a hub with resources for people interested in being certified.
- How to do a budget--it doesn't come naturally to everyone.
- Contracts: what is required, what is optional.

**Action Items:**

- Consider the potential Tuesday Talks topics listed above.

Next meeting January 10 at 11:00am to discuss the YoungStar Analysis and Update of Staff Qualifications.

**English**

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**Spanish**

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