

Community Forum on Child Care in Oklahoma

As a result of our discussion with Senator Ikley-Freeman at the September 2019 Breakfast Meet-Up, we are considering a community forum on the accessibility of child care. She had originally proposed a study in the Oklahoma Senate, but the committee chair did not approve it. She suggested the next step be community forums to garner public interest/support, with the hopes that this would help get a study approved next year (interim studies happen Aug-Oct). The study would help to clarify the problems and identify viable solutions.

Original recommended readings for September 2019 Breakfast Meet-Up

- Center for American Progress - Child Care Desert Data
https://childcaredeserts.org/?fbclid=IwAR2Gfrsfb8DgctdXmeXoWsPop_VvABopQbpHfBLQYw98k1NfwyBhz-a_XpY&state=OK&urbanicity=All
- Oklahoma Policy Institute Report - Expansion in Federal Funding is Improving Access and Quality in Oklahoma's Child Care Subsidy Program
<https://okpolicy.org/expansion-in-federal-funding-is-improving-access-and-quality-in-oklahoma-child-care-subsidy-program/#ch5>
- Oklahoma Watch article - Child Care Becoming Scarcer as Costs, Closures Take Toll
<https://oklahomawatch.org/2018/07/24/child-care-becoming-scarcer-as-costs-closures-take-toll/>
- Happy Teacher Project - Teacher Wellbeing
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Okx5wi7DtxBWMRSEK6zFdrDJI53iMPqc/view?usp=sharing>
- Laboratories of Democracy: Washington, DC, showed how to do universal pre-K right
<https://www.vox.com/the-highlight/2019/8/5/20748833/washington-dc-pre-k-free-public-universal>

Additional Readings

- Follow up article about Dr. Kwon's Happy Teacher Project
https://www.edsurge.com/news/2019-10-09-are-early-childhood-teachers-happy-and-healthy-this-research-study-will-find-out?utm_campaign=site&utm_content=share-109
- YWCA's report on the child care crisis in Tulsa
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LL4UBnQ6Haqi3vMn9u3uH9mj1hhiCDX7/view?usp=sharing>
- Center for the Study of Child Care Employment report
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rfs07Ivyv1vtgYWYogoxU60g20NAinhX/view?usp=sharing>
- ACF request for public input on access to childcare
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/media/press/2019/public-input-sought-to-improve-child-care>
- Child Trends - States' Use of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Funding Increase
<https://www.childtrends.org/publications/states-use-of-the-child-care-and-development-block-grant-funding-increase>

- National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families - Child Care Affordability Is Out of Reach for Many Low-Income Hispanic Households
<https://www.hispanicresearchcenter.org/research-resources/child-care-affordability-is-out-of-reach-for-many-low-income-hispanic-households/>

Other things to follow up on include

- The status of H.R. 2740: Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Defense, State, Foreign Operations, and Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2020 – This bill is provisionally dead due to a failed vote for cloture on September 18, 2019. The Senate may try again. This is the bill referenced in the OK Policy article we read for the meeting, which is supposed to provide another increase in the CCDBG funding for FY20.
- The Oklahoma Watch article mentioned that in summer 2019 DHS was supposed to be considering increasing the income threshold for families to receive the child care subsidy. I did a cursory search to check the status of this, but didn't have any luck.

Below is a list of the people/groups we discussed that could be included:

- Senator Allison Ikley-Freeman
- Senator Gary Stanislawski (Chair of the Education committee)
- Representative Carol Bush (Tulsa rep)
- Child care resource center (Community Service Council)
- Other ideas that my colleagues suggested:
 - Impact Tulsa
 - Center for Early Childhood Professional Development
 - Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness
 - Representative Melissa Provenzano
 - Oklahoma Childcare Resource Association
 - DHS Stars Program Manager Jennfier Towell
 - Metro Chamber - to speak about the workforce?
 - The Mayor's office - Christina da Silva might be a good contact.

Logistics:

- It was suggested that having a forum in midtown would be a good interest booster (as we usually have the best turnout at midtown events) and this could help to spread interest to other areas of town as well.
- How many participants would be ideal for this forum? Maybe 6 people?
- Would community service council have space to use?

Bkfst mtg 11/26

- Amy suggested reaching out to the Cherokee Nation (DHS?) as a very active participant working with the subsidy.

Nov. 4 2019 Program Committee Meeting

-- Lynn says child care resource center (com service council) should be able to speak to the experience of parents because they call in, which would mean we wouldn't need to add another person to represent parents

-- will do after the holidays, definitely by March

To Do

Email child care resource center:

918-834-2273

ccrc@csctulsa.org

Program Lead: Casey Moore

918-935-5247 | cmoore@csctulsa.org

Look into grant Diane mentioned at PL--OKFutures preschool planning grant. Is more focused on supporting PD, IT slots in rural areas is the only part that includes providing care. Deb Anderson with OPSR just did statewide needs assessment as part of this grant.

<https://mailchi.mp/46e1323d1358/okfutures-in-motion-380723?e=d3fac4e664>

<https://www.okschoolreadiness.org/okfutures>

<https://csctulsa.org/news/csc-hosts-community-conversation-on-child-care-in-tulsa/>