

## **Child Care Services Advisory Committee and Early Childhood Services Advisory Board**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Room 327B, Judicial Wing, State Capitol

### **Call to order**

1. Senator Davison called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M.

### **Roll call**

1. Child Care Services Advisory Committee
  - a. Present: Representative Macy Bolinske, Representative Brandy Pyle, Senator Todd Beard, Senator Kyle Davison, Debra Beard, Keely Ihry, Verla Jung, Lorrie Thoemke and Kaila Wentz.
  - b. Absent: Kenzi Brown and Kari Kapp.
2. Early Childhood Services Advisory Board
  - a. Present: Rhoda Elmi, Catherine Heyd, Kirsten Hopp and Tania Zerr.
  - b. Absent: Ashlynn Gafford, Linda Schroeder and Shelby Short.

### **Committee work – licensing framework**

1. Senator Davison noted that Legislative Council recommended the committee's final report should be written by the department.
2. The Department presented the results of the local ordinance survey.
  - a. Committee members discussed local ordinances noting the challenges of restricted parking, requirement of showers, fire suppression and operation of a home-based business in residential zoning.
    - i. Providers should continue to work closely with their community leaders. At this time, the committee does not intend to make a recommendation for legislation that would restrict local ordinances that impact the operation of child care.
3. The Department provided a brief review of where committee discussion ended at the March 19, 2026 meeting which included an assignment to crosswalk the merger of certain program types in preparation for today's discussion.
4. Committee members were provided copies of a licensing crosswalk showing how the current provider types could streamline into 3 provider types and a preschool designation.
  - a. Program type 1 would combine the current approved relative providers, in-home providers and self-declaration providers.
  - b. Program type 2 would combine the current family, group in a home and residential-based group in a facility licenses.
  - c. Program type 3 would combine the current non-residential group in a facility, center and school age licenses.

- d. A Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) representative was present to address questions about food program eligibility requirements.
  - e. Committee members engaged in discussion regarding each proposed program type.
5. Lunch recess
  - a. 12:12-1:07
6. Committee discussion continued after the lunch recess regarding the new proposed provider types along with ratios, max group size, square footage and bathroom requirements.
7. The Committee reviewed the preschool designation, which would replace the current preschool license and allow a preschool designation to layer on top of either program type 2 or program type 3.
  - a. Committee members engaged in discussion regarding the proposed Preschool designation.

### **Wrap up**

1. Senator Davison requested the department have a draft of the final report ready for the next meeting.
2. Next in-person meeting: Thursday, May 21, 2026 - Room 327B, Judicial Wing, State Capitol

### **Meeting adjourned**

1. Senator Davison adjourned the meeting at 2:50 P.M.