



Child Care in Utah

Access and Affordability

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH AND GENERAL COUNSEL

Economic Development and Workforce Services Interim Committee

May 18, 2021



Child Care in Utah: Access & Affordability

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2. Early Childhood Development Perspective
3. Provider/Licensing Perspective

3. COVID-19 Response

4. Child Care Assistance for Mixed Status Families

5. Committee Discussion and Potential Action



Introduction to Child Care in Utah

Dr. Susan Madsen

Director, Women & Leadership Project

Utah State University

UTAH WOMEN & LEADERSHIP PROJECT

Mission: To strengthen the impact of Utah girls and women.

1. Producing relevant, trustworthy, and applicable research
2. Creating and gathering valuable resources
3. Convening trainings and events that inform, inspire, and ignite growth and change for all Utahns.

JON M.
HUNTSMAN
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
UtahStateUniversity.

UTAH WOMEN &
LEADERSHIP
Project

EXTENSION 
UtahStateUniversity.

UTWOMEN.ORG



ONE UTAH ROADMAP

ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

HEALTH SECURITY

EDUCATION INNOVATION

EQUALITY AND OPPORTUNITY

RURAL MATTERS

STREAMLINE STATE GOVERNMENT



Focus Area Presentations

Workforce Perspective

- Rebecca Banner, Director, Office of Child Care, Department of Workforce Services

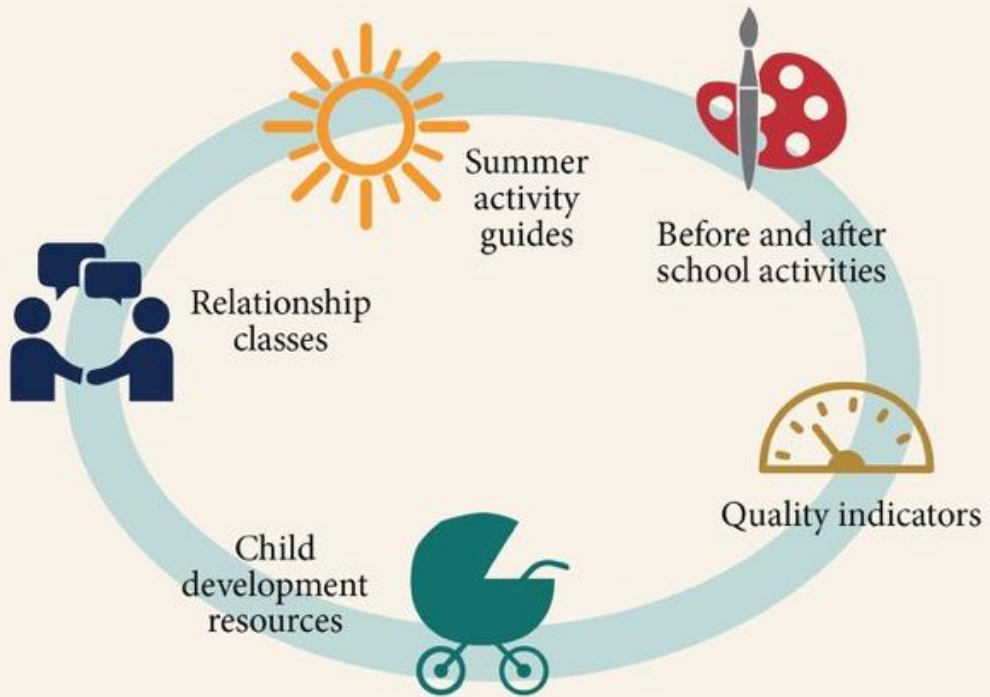
Early Childhood Development Perspective

- Elizabeth Garbe, Senior Director, Government Relations and Public Policy, United Way of Salt Lake

Provider/Licensing Perspective

- Simon Bolivar, Administrator, Child Care Licensing Program
- Jessica Lloyd, Owner, Creative Learning Academy
- Johnny Anderson, President/CEO, Great Beginnings

OFFICE OF CHILD CARE





Early Childhood Development Perspective

Elizabeth Garbe

Senior Director, Government and Public Policy

United Way of Salt Lake



Provider/Licensing Perspective

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**WORKFORCE
SERVICES**
CHILD CARE



COVID-19 RESPONSE



COVID RELIEF CHILD CARE FUNDING

CARES

- \$40 million

CRRSA

- \$108 million
- Guidance April 15

ARPA

- \$261 million Stabilization Grants
- Guidance May 10
- \$163 million Discretionary
- Guidance not yet received



INITIAL RESPONSE



When businesses, schools and child care centers temporarily closed in March 2020, there remained critical child care needs for parents that continued to report to work. To respond we:

- Created COVID Task Force
- Designed response efforts to support essential workers and child care system
- Helped essential workers report to work

COVID RESPONSE PROGRAMS

- **One Utah Child Care**
- **Child Care Operations Grants**
- **Summer Grants**
- **Child Care Licensing Grants**
- **Subsidy Changes**
- **School Age Grants**
- **Professional Development Opportunities**



NEXT STEPS



Programming under development:

- **Continued and expanded Operations Grants to include eligible expenditures and/or reopen the grant to additional providers**
- **Continued and expanded Child Care Licensing grants**
- **Continued and expanded professional development opportunities**
- **Lead mitigation efforts**
- **Regionally specific efforts to stabilize child care and expand options to reduce access gaps**

***Awaiting final guidance from our Federal offices**



**WORKFORCE
SERVICES**
CHILD CARE

**CHILD CARE
SUBSIDY**
FOR MIXED STATUS
FAMILIES

FEDERAL GUIDANCE

- **Eligibility is based on the child's status. A state cannot condition a child's eligibility for services based upon the citizenship or immigration status of their parent.**
- **The child or children must reside with a parent or parents who are working or attending a job training or education program.**
- **~ 45 CFR §98.20 - A child's eligibility for child care services.**



UTAH'S POLICY



- **Utah follows federal policy, in that children are determined eligible based on their citizenship status and whether they reside with parents that meet income requirements and are working or attending a job training or education program.**
- **The Office of Child Care has defined “working” as a job and/or providing a service that pays wages, a salary or in-kind benefits. Additional work activities for purposes of eligibility determination may include employment in the labor market, on-the-job training or being self-employed, provided federal or state law does not prohibit the occupations, and *wages are obtained legally* (emphasis added).**

SHOULD UTAH CONTINUE TO DEFINE WORK WHERE “WAGES ARE OBTAINED LEGALLY?”

- **Because this is defined in policy, the department does an electronic verification through SAVE to determine if wages are obtained legally. If it is determined that wages are not obtained legally, then a child may be determined ineligible based on the parent not meeting the necessary work requirements.**



WHAT ARE OTHER STATES DOING?

- **Utah is one of four states that have in their policy the term “legal” associated with defining work.**
 - Utah, Washington, Illinois and Montana
- **Utah and majority of other states are asking for similar documentation to determine eligibility, such as:**
 - Check stubs
 - Employer statements
 - Work schedules
 - Tax documents
- **Utah does an additional electronic verification through SAVE to determine if wages are obtained legally**



OPTIONS TO CONSIDER

- **Continue existing policy and work with the advocate community to seek options outside of the Workforce Services structure to assist families that are not receiving a child care subsidy.**
- **Work with the department to change definition of the work requirement that indicates wages obtained legally.**
- **Create legislation that will elevate the work definition and requirements from our policy into code. This option is best led by a group other than Workforce Services pushing this change.**



DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATION



- **We recommend this issue for interim study to determine next steps.**



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