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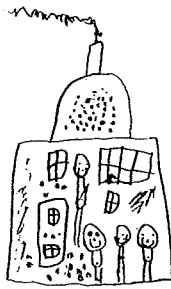


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**Maine Child Care Advisory Council  
Annual Report**

**2009**



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# Maine Child Care Advisory Council

January 14, 2010

Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services  
124<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature - Second Regular Session  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Dear Committee Members:

By statute, the Maine Child Care Advisory Council is required to submit to you and to the Commissioner of DHHS by January 15th of each year a report of its activities of the preceding year, as well as recommended policy changes and necessary implementing legislation.

This past year, the Council, through its Contract and Funding subcommittee, worked diligently in partnership with the Department, to create a Voucher Policy Manual. This was done as part of the effort to unify Maine's child care subsidy system between TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) and CCDF (Child Care Development Fund) vouchers. These vouchers help eligible families pay for child care for their children, but the rules and policies for these two programs had been different. Back in 2007, the Council recommended the unification of the subsidy system with the explicit goal to increase access to quality programs for low income children. The Council will continue to monitor the data related to this goal to determine whether the intended outcome has materialized.

One of the ways that the Council will continue to monitor Maine's child care system is through reliable data and the analysis of trends. This is important when evaluating policies and making strategic decisions, especially during times with limited and shrinking resources. That is why we are pleased to present our first Data Report where we evaluate and analyze trends impacting the early childhood education and care system. Although we recognize the limitations of the consistency of some of the data elements for comparison at this time, we anticipate that the Council will continue in this effort, finding better ways to collect and interpret the data. We believe that this will make a significant contribution so that the Department and the Legislature can fully understand the outcomes of its investments in different parts of the system.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Freid Moses  
Co-chair

Kristen Bowker  
Co-chair

cc: DHHS Commissioner Brenda Harvey

Attachment

MAR 9 2010