



Dakota County Family Child Care Association

Our Future is in Our Hands



www.dcfcca.org

The Caring Connection

February 2021

A Note from the President

Amy Baldwin



Minnesota's Children's Cabinet

The Executive Board and I have written to the Minnesota's Children's Cabinet on behalf of the Dakota County Family Child Care Association requesting funding for our training expenses. As a non-profit 501c organization, we may be eligible for funding from the \$10 billion federal coronavirus response package. We will definitely share the news if we are successful. Click on the MCC logo above for up-to-date information.

Mentor Program

Starting a family child care business can be exciting but also daunting. Our Mentor Program can help you avoid making rookie mistakes, and find your own path to reach your goals as you build your child care business.

Any newly licensed provider who utilizes our FREE one-year membership will be assigned to a mentor. A mentor can help by offering advice, perhaps a different perspective, offer networking opportunities, as well as offer support and encouragement. For more information, go to our website at www.dcfcca.org/MentorProgram.html or email mentor@dcfcca.org.



Questions and answers from Dakota County Licensing Unit

Will relicensing visits still be done using Zoom or Facetime? Yes, we continue to complete relicensing visits via Zoom or Facetime whenever possible. This helps protect providers and their programs as well as Dakota County staff. There may be the rare occasion we need to visit a program in person to verify something we noticed during relicensing. We continue to do in-person visits when needed for initial licensing, change of premise and conditionals.

What is the status of off-year visits or paperwork? The goal is to re-engage with off-year visits to ensure continued contact and support for providers. As these visits will be conducted virtually via Zoom or FaceTime, I think a minimum amount of paperwork may be needed...training documentation from Develop most likely. (As this is new this week, it's still in flux.)

Do providers who still need fingerprinting continue to wait to hear from licensing?

Yes. We will communicate with providers when DHS resumes fingerprinting, and we continue with the rollout of the Enhanced Background Study for providers.

However, even though DHS closes fingerprints, providers still complete "Emergency Background Studies" in the Net Study system. These are a name and date-of-birth only study for any **new** individual who may require a background study when fingerprinting is not available. Any new household member or anyone new assisting in care is still legally required to have a background study and will need to complete an Emergency Background Study as a stop-gap until fingerprinting resumes. Contact your licensor for help with this.

Has Develop approved SUID/AHT? Providers can access the DHS-approved SUID and AHT trainings on Develop and take them online via Eager to Learn/Anytime Learning. These trainings are the same as the in-person SUID/AHT trainings and count toward the "class" that is required a minimum every two years. On the "off-year", providers can choose to watch the DHS videos, or take the class.

A few tips when taking these trainings online with Develop:

- The trainings are offered separately online via Eager to Learn/Anytime Learning. A provider will need to register for each training specifically called "Sudden Unexpected Infant Death" AND "Abusive Head Trauma" classes.
- Be sure to type out the full class titles "Sudden Unexpected Infant Death" and "Abusive Head Trauma". Unfortunately, the correct classes will not pop up if a search is completed using the acronyms "SUID" and "AHT". **There is a class that pops up when you do a "SUID" class search in Develop titled "SIDS and Safe Sleep (CDA 1)" – it is very misleading and this class does not meet the statute requirement.**

Meet Jean Mathison, our Treasurer



I operate Cozy Corner Childcare and Preschool in Mendota Heights. I have been married to my husband Chuck for 29 years, and we have four daughters, ages 16 -25 years old. My hobbies include reading, watching college football, attending my daughters' dance competitions, and going for walks with our three dogs. We also have a cat and four rabbits!

I have a bachelor's degree in Horticulture from the University of Nebraska. I started my career as a Grower for a nursery in Omaha, Nebraska, and then became their Accounts Payable Clerk. In 1994, my husband and I moved to Minnesota where I started working as a Plant Service Tech until expecting our first baby. At that point, I decided to stay home and start my childcare business. 25 years later I'm still loving it! I always wanted a large family so operating a family child care in my home has made this a reality. I enjoy being my own boss in the comfort of my own home, and I enjoy the sound of laughter every day.

The best advice I ever received from another provider is to stick to my policies and be proud of what I offer the children in my care. Every parent is looking for something different so make sure the families are the right fit for "your program". When I first started my childcare business, I wish I had taken more time for myself.

"Every parent is looking for something different so make sure the families are the right fit for "your program".

My children's favorite things include a large indoor climber and castle, especially in the winter! I am fortunate to have a large indoor space to use, as well as a large outdoor space. I utilize the outdoors as much as possible. The children enjoy the Preschool Delivers and Stretch-n-Grow enrichment programs. I use ReliaFund for my electronic child care deposits.

How has COVID affected your business? When COVID first started, several of my families chose to stay home and continued to pay me! To stay connected during this time, I put together curriculum buckets, and delivered them to each home. I recorded myself on my Childcare Facebook page using the curriculum as if the children were actually in the classroom. Then I had them send back pictures and comments of their work. It was very rewarding and the families loved it too. Unfortunately, at the end of November, I was diagnosed with COVID and had to close for three weeks. I had implemented the "no contact" drop offs and pickups, all except for my infants. Of course, I contacted it from one of the infants. I have three distance learners in my care since the beginning of May. It has been challenging due to different school districts and schedules while also caring for the younger children. I have made it work but it's been adjustment for all of us.

Why do you volunteer for DCFCCA? I started out volunteering as an Area Coordinator many years ago to meet new providers. Then I volunteered to serve on the board as the Area Coordinator Facilitator, and then as Secretary and currently I am serving as Treasurer. Volunteering for this Association has created many friendships and professional opportunities.



~Jean

Meet Renee' Kulhanek, our Secretary



Hi, I operate Renee's Puddle Ducks Daycare in Rosemount. Joe and I have been married for 37 years. We have two adult children, and an 18-month old granddaughter, and two dogs. I enjoy my "cabin time", doing crafts, gardening, sewing and spending time with my family.

I love my job! I enjoy helping each child to meet their individual needs, and to help shape them into successful individuals! This makes this job so rewarding! I treat each child as if they are my own, and they become part of my family. One of my favorite parts of my daycare is spending time out-doors (weather permitting), learning through nature and play! We live on 2.5 acres which gives us lots of room to do outdoor activities. I have my own personal park right in my back yard!

The best advice I ever received that I wish I would have known earlier is to get your policies and contract in writing and to enforce them. Do not let people take advantage of you. The most difficult part of this job is keeping up with the constant changes of the rules. To fill my openings, I rely on word of mouth, the Provider Directory on the DCFCCA website and also the DHS website listing.

"The best advice I ever received is to get your policies and contract in writing and enforce them."

How has the pandemic affected your child care business? Currently, I do allow parents into my entry way if they wear a mask. I take the children's temperatures each morning, and they wash hands upon arrival. I do have school agers in my program, and I have picked up extras because of COVID. I have lost some children due to COVID.

Why do you volunteer for DCFCCA? I continue to volunteer as I have a great passion for DCFCCA, and I enjoy giving back to my professional. I have made a lot of friends from being active on the board as well. I currently serve as the Secretary on the Executive Board, as well as the Apple Valley Area Coordinator. Previously, I volunteered as Treasurer for 14 years, as well as Fundraising Coordinator. I served as the Conference Vendor Coordinator, and I helped on many other committees.

~ Renee'

New 2020-2021 Training Registration Policies

- ♦ All virtual training registrations will be accepted on-line through our website. It is recommended that providers use an electronic device that includes a camera and sound to fully participate in this virtual training.
- ♦ Registrations will be accepted until 72 hours prior to training date. We reserve the right to limit maximum number of attendees based on trainer's request. **Providers must be signed onto virtual classroom before the starting time of the training.**
- ♦ If hand-outs are provided by the trainer, it will be the provider's responsibility to print them prior to the training.
- ♦ DCFCCA offers free online training for our members. Non-members may purchase individual training as needed. See registration form for payment information.
- ♦ If you need to cancel your registration, please use the **Cancel My Registration Form** on our website.
- ♦ If you do not have on-line access for registration, you may leave a message on our voicemail at **952-985-3495**. Please spell your name, classes you want to register for and leave a phone number..

A video camera on your device is recommended for proof of attendance.



Your full name must be shown to assure credit is given. To change your name, click on "Participants", then click on "More" (right hand corner) and click on "Rename". Then edit your name on Zoom screen to include your first and last name.



Click on Zoom image for YouTube tutorial.

Our New Membership Process

Submitted by Cindy Bills

Because we are not able to meet in person, I have streamlined the membership record-keeping renewal process. You will only receive an email confirming your membership. No membership cards are needed at this time for our virtual online training. When we resume in-person training opportunities again, new membership cards will be issued. A quick reminder that renewing your membership online is the most efficient way to expedite the process. If you have any questions about your membership, please email membership@dcfcca.org.

On-Line Training Information!

- ♦ **Instructions for attending a Webinar will be emailed to you 48 hours prior to the event.**
- ♦ **A video camera on your device is recommended for proof of attendance. Make sure your full name is displayed.**
- ♦ **A training certificate may be requested by emailing Beth at training@dcfcca.org.**

February 2021 Training Options

Monday, February 1st 6:30pm - 8:30pm KCF II.A Part 2 Part 1 on January 25th is required to attend this training. You must attend all four hours to receive any training hours.	1-2-3 Learn Curriculum Presented by Wendy Prokosch Learn what 1-2-3 Learn Curriculum has to offer as a curriculum to family childcare and center-based facilities. Understand the importance of why a curriculum is needed for early childcare by making sure all of the needed areas of learning are being met. Discover how 1-2-3 Learn Curriculum works along side MN-ECIPS and a few other Parent Aware approved Curricula. Practice using and creating lesson plans from 1-2-3 Learn Curriculum.
Tuesday, February 16th 6:30pm - 8:30pm KCF II.C	The Why Behind the Words: Strengthening the Learning Environment Presented by Dana Ellingson Explore words and strategies that establish supportive relationships with children and guide them as individuals and as a community of learners. Investigate current practices for classroom management and effective learning environments. Topics of respect and perspective taking will be discussed. Take a look at behaviors that trigger our own sense of control as educators and how we can adjust language or strategies we use, to help give children the power to change their own behaviors.
Thursday, February 18th 6:30pm - 8:30pm KCF II.A	Sensory Smart Childcare, Moving Beyond the Bin Presented by Theresa Peplinski Learn how to engage the children in a variety of sensory experiences. Review the eight sensory realms, identifying the importance of each on child development. Engage in a exploration of ideas to incorporate a wider variety of multi-sensory activities in your childcare program. Recognize and verbalize the sensory experiences that are already being offered while learning the terminology to classify and describe these activities as valuable and positive learning experiences.

Register for
TRAINING

March Sneak Peek



Monday, March 8th Wondrous One's, Kim Woehl, KCF I

Thursday, March 18th - Cultivating Optimism in Young Children,
Kimberly Giles, KCF II.A

Monday, March 22nd, Trauma and Development, Emma Hansen, KCF I

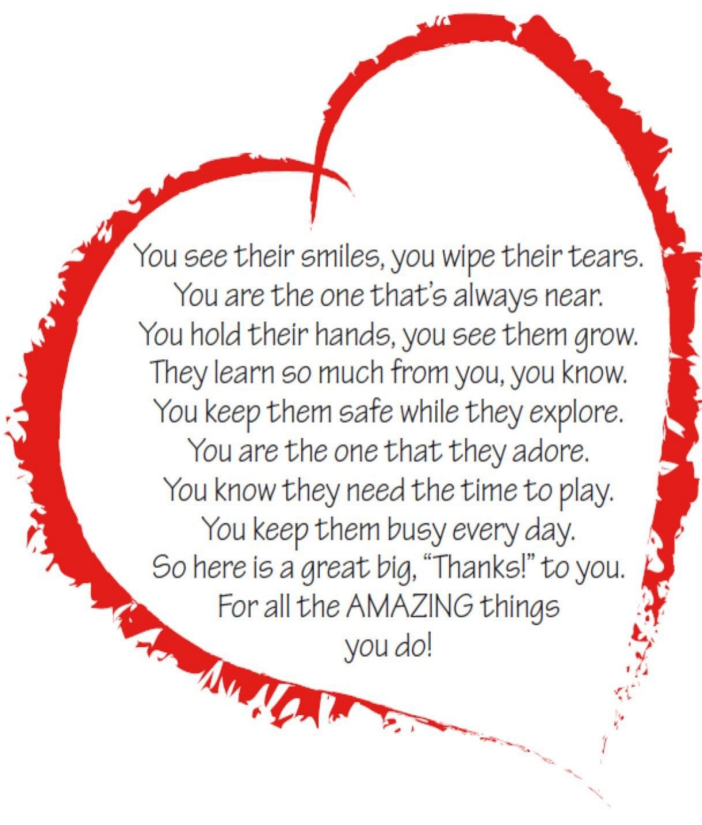
**Check the website for the most up-to-date
training information and the registration
time line.**

Learn More

*Thank
you*

*For all of your extra time
and commitment during
these challenging months.*

*You are an essential worker
and appreciated by many
families who need child care.*



You see their smiles, you wipe their tears.
You are the one that's always near.
You hold their hands, you see them grow.
They learn so much from you, you know.
You keep them safe while they explore.
You are the one that they adore.
You know they need the time to play.
You keep them busy every day.
So here is a great big, "Thanks!" to you.
For all the AMAZING things
you do!



February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Online Training Part 2	2  Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Virtual Board Meeting	11	12	13
14 	15  PRESIDENTS DAY	16 Online Training	17	18 Online Training	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						



March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Online Training	9	10 Virtual Board Meeting	11	12	13
14 	15	16	17 	18 Online Training	19	20
21	22 Online Training	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



Sample Letter to Parents regarding the importance of supporting your program and following public health guidelines.

Child Care Providers - Responding to COVID19

COVID-19 Resources for Families

COVID-19 Testing Information

Schools and Child Care: COVID-19

Materials and Resources for COVID-19 Response



Positive Case in your Program?

Follow the guidance in **What To Do When Notified of a Lab- Confirmed Case of COVID-19 in Child Care Settings and Youth Programs**, and complete the **survey**, marking medium or high priority if you have questions, concerns or need assistance with contact tracing. The Children's Cabinet will continue to support providers in getting their questions answered.

Health related questions can be sent to health.schools.covid19@state.mn.us.

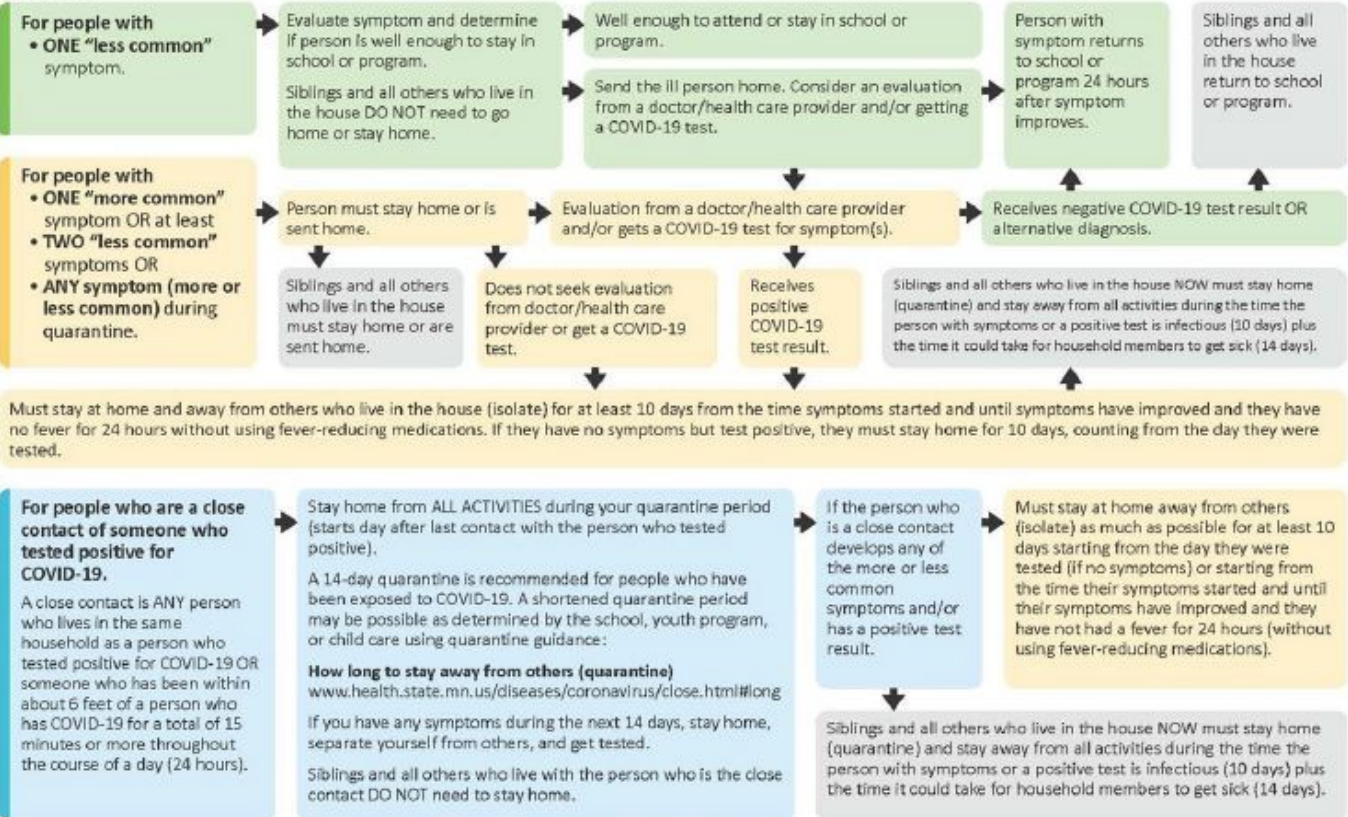


All other questions related to child care and COVID-19 should be directed to childrenscabinet.mmb@state.mn.us.

COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs

Follow the appropriate path if a child, student, or staff person is experiencing the following symptoms consistent with COVID-19:

- **More common:** fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher; new cough or a cough that gets worse; difficulty/hard time breathing; new loss of taste or smell.
- **Less common:** sore throat; nausea; vomiting; diarrhea; chills; muscle pain; extreme fatigue/feeling very tired; new severe/very bad headache; new nasal congestion/stuffy or runny nose.



Click





Help us spread a little sunshine! Do you know a fellow provider or group that needs a pat on the back, a thank you, cheering up, words of encouragement or just a note? Celebrations, congratulations, weddings, births, adoptions, retirement, birthday, graduation, hospitalization, a job loss, a serious illness or a death — we'd like to know. Click on the sun or anywhere in this text box to be directed to the form on our website at www.dcfcca.org.

Provider Directory on Website -

As a member, your business can be listed on the Provider Directory! This includes days and hours you are open, as well as a brief description of your business. Please keep your information current. Submit an update or add a new listing using this link

www.dcfcca.org/ProviderDirectory

Get the latest information regarding all things DCFCCA! Get information about training registration, answers to questions about the pandemic and general childcare policies.

For get access to this private DCFCCA Facebook page, e-mail Amy at president@dcfcca.org.



DCFCCA Care Line

Apple Valley	
Joan Finley	952-236-8119
Jean Dommer	952-423-2192
Burnsville	
Jodi Grimes	952-895-7361
Eagan	
Cindy Ciernia	651-688-7396
Inver Grove Heights	
Beth Beltz	651-450-7988
Lakeville	
Missy Torbenson	952-891-1275
Melissa Enke	952-378-1123
Mendota Heights	
Hannah Huberty	612-636-3562
Rosemount	
Renee' Kulhanek	651-423-5067



2020—2021 Board and Leadership Directory

Board Members

President	Amy Baldwin	651-398-1949	president@dcfcca.org
Secretary	Renee' Kulhanek	651-423-5067	secretary@dcfcca.org
Treasurer	Jean Mathison	651-994-7854	treasurer@dcfcca.org
Area Coordinator Facilitator	Heather LeBlanc	612-229-6085	areacoordinator@dcfcca.org
Training Coordinator	Beth Beltz	651-450-7988	training@dcfcca.org
Membership Coordinator	Cindy Bills	651-423-4497	membership@dcfcca.org
Fundraiser Coordinator	Kat Doring	651-442-2426	fundraising@dcfcca.org
Mentor Facilitator	Geri Peterson	651-347-0856	mentor@dcfcca.org
Website Coordinator	Hannah Huberty	612-636-3562	website@dcfcca.org
Newsletter Coordinator	Pat Goor	651-246-8387	newsletter@dcfcca.org

Area Coordinators

Apple Valley Area	Amy Baldwin Renee' Kulhanek	applevalley@dcfcca.org
Eagan Area	Geri Peterson Carol Jesness	eagan@dcfcca.org
Hastings Area	Patti Kopp	hastings@dcfcca.org
Mendota Heights Area	Beth Beltz Joan Chadwick	mendotaheights@dcfcca.org
Rosemount Area		rosemount@dcfcca.org

Committee Chairs

Conference Chair	Hannah Huberty	conference@dcfcca.org
Newsletter Chair	Pat Goor	newsletter@dcfcca.org
PACT (Providers Acknowledging Corrections Together)	Joan Finley	PACT@dcfcca.org
Sunshine Committee	Joan Chadwick	sunshine@dcfcca.org
Toy Co-op	Kris Voorhees	toycoop@dcfcca.org

The Caring Connection is published by the Dakota County Family Child Care Association (DCFCCA). To submit an article and photographs for publication, send your article and permission to publish to The Caring Connection, DCFCCA, P.O. Box 22065, Eagan, MN 55122. This newsletter is sent to all of our members so your ideas will be shared with other providers in our community.

The Caring Connection volunteers reserve the right to edit articles for publication. The articles published in The Caring Connection reflect the views and opinions of the authors, and do not reflect the views of its members or the Executive Board of DCFCCA.

If you would like to advertise in this newsletter, please contact the Newsletter Coordinator at newsletter@dcfcca.org to receive information about advertising rates and an advertising agreement. All advertisements must be submitted exactly as you would like them to be published, along with payment required for the selected size of advertising space.

Deadlines for articles and advertisements are as follows:

Publication: March- April 2021 due by February 15, 2021

Publication: May - June 2021 due by April 15, 2021



Dakota County Family Child Care Association

DCFCCA is a non-profit organization of licensed family child care providers in Dakota County. Major goals of the Association are:

1. To promote quality family child care through education and support groups for providers;
2. To promote the image of quality family child care in the community; and
3. To aid in communication between providers, Dept. of Human Services, parents and community.

All-County trainings are held twice a year. Area trainings are held in various locations around the county. New members are always welcome. Membership fees are non-refundable. Membership fees are reviewed annually and are as follows:

\$40.00 - 1 year \$75.00 - 2 years \$100.00 - 3 years Individual class fee is \$20.00

Make checks payable to DCFCCA and mail to: DCFCCA - Membership, P.O. Box 22065, Eagan, MN 55122. All returned checks are subject to a \$25.00 fee. Membership fees are non-refundable.

Name: _____

Street: _____ City: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____
(print clearly)

DCFCCA Membership: New or Renew \$40 - 1 year \$70 - 2 year \$95 - 3 year