



Citywide Parent Policy Council (CPPC)

Full Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location: Hybrid Meeting – King Center, 4314 South Cottage Grove, and Microsoft Teams

1. Call to Order

Chairperson **Jasmine Jordan** called the meeting to order at **10:35 a.m.**

2. Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum

The following members and staff were present during roll call:

Parent Representatives

- Jasmine Jordan – Trinity Child Care
- Jeremy Glover – Southside YMCA
- Feera Robinson- Ada S. McKinley
- Angelique Sutton – Serendipity
- Shannon Moten– Centers for New Horizon
- Basirat Adeyemi- Christoper House
- Phalan Holmes Sr. – Chicago Youth Centers
- Olanike Oduola I- Mary Crane
- Jeannette Luna- El Valor
- Yomara Mata

DFSS Staff and Guests

- Cerathel Burgess-Burnett
- Angel Jones Dotson
- Tasia Evans
- Catherine Soto
- Sharron Davis
- Mara Martinez
- Linda Williams
- Camille Franklin
- Raven Jackson
- Eva Espana
- Melissa Moore
- Craig Zanke
- Charles Hall
- Kirsten Smith
- Sharay Johnson

At the initial roll call, a quorum had not yet been reached. Additional parent representatives joined the meeting, and a quorum was officially established.

3. Approval of April 28, 2026, Full Council Meeting Minutes

Because a quorum had not initially been met, members reviewed the April 28, 2026, minutes while waiting for additional parent representatives to join.

After the quorum was established:

Motion: Jeremy Glover moved to approve the April 28, 2026, Full Council Meeting Minutes.

Second: Shannon Moulton Rogers seconded the motion.

Vote: Voice vote conducted.

Outcome: Motion carried unanimously. The April 28, 2026, Full Council Meeting Minutes were approved.

4. DFSS Executive Updates

Deputy Commissioner Cerathel Burgess-Burnett provided the following updates:

Grant Actions

- DFSS completed two grant actions required by the Office of Head Start:
 - Head Start/Early Head Start grant extension through **December 31, 2026**.
 - Early Head Start Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) interim grant extension through **December 31, 2026**.
- Both grants include cost-of-living adjustments (COLA).
- Twelve-month budgets were approved, although only six months of funding will be released initially.
- Additional funding may be released if the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is delayed.

Change in Scope Requests

- DFSS submitted a request to reduce EHS-CCP enrollment from 1,100 to 705 slots.
- Progress continues regarding the addition of Calumet Heights.
- DFSS remains in communication with the Office of Head Start regarding approvals.

Federal Review

- Federal reviews scheduled for the current fiscal year have been postponed.
- Reviews could occur during the summer or early fall due to grant extensions.

Early Childhood Block Grant Changes

- Effective July 1, 2026:
 - The number of DFSS-funded ECBG agencies will decrease from 84 to 53.
 - Certain agencies will transition to direct funding through CPS and other federal recipients.

CCUO Representation

- The CPPC Chairperson serves as a voting member of CCUO.
- Participation has declined, and efforts will be made to ensure CPPC representation at future CCUO meetings.

City Play Dates

- The City's Largest Play Date held in April served:
 - 645 registered attendees,
 - 359 walk-ins,
 - 77 volunteers,
 - totaling 1,081 participants.
- A community-based play date is tentatively scheduled for **Saturday, June 27, 2026**.
- Additional events are anticipated later in the year.

No questions were raised regarding the executive updates.

5. Mental Health Training by SGA Youth & Family Services

Presenter: Melissa Moore, Director of Behavioral Health, SGA Youth & Family Services

The presentation focused on mental health awareness and wellness for children, families, and caregivers.

Topics included:

- Supporting children's emotional wellness.
- Recognizing signs of stress in young children.
- Understanding adult stress and burnout.
- Identifying behavioral, emotional, cognitive, and physical signs of stress.
- Strategies for self-care and emotional regulation.
- The importance of supportive relationships in buffering toxic stress.
- Mindfulness and grounding techniques.
- Mental health resources available through:
 - 988 Crisis Lifeline,
 - SAMHSA,
 - NAMI Chicago,
 - National Maternal Mental Health Hotline,
 - Chicago Department of Public Health Mental Health Centers.
- Promotion of DFSS Mental Health Power Hour sessions for early childhood professionals.

Melissa Moore concluded with a reminder of the importance of self-care to effectively support children and families.

6. CPPC Updates

Updates included:

Elections (2025–2026)

The following positions remain vacant:

- Assistant Secretary
- Parliamentarian
- Community Representative

Members were encouraged to consider serving in these leadership roles.

Federal Grant Representation

DFSS emphasized the need for representation from each federal grant program on CPPC to support potential future federal reviews.

CCUO Participation

Parents were encouraged to attend upcoming CCUO meetings to maintain CPPC's voting presence and representation.

7. Program Reports

ERSEA (Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance)

Updates included:

- Continued efforts toward achieving full enrollment.
- Expansion of eligibility criteria to include families up to 130% of the federal poverty level.
- Implementation of housing burden calculations in eligibility determinations.
- Ongoing recruitment through Chicago Early Learning.
- Returning children received placement offers for the 2026–2027 program year.
- More than 1,000 new families received placement offers.
- Continued recruitment efforts targeting families experiencing homelessness.

Enrollment and Attendance

April Enrollment:

- Head Start: 91%
- Early Head Start: 87%
- EHS Expansion: 93%
- EHS-CCP: 63% (98% when accounting for pending change in scope approval)

Attendance rates improved across programs, averaging approximately 83–84%.

Financial Utilization (April 2026)

Federal Programs:

- Head Start: 39.38%
- Early Head Start: 40.94%
- EHS-CCP: 41.60%
- EHS Expansion: 27.34%

State Programs:

- ECBG: 62.33%
- Child Care: 43.22%

Overall utilization:

- **54.01%**

Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, and Disabilities

Updates included:

- Ongoing CPS inclusion meetings.
- Staff Wellness Month initiatives.
- Mental Health Power Hour sessions.
- Safe sleep initiatives.
- Claridigm Health and Safety Module participation and Spanish-language access.

Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Updates included:

- Ongoing family engagement trainings.
- DFSS participation in site-level parent meetings.
- Parent interviews regarding CPPC experiences.
- CEOWS scholarship opportunities supporting workforce development.

No additional questions were raised following the reports.

8. Open Discussion

No items were brought forward for open discussion.

9. Adjournment

Chairperson Jasmine Jordan requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Jeremy Glover moved to adjourn the meeting at **11:41 a.m.**

Second: Angelique Sutton seconded the motion.

Vote: Voice vote conducted.

Outcome: Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at **11:41 a.m.**