

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
Cabinet for Health and Family Services  
Department for Community Based Services  
Division of Child Care

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS MANUAL

Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC) and Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist (ECMHS) Specialty Credential

Policy Clarification

07/10

**Situation:**

Currently there are 15 full-time regional Child Care Health Consultants (CCHC) and 18 full-time Early Childhood Mental Health Specialists (ECMHS) that provide training in the area of health, safety, and nutrition, and social-emotional and mental health. At this time a CCHC and ECMHS Specialty Credential does not exist.

Although CCHC and ECMHS staff are required to provide Early Care and Education clock hour training in the Core Content areas of Health, Safety, and Nutrition, Child Assessment, and Child Growth and Development, staff has not had access to a Kentucky Early Care and Education Specialty Trainer's Credential. Therefore, Early Care and Education training hours offered by these professionals currently cannot be counted to meet Registered, Certified, or Licensed provider and credential renewal training hour requirements.

Though not specified in regulation, the trainer credential review panel typically awards a specialty credential only in one (1) component which is a sub-part of one of the Early Care and Education Core Content subject areas. Specialty Credentialed trainers may only train in the specific area as noted by the specialty area named on the application and issued on the credential.

The Early Childhood Promotion within Department for Public Health has requested consideration to include CCHC and ECMHS for a Specialty Trainer Credential to train Early Care and Education professionals. Both programs are funded by the KIDS NOW Initiative and both offer free training to child care providers.

**Clarification:**

Per 922 KAR 2:240 Kentucky Early Care and Education Trainer's Credential and training approval regulation, the definition of a "Childcare health consultant" as defined in 902 KAR 2:240 being "a person who has successfully completed a training program approved by the department based on the National Training Institute for Childcare Health Consultants and who is minimally qualified as:(a) ...having a bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree from an accredited college or university; (b) A registered nurse; or (c) A public health administrator/director. Also per 902 KAR 2:240 Section 10 Specialty Level Kentucky Early Care and Education Trainer's Requirements, the individual must have, in their area of expertise, a license, certificate, or credential and three (3) years related experience.

Both CCHC and ECMHS positions require similar qualifications as stated in regulation. Therefore; the Division of Child Care, in agreement with Early Childhood Promotion, supports the Professional Development Workgroup recommendation that a CCHC and ECMHS Specialty Credential be created and issued as outlined below. This change will allow CCHC/ECMHS staff to provide Early Care and Education training hours in the Core Content areas related to their scope of work.

- 1) CCHC and ECMHS staff may apply for a newly created CCHC/ECMHS Specialty Credential.
- 2) CCHC/ECMHS individuals applying will agree to the following:
  - √ Meet requirements for a Specialty Credential as outlined in 922 KAR 2:240 Section 10
  - √ Agree to take FET - per instructions from employer
  - √ Indicate they are applying for a CCHC or ECMHS Specialty Credential on the initial application
  - √ Will train only in Core Content areas specific to their job responsibilities
  - √ Specialty only be open to individuals employed as CCHC/ECMHS staff
- 3) CCHC/ECMHS staff may also apply for Levels 2-5 as outlined in 902 KAR 2:240
- 4) The Early Childhood Promotion Program Administrator will provide a list of current CCHC and ECMHS staff to the Division of Child Care and TIPP for reference by Trainer Review Panel.
- 5) Once an individual credential expires and they are no longer employed as a CCHC/ECMHS employee but want to continue training, they must re-apply meeting the requirements per regulation 922 KAR 2:240.