



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 8, 2012

8:00 AM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 260 (Madison Municipal Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Linda E. Benzschawel; Muriel Simms; Anita Weier; Scott Peters; Michael B. Jacob and Patricia A. Lasky

Absent: 1 - Diane B. Adams

Peters called the meeting to order at 8:03 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Lasky, seconded by Jacob to approve the September 13, 2012 minutes. Motion passed by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. [28132](#) ECCEC Design

Peters discussed the structure and potential redesign of the ECCEC. 2 years ago there were serious quorum issues. The Mayor is interested in committees being efficient.

Options for the group to consider:

- 1) Move to a bi-monthly meeting schedule. This may not solve quorum issues.
- 2) Have Ordinance changed to update the number of committee members from 11 to 7. Would only need 4 people for quorum. This shrinking of the committee could image problems and bring the need for the committee into play.
- 3) ECCEC dissolves and becomes a subcommittee of the CSC. This would be the most dramatic change. Members of ECCEC would also be members of CSC.

- 4) Move to a fixed number of meetings per year. Possibly around 5 based on work and necessity. Potential meeting topics include reimbursement rates, funding decisions, etc. This does not address quorum issues.
- 5) Do not change anything.

Weier likes the option to change the ordinance and reduce the members from 11 to 7, but is concerned about image problems. Peters agreed that image could be an issue and even if there were fewer meetings it doesn't address the quorum issue. Simms asked how a decrease in ECCEC membership would affect other committees. Peters discussed the specific meetings that may be needed.

Jacob inquired about the member requirements were for each slot. Host explained that Child Care Specialists, Child Care Consumers and Citizen members make up the committee. The ordinance does not define the number of meetings. ECCEC has a lot of duties per the ordinance including hearings, but there hasn't been any in recent history.

There is general frustration of getting a lot of information that members do not necessarily do anything with it. Host discussed possibly providing information on a quarterly basis.

Peters discussed the two issues that have been brought up by the group. First the size of the committee and second how many meetings are needed each year. Weier added she would like the committee to do more. Staff does a lot of the work. Lasky discussed the Trauma summit done by Dane County and how to identify kids exposed to trauma. May want to begin to initiate training within Madison for centers, etc. More active role in big issues. Obesity is also a problem. It is important to intervene early and become pro-active in the community with ideas for initiatives. Lasky added that the foundation could also help.

Jacob expressed concern about decreasing the number of committee members. Especially regarding diversity. He would like to look for qualified people to fill the empty slots. Could we only reduce the committee members from 11 to 9? That would help the committee to be more pro-active to support child care and organizations. Would like to retain numbers and get more names to the Mayor for appointees. Perhaps with more members, there could be fewer meetings.

Simms expressed concern about time commitments. She would like to help but currently doesn't have the time to do so.

Peters discussed having a map of services, needs or areas we are missing.

Jacob added the notion of synergy to the discussion. For his day job he assists families to sign up for Badgercare. Health care issues will be coming up within the next year and this will be an issue with families, children and centers. There could be a way to weave this all together.

Benzschawel discussed the role of ECCEC as an advisory committee and be sure to let potential members know what they will be getting into. Give them specifics of what the committee does and what their job as a member entails.

Lasky added that the ability to be more active in the community depends on individual schedules. She is retired and has connections within the child care community. She would like to be more proactive.

Weier asked if committee members could go with staff members to agencies throughout the year to see what they do. Host added that would be easily done. They also could do tours of accredited centers.

Lasky stated that the committee does do more rubber stamping but that is due to good staff and good policies. Host explained that we use the committee for what we need per the ordinance.

Simms asked about the process of getting on the committee. Host answered that people put in an application through the city website and those names are given to the Mayor's Office. The Mayor's Office decides the appointees for each committee. Benzschawel added that it took her a year and a half to get on the committee.

Weier stated that Mayor was discussing the combining the CDBG and CSC committees. That has not been decided yet, but they didn't suggest ending the committee all together.

Lasky stated that this committee is specific to Child Care and has members with relevant knowledge. Peters suggested they focus on the things they want to accomplish per the ordinance. Currently there are things listed in the ordinance that the committee no longer does. There are new things the committee could do, update the ordinance to more accurately reflect the ECCEC's duties, the number of members and the meeting schedule. Jacob discussed a more obligation centric schedule. Propose an annual schedule (designed by Host and Peters). Would like to see the options of 7, 9 or 11 members.

Host talked about the ECCEC being different from other committees with members having knowledge and experience in the child care field. This was evident this past funding process and the pertinent questions each committee member asked the agencies regarding specific programs. Simms worked with Host on the outcomes and objectives for next year's contracts. CSC does so much already and they do not have the child care specific knowledge that ECCEC has. They would be less equipped to make funding decisions within that program area. Host hopes that they will not eliminate the committee.

Jacob brought up the challenge of membership. Lasky is coming up on her 10 year tenure and Jacob's 10 years will also be here soon. Shortly there will be 2 less members. Benzschawel added that her contract with Madison College requires 10% of hours designated to community service. This could be a good opportunity for that service. Simms added that she has connections with UW. Can we send out info to UW school and Child Care news feed?

Lasky discussed the ECCEC deals with contentious issues, but haven't lately dealt with hearings and appeals. This would be a great time to review the ordinance. Simms asked if the ordinance could be changed to allow for a member to serve for more than 10 years. Host explained that is a policy of the mayor and isn't part of the ordinance.

Peters presented a 3 step action plan for the group:

- 1) Conversation with Mayor and Astra regarding the committee and membership. To assist with filling slots, create fact sheet explaining ECCEC duties.
- 2) Host and Peters will work more diligently to combine meetings if time allows.
- 3) Review annual workload and schedule and determine what the committee would like to accomplish.

Benzschawel stated that 2 years ago the meetings were on Wednesday mornings and now they are on Thursday mornings. This doesn't always work for her since she has students Thursday morning and cannot cancel that very often. Peters reminded the group that they can decide when the meetings are.

Jacob would like some things included in the discussion with the Mayor.

- 1) Were it to go away or become a subcommittee of CSC, the value of members knowing child care issues and programs could be lost.
- 2) A full committee would be more effective and proactive with workload.
- 3) Fill committee slots.

Weier would like to be included in the meeting with the Mayor. Jacob discussed the possibility of strategically not filling positions until the ECCEC discussion has occurred. Host will set up the meeting with Weier, herself and Peters. Peters and Host will make a list of what is done by the committee per the ordinance.

If you have any recommendations for committee members inform Host.

2. [28176](#)

ECCEC Representative to CSC

Anderson is no longer on the committee and ECCEC needs to appoint a rep which is also a position on the CSC. Are there any volunteers? Jacob would like to, but he is concerned about the conflict of interest with the Goodman Community Center and his ability to participate in discussion and voting for any community center funding.

Lasky volunteered to be the representative to the CSC. Scott Peters will be the alternate.

MOTION by Jacob, seconded by Weier to appoint Lasky as the ECCEC representative to the CSC and Scott Peters as the alternate. Motion passed by voice vote.

Peters spoke with Laura Noel and received notes from the last CSC meeting which could be helpful to Lasky.

3. [28135](#)

Child Care Assistance
Stabilization Grants
2013 Rates for Payments
Child Care Assistance Report - Period 10

Attachments: [Child Care Assistance Report - Period 10](#)
[Proposed 2013 Reimbursement Rates](#)

Stabilization Grants

Del Moral provided information about stabilization grants (\$40,000 annual allocation). The current awards will be made for a 2nd year. These grants are paid out through monthly billing periods to help cover a center's loss of funds from families whose funding is disrupted or who cannot afford their co-pay. Host added that the centers provide reports to show how grant has been used to cover losses. Family providers receive funds through an accreditation grant to Satellite.

2013 Rates for Payments

Del Moral presented information from 4C regarding rates. This data is used with formulas set by the ordinance to calculate rates for child care tuition assistance reimbursements. Del Moral identified a 6% increase in rates. This is above the usual 2-3% increase. Calculated in October, 2012 rates will be used until the end of the year and we will implement the new rates in January, 2013. At that time we will also set new eligibility guidelines based on federal poverty data. This way the authorization for the families and centers will only be done on time.

Host explained that a resolution will go to the council regarding 2013 rates and eligibility guidelines. Weier agreed to sponsor the resolution.

MOTION by Jacob, seconded by Weier to approve the 2013 Child Care Assistance Rates. Motion passed by voice vote.

2012 Update

Del Moral provided a status update on the program discussed the child care assistance program while the group reviewed the updated report for period 10. 66 families received assistance that period. Currently we are projecting a small (\$2500) surplus at year's end. There are 67 families on the waiting list. The budget does not allow us to take people off the waiting list until the new year.

4. [28134](#)

Child Care Accreditation

YMCA Elvehjem Status
KinderCare Raymond Road Status
Administrative Standards Revisions

Attachments: [2012 Accreditation Revocation Letter -YMCA Elvehjem](#)

Host reported that YMCA Elvehjem has had its accreditation revoked. YMCA Gompers is on probation and is being reviewed this fall
KinderCare Raymond Road has also had issues that have led to the program not meeting Madison Standards. The decision before the center is to accept this determination, appeal it or request probation.

Administrative Standards Revision

Host discussed that Connie Williams is the lead on the revision of the Administrative Standards. Work should be completed by the beginning of 2013.

5. [28133](#) Update on 2013 Budget
 Child Care Program
 Community Resources Funding
- Attachments: [Mayor's Budget Message](#)
 [CDD Budget Pages](#)

Host stated that the Child Care Program budget was left intact (no reduction with the Childcare Assistance or accreditation grants). The ECCEC primary recommendations went forward. The B-list recommendations were changed. The interim CDD Director Hickory Hurie put together an alternate B list that was submitted to the Mayor. The mayor included that list in his budget. Weier added that Council leadership came up with their own budget package to review. The budget discussion will be November 13th, 14th, and possibly the 15th if needed.

6. [28136](#) Trauma Summit

Host discussed the recent Trauma Informed Summit that she attended. It was designed to recognize trauma in children and to address the notion that everyone has experienced trauma at some point in their lives.

7. [28137](#) ECCEC Subcommittee
- Attachments: [2013 Schedule](#)

The group decided to cancel the December 13th meeting. The next meeting will be January 10th. The subcommittee for that meeting will consist of Peters, Weier and Lasky.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Jacob, seconded by Lasky to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 am.
Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.