



City of Madison

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

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

8:00 AM

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 6 -

Lynn E. Edlefson; Joanna R. Parker; Diane B. Adams; Kathleen B. Raschke; Michael B. Jacob and Joanne E. Brown

Absent: 5 -

Bev A. Willer; Brenda K. Konkel; Patricia A. Lasky; Tracy K. Kuczynski and Richard C. Schultz

Staff: Bill Clingan, Jolene Ibeling, Monica Host, Lorri Wendorf, Becky Schesny

Brown called the meeting to order at 8:09 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Change 9:05 am to 8:05. Motion by Raschke, seconded by Edlefson, to approve the minutes from January 28 with the correction. Motion passed. Jacob abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. [13778](#) 2008 Stabilization Fund

Attachments: [Santibanez Letter](#)
[Stab Fund Quarterly Report Example](#)
[Stabilization Funds Feb 25 2009](#)
[ECCEC 2-25-09 Registration Statements](#)

Recipients of City of Madison Stabilization Funding provided testimony to the Board regarding how the funds are applied and impact on the child care center and low-income families.

Christie Howell-Yrios
Animal Crackers

Animal Crackers has been City accredited since 1989 and has seen a significant increase in the percentage of low-income enrollment, currently at 69% low-income families. Stabilization funding provides financial support to Animal Crackers during lapses or gaps in state funding for WI Shares families. Stabilization funding provided support to 3 families during employment changes, 1 family that experienced a birth, 1 death of a parent, 1 divorce and for 1 parent that finished a degree. This program empowers families and equips them with what they need to succeed.

Animal Crackers waives the co-pay fee for the first 2 months for newly enrolled low-income families to allow parents starting new jobs to get settled and their budgets in order. Often, once a parent receives their first or second paycheck they pay it back so the center may recycle the funds for another family. In 2008 Animal Crackers had an enrollment turnover rate of 40%. The Wisconsin Shares program and the state of the economy have resulted in low-income families being unable to afford quality care. Stabilization funds help level the playing field for low-income families. All of the center's families began 2009 with no debt to the center. Most families do not want to assistance but recognize they need it in order to obtain and maintain employment and to ensure their children get quality care.

Marge Steuck
Creek Day School

She appreciates the discretion programs are allowed to use in applying the funds. They've used the funds for families that have lost their jobs due to health issues, have needed to continue their training/education or for other financial reasons were unable to pay their co-payments.

While the families and center are continually working with county to obtain and maintain authorizations or while a family awaits City child care assistance funding, the Stabilization Funds provide quality care for children during transitions. 25% of the families are low-income this year with about 35% last year.

Wendy Rakower & Rachel Dixon
Red Caboose

25% of the center's enrollment consists of low-income families. The center has in the past covered 1/2 of the co-pays for families totaling approximately \$25,000 a year. The center's goal this year is to raise \$50,000 this year to cover parent co-pays.

Red Caboose school-age programs have seen a decrease in their enrollment of older school-age children. In order to reduce expenses, parents are choosing to have their 3rd, 4th and 5th graders stay home alone one or two afternoons a week.

Barbara Knipfer
Dane County Parent Council

Headstart and Early Headstart programs serve children age 6-weeks to 5 years

old. All of the families, approximately 1200, are low-income. DCPC previously covered 50% of copayments but has decreased it to 40%. Each family situation is different. There are also children with special needs. DCPC has seen a significant increase in the number of special needs children needing services.

Stabilization funds are used to provide support for families finding themselves in fragile and precarious situations. One example is funding for a single mother with twins with special needs. Mom maintained employment for 6 years until she was laid off. The children were able to benefit from the continuity of needed services in the child care setting during this time. A short time later the mother became very sick and was in intensive care. Stabilization funding helps maintain continuity of care and services for families in crisis.

Traci Adams
Dane County Parent Council

Traci is the director at Great Beginnings, Verona Rd. They currently serve 40 families; all but one is low-income. Stabilization funding has helped maintain continuity of care for children and families. Examples include funding when a father was incarcerated leaving now a single mother to continue paying bills; and another mother with language barriers struggling with domestic violence. Stabilization funding provides relief to families when they cannot make their copayments. In 2008 stabilization funding supported 40 families with full or partial unpaid copayments.

Erin Arango/Rita Blilie
CDI

CDI has 3 centers in Madison. 75% of families receive Wisconsin Shares funding. At CDI South 62 of the 65 children enrolled receive Wisconsin Shares funding. 29 children's authorizations end this week. Changes and turnover in Wisconsin Shares funding is frequent and can result from loss of a job, change in job, missing paperwork, end of a semester, advancement of career, etc.

When there is continuity of care during changes and transitions within the family, the whole family benefits. Parents can work, attend school and live in a safe neighborhood if they know their children are in a safe environment. CDI Advantage pays up to \$50 in parent co-payments. CDI Advantage supported 94 children and Stabilization Funding provided support to 33 children.

Rita is a CDI parent and one of the 29 families that will lose their Wisconsin Shares funding this week. Rita's daughter has been enrolled at CDI for four years. The father is in jail and Rita has used Wisconsin Shares funding to maintain her minimum wage job. Recently, Rita received an advance in her career, causing her to lose her Wisconsin Shares funding. Without the support of Stabilization Funding, Rita would need to quit her job, decline the advancement or get a part-time job. This funding will help maintain the continuity of care her child needs before enrolling in Kindergarten next year.

Ibeling summarized 2008 Stabilization Funding data. In 2008 3,429 kids were served at 17 centers. The unmet need exceeds \$48,000. Adams stated Stabilization Funding is a bailout program, of sorts, on a small scale at the local level. When there is failure in the larger service, smaller entities are forced to fill the gaps.

Jacob inquired about the increase in service numbers for 2004. Ibeling and Del Moral Smith were not here at that time but speculate it may have been due to change in Wisconsin Shares policy.

Raschke suggested an increase in stabilization funds with funds from City, county, federal, and that the City articulate the unmet need.

Clingan suggested tying increased funding levels to poverty and/or unemployment rates, as opposed to one year, one-time increases to the budget.

Parker stated that City funding creates minimal work for Child Care Centers to manage City funded families, unlike the Wisconsin Shares system. The City program, unlike Wisconsin Shares calculates rates based on what is charged and families and centers both know what the co-payment will be. Parker stated that Wisconsin Shares caseworkers are not able to keep up with the caseloads.

Raschke inquired regarding strategy to increase funding. Brown explained that it would have to be a resolution or ordinance.

Ibeling suggested a stabilization fund committee that could present information to council.

Interested ECCEB members for a Stabilization Sub-committee include Raschke and Parker, with possibly Lasky and Konkel who were not in attendance. Community members may attend the meeting.

2. [13779](#)

OCS Community Resource Funding Transfer
2009 Goodman Atwood Community Center \$5,000 transportation
funding release CSC.

Jacob left the meeting due to a conflict of interest.

Wendorf explained that in 2007 budget cycle the Worthington Neighborhood Association requested of the Mayor funding for transportation to events and programs outside of the neighborhood. \$5,000 was allocated by Mayor's office. The money went to Atwood/Goodman, as they were already funded by the Community Resources program and had a fleet of vehicles. When the money was added to the Goodman budget it was placed in the Elementary area, Program Area I. It is recommended the funding be shifted to the CSC as it is high school age groups using the transportation. There will be no impact on the school age children/programming.

Motion by Raschke, seconded by Parker to move the \$5,000 to CSC. Motion passed by voice vote.

Jacob returned to the meeting.

3. [13781](#)

Tuition Assistance
-Review Child Care Assistance Income Guidelines
-Overview of Eligibility
-Waitlist funding

Attachments: [Child Care Assistance](#)
 [Child Care Assistance Income Guidelines](#)

Ibeling discussed Income Eligibility Guidelines. Changes in the guidelines to reflect 2009 Federal Poverty Levels would create a cost savings of \$172 per family per month. However, 2008 Income eligibility guidelines will be used in 2009 due to the fact that changing the guidelines to reflect 2009 the Federal Poverty Level will add \$62,400 to an existing projected deficit totaling \$222,207.

The Board suggested a budget amendment from the contingency funds to help fill gap from City. Ibeling will discuss with Clingan further. Jacob commended staff for thinking ahead. This way they can decide who should take the hit, the families or the City.

Due to a guest speaker Ibeling suggest moving to item 5 & 6 on the agenda

5. [13783](#) National Head Start Association Leadership Institute

Kari Stroede from Dane County Parent Council provided summary of the National Head Start Assoc Leadership Institute in Washington DC and spoke regarding advocacy efforts with state Legislators. The Institute provided 200 advocates that met with representatives. Stroede met with 5 representatives from Wisconsin.

Jacob stated he was in DC as well and stated Legislators are looking for information regarding how funding provides direct help/support to families and that it is important to provide them real stories as to how the money assists families. Hearing directly from families is most effective.

6. [13784](#) Bank Street School Family Child Care Initiative Project

Attachments: [Bank Street School Family Child Care Info](#)

Recognition for City Accreditation. US Health and Human Services is reviewing initiatives that provide family child care support and quality improvement. Satellite was nominated as a model initiative. 90 were chosen and 25 will be highlighted. Satellite was chosen as one of the highlighted 25. Compendium will be published in the fall.

[13781](#)

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Del Moral Smith discussed the cost of eliminating the entire waiting list would total approximately \$915,000. To pay for 111 families and 183 children. Ibeling

discussed the eligibility criteria. The handout for those who qualified for the program was distributed. Parents must be employed, attending school, or the child must have special needs. Edlefson inquired about a college credit limit. The current limit is 78 credits or the equivalent of a 2-year degree.

Jacob asked about current enrollment. There are 109 children enrolled in the program. Jacob asked about the number of families assisted on the program Del Moral Smith stated it was about 80.

[13782](#)

4K Update

- MAAECA and Bright & Early 4k Forum
- 4K Community Planning Group and Subcommittees

4K Planning Committee consists of representatives from MMSD, City of Madison, League of Women Voters, child care programs, UW, 4-C, Dane County Board of Supervisors, and many more. Kathy Hubbard from United Way will be assisting as a neutral facilitator. Parker is involved in the group. First meeting was held on Feb. 20th, with general discussion of what needs to be done to enable Madison to offer 4K. Rick Phelps from M&I Bank volunteered to lead a work group on funding. Joanna Parker and Sue Abplanalp (MMSD) will help set the agendas. Group will meet biweekly at first, and split into committees to work on various issues. Madison Teachers union was not represented at first meeting, but are expected to participate.

7. [13373](#) ECCEB recognition of retirement of ECE professionals

Attachments: [Recognition of Child Care Center Directors & Providers.doc](#)

This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

8. [12054](#) ECCEC Subcommittee

The subcommittee will consist of Parker, Adams and Brown.

9. [13785](#) Next Meeting
July 22, 2009

The next meeting will be March 25, 2009 at 8 am. The UW Extension presentation on the "Economic Impact of Early Childhood Care and Education in Dane County" will be recorded.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Parker, seconded by Edlefson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 10 am.