



City of Madison

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

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

8:00 AM

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 7 -

Joanna R. Parker; Michael B. Jacob; Patricia A. Lasky; Diane B. Adams;
Richard C. Schultz; Joanne E. Brown and Nicole Anderson

Absent: 3 -

Lynn E. Edlefson; Kathleen B. Raschke and Celsa G. Rodriguez

Excused: 1 -

Shiva Bidar-Sielaff

Staff Present: Monica Host, Becky Schesny

Brown called the subcommittee meeting to order at 8:05 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION MADE BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY ANDERSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

Adams inquired about the follow up on the report George Hagenauer from 4-C was looking into distributing.

Motion passed by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Celsa Rodriguez, Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, Kathy Raschke arrived at 8:07 am

Present: 10 -

Shiva Bidar-Sielaff; Kathleen B. Raschke; Joanna R. Parker; Michael B. Jacob; Patricia A. Lasky; Diane B. Adams; Richard C. Schultz; Joanne E. Brown; Celsa G. Rodriguez and Nicole Anderson

Absent: 1 -

Lynn E. Edlefson

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. [17852](#)

New guidelines for IEP placements
Curt Weber - MMSD Coordinator Educational Services
Matt Bell-MMSD Associate General Counsel

Curt Weber, MMSD Coordinator of Educational Services, addressed the ECCEC to explain the new requirement that children who have Individual Education Placement Plans with MMSD will be served by itinerant teachers only in accredited early childhood care and education programs. MMSD is responsible for special education for children 3-5 years old.

There are three requirements for centers to be a part of IEP program.

A. Child care program must be accredited by the City or NAEYC. If a center, or FCC provider, is not yet accredited but has applied for accreditation and has a signed letter of acceptance, the district will serve the child at the center. The center will have one year to become accredited. MMSD will check back since placement/contracts are on a yearly basis in the summer. Once the contract is up for renewal they would require the accreditation.

B. Must be geographically located in MMSD or within ¼ of a mile of the MMSD boundaries.

C. Center must agree to a contract with MMSD. MMSD pays the center for the time services are provided and the center then reduces the parent's tuition for the next month.

There was discussion about timelines, specific outcomes of accreditation, and communication between OCS and MMSD regarding centers and the waiting list for accreditation, and MMSD statistics for service to 3-5 children with special needs.

This process could lead to others applying for accreditation, resulting in a backlog of centers applying. Brown suggested that MMSD fund a position in OCS for the accreditation process.

Weber explained there are MMSD classrooms in both am and pm that can provide services to children not enrolled in a child care center or currently in a non-accredited center. MMSD provides transportation. There are 125 students in Early Learning session classrooms. 50% IEP; 50% are not. Parents without children with IEP's pay nothing for the program.

Discussion about the cost of accredited care may be a factor for parents in choosing a program. Weber reminded the group that parents choose the center. But now they will have to apply to those that are accredited.

Adams suggested MMSD research other districts to determine how they provide services.

Raschke stated that the MMSD changes requiring an accredited program went into effect without discussion with the City and would encourage more collaboration.

2. [17854](#) Accreditation of Child Care Programs Outside the City
Here We Grow Learning Center
La Petite Academy Monona
Pooh Bear Child Care

John Scott & Chris Leatherberry from Here We Grow Learning Center (Fitchburg) and Kaitlin Bohacek from La Petite Academy (Monona) spoke to the group about accreditation outside the City of Madison.

Bohacek stated that at La Petite there are 19 school age children, 16 of those are in MMSD and 3 are in the Monona School district. In their Pre-Kindergarten classroom 2 are in Monona 4K program. Madison parents want to know what Madison has to offer. Children and parents want to know why some children get to go to Monona and others stay there for the day. Bohacek explained that La Petite Academy in Monona is one block from the MMSD boundary.

Scott discussed that he does financing & budgeting for Here We Grow. He is under the impression that the ECCEC wanted 4K input. He would like to make a case for being City accredited. The center currently serves 98 families with 71 from City of Madison. In the 4 and 5 year old program there are 25 children enrolled 19 of which are from Madison. 13 have WI Shares. Here We Grow doesn't want to be part of the NAEYC, but they are interested in City of Madison Accreditation in order to be able to participate in 4K programming. They are just on the border in Fitchburg. Leatherberry stated that City of Fitchburg isn't interested in funding/administering accreditation programs.

Scott discussed Here We Grow as a quality center that he believes would be a 4 on the YoungStar rating scale. We can offer quality care for those who need it but we aren't accredited because of where they are located. Those with lower income may not have the support system they need and would benefit from high quality child care but they can't afford it so it is important that the center becomes accredited. He wants to keep the children he has, but fears he will lose enrollment based on the accreditation requirements for 4K.

Raschke mentioned that 4K has spin off effects. A more regional approach may be more effective. MMSD is in business of providing care for those who don't have IEPs. 50% must be accredited and now the border areas are an issue.

Does Verona or Fitchburg have 4K? Fitchburg and Verona do not have 4K programs but Monona does. Fitchburg residents attend Monona, Verona or Madison schools. Madison children attending Here We Grow will go to MMSD. Other discussion occurred regarding OCS approaches to nearby communities for accreditation services and looking at county-wide services.

Raschke stated that the county, the MMSD and 4K programs need to hear this argument. Bohacek discussed how parents don't know about 4K options or what the children need. Having a 4K program at this center would help to children get ahead or at least where they need to be.

Raschke stated that there are limited resources and accreditation staff. City Council isn't necessarily able to come up with the money. When making decisions we need to make the decision that will cause the least harm. Asking for accreditation from Madison may not be the right route when you can get it from NAEYC.

Adams asked where we go from here. Brown explained there has been a budget request for more staff, with the rationale of increased accreditation ability. 4K is a driving factor. They might want to look at language to expand zone of accreditation or to include centers in MMSD district vs. City limits.

Scott asked if the accreditation can be prorated. Maybe do it at cost for those outside the City based on the number of children from MMSD or the City.

Discussion continued about accreditation fees for programs outside the city, the benefits of being within the city limits and perhaps having City and County political leaders take a look at this. The board asked that staff provide information about cost of accreditation as a way to address requests and perhaps offer that option to programs outside the city limits.

3. [17855](#) 2010 Supplemental Funding

The group briefly discussed the supplemental funding allocations.

4. [17856](#) Update on Youngstar and 4K

Parker attended a 4K Advisory Council meeting Monday. The committee has been restructured; it will go back to larger community group. The Board of Education passed 4K, but has heard a lot of negative feedback and confusion regarding whether 4K is impacted on budget difficulties. She recommends contacting the Board in support of 4K programming.

Howard & Farley are MMSD BOE candidates. Howard is for 4K; Farley against the 4K program.

5. [17857](#) Child Care Assistance Monthly Report

Del Moral Smith presented the February Child Care Assistance Report and answered questions from the group.

The child care assistance program is currently transitioning into the new data base. There will be a more in-depth breakdown of information. A release to families on the waiting list will occur soon. It will bring families who entered the waiting list from 2008.

6. [12054](#) ECCEC Subcommittee

The ECCEC Subcommittee will consist of Anderson, Raschke and Adams.

The next meeting will be April 28th. Parker and Lasky will not be able to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ADAMS, SECONDED BY PARKER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT
10:08 AM. Motion passed by voice vote.