



City of Madison

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

Thursday, April 11, 2013

8:00 AM

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 6 -

Anita Weier; Scott Peters; Jennifer M. Dittrich-Templin; Patricia A. Lasky;
Diane B. Adams and Karalyn A. Kratowicz

Absent: 3 -

Linda E. Benzschawel; Michael B. Jacob and Muriel Simms

Staff Present: Monica Host, Jennifer Stoiber

Scott Peters called the meeting to order at 8:02 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Karalyn Kratowicz, seconded by Jennifer Dittrich-Templin to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2013 meeting. Motion passed by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. [29668](#) ECCEC Forum and Advocacy Issues

* In response to a question by Diane Adams, Scott Peters estimated that there were 10 organizations represented at last month's Child Care Forum. Adams commented that there are so few opportunities for providers or centers to speak before a group; she is happy so many turned out.

ROLL CALL: Muriel Simms and Michael Jacob arrived at 8:10 am.

Present: 8 -

Anita Weier; Scott Peters; Jennifer M. Dittrich-Templin; Michael B. Jacob;
Patricia A. Lasky; Diane B. Adams; Karalyn A. Kratowicz and Muriel Simms

Absent: 1 -

Linda E. Benzschawel

* Staff with degrees in child care, work in centers for a little while, but do not

make enough money, so they leave.

* Providers are struggling with WI Shares billing. It is difficult to get the co-pays and other fees from the parents. Centers often subsidize this and it has an impact on their budget. It is hard to pay comparable salaries or health insurance for employees when revenue is so unstable. County funding is particularly inconsistent, as payments can change from week to week. The committee discussed ways to prepare and educate providers on the reimbursement process. The State is looking at using a debit card system, where the money will go to parents, not directly to the provider. Karalyn Kratowicz asked the committee if they wanted to take a stance on the use of debit cards in a letter?

* George Hagenauer from 4C informed the committee that there are two processes going on right now, the budget process and a review of regulations regarding business. We need to look at both of those areas, but it would be best to separate the regulation from economics. There is a major split occurring in the Republican legislature on chunks of the Walker Budget.

Scott Peters asked the committee where they want to go with the information they learned from the Child Care Forum. Karalyn Kratowicz suggested a letter to the Department of Children and Families with the concerns the providers brought up. It should be sent directly to the Department Secretary Eloise Anderson, with copies going to Teach and Reward, Licensing, Reimbursement in Childcare Subsidies, and Childcare Coalition etc. Coral Manning, YoungStar, suggested connecting with high quality centers (5 star) in the state and tell them what they are hearing and ask them if they are experiencing the same problems.

George Hagenauer suggested that there may be a significant amount of programs that could be four or five stars, but do not achieve this because they do not want to deal with the WI Shares program. They feel it is not worth the headache.

Diane Adams stated that the committee needs to come at the issue with a good sound strategy. It appears the Legislature does not care about quality child care and the poor. She thinks the committee should come at it from an economic standpoint, and they may respond to it. Stress that it is damaging small business in the state.

Monica Host discussed the testimony by Christie Yrios from Animal Crackers and Wendy Rakower from Red Caboose. She found it alarming that they are having trouble seeing a long-term future for their centers. They cannot survive and pay wages given the current economic situation. Attendance based reimbursement is hurting them.

Scott Peters asked, is there any intelligence in expanding the stabilization program? Monica replied that stabilization grants do not really save the centers. Currently all centers that apply for these funds receive something. Staff is currently looking at if it would be better to give more money to fewer centers to really help those centers. The stabilization pot of money is determined by statute. Peters also asked if we can support Centers better in the next funding cycle by changing the goals and priorities, so we can give them more funding. The committee discussed how the stabilization grants can be revamped, and what direction it should go in. Monica Host has data and information on stabilization grants, and will bring the information to the

committee. She believes the committee should table the discussion on the Community Resources Grants until we know more about how the funding process will work.

Muriel Simms asked if we could train centers on how to become more savvy about reimbursements. We could perhaps sponsor something thru 4C. United Way has some training for Board members. Monica said she could look into it.

Karalyn Kratowicz offered to draft a letter about the forum. The letter Scott wrote is about the budget and it will go out by the end of the week.

Muriel Simms said at the forum the providers expressed concerns regarding the expense of providing health insurance to employees. They asked if there is any possibility of getting into the City insurance pool. Muriel asked if there is anything we can suggest to them. Monica said it has been explored before and it did not go anywhere. Monica will look into it again. Michael Jacob said that through Obamacare, there will be more opportunities for small businesses to pool together for health insurance. Michael offered to meet with the Child Care staff and educate them on what will be offered when Obamacare is enacted.

Monica said she would attempt to contact five star child care centers.

Jennifer Dittrich-Templin asked if it would be possible to do a training with providers on how to fundraise. Then we can match their fundraising efforts with stabilization money. This could help providers stabilize themselves.

Scott Peters suggested the committee add a discussion item to a future agenda about how to help centers with fundraising.

Connie Lent suggested the committee look at how to use current training available to provide a full range of business education rather than an individual training.

George Hagenauer discussed the differences with large, sophisticated organizations that can do fundraising rather than a small child care center.

Anita Weier asked if the City lobbyist was aware of the issues. Monica has met with him twice and he is aware.

2. [29669](#)

Family Child Care Closure Study - George Hagenauer

Attachments: [Family Child Care Closure Study](#)

George Hagenauer and Connie Lent discussed the status of the study and the reasons it has taken so long to complete. It has been reviewed internally with 4-C, if the committee has edits or questions, please send them to George.

George discussed the results of the study and what they mean. We were ahead of the game 20-30 years ago, but YoungStar has brought a lot of major changes. We are dealing with the integration of the 4K program, massive amounts of money being put into WI Shares, economic changes, and changes in the concepts of what we expect child care to do. These are having major ripple effects.

George discussed providers that have closed and disappeared. They could not find most of these providers. The thought is that family child care is declining due to the Milwaukee County fraud. What they found is that the decline is happening all over the state, not just in Milwaukee County. Of those providers they could find who had closed, a large chunk of them are motivated by a desire to work with kids. They are interested in child care as a profession. This is a similar motivation to those that are succeeding in the profession. Most of them mentioned 3 or more reasons why they had to close their centers, such as, low enrollment, changes in regulation, YoungStar, licensing process, stressful kids, and economic reasons. Some providers that had been operating for a long time, looked at YoungStar and closed. Some centers opted out, but did not close. Centers who got out of serving WI Shares kids could not replace those children with paying children.

ROLL CALL: Diane Adams left at 9:52 am.

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 -

Anita Weier; Scott Peters; Jennifer M. Dittrich-Templin; Michael B. Jacob; Patricia A. Lasky; Karalyn A. Kratowicz and Muriel Simms

Absent: 2 -

Linda E. Benzschawel and Diane B. Adams

3. [29672](#)

Accreditation Update

* **Kindercare Raymond Road will be off probation soon.**
* **Wendy Bowe, the DCPC CEO has resigned. The agency is doing well though the transition under the leadership of the board chair and staff team. Sequestration cuts require the agency to look at a reduction in staff and slots of children served.**

4. [29675](#)

Child Care Assistance 1st Quarter Report

Funds will be released eliminating the current waiting list.

5. [29678](#)

2014-15 Community Resources Funding Process Update

Neighborhood Center Study: Work continues and we are not yet sure what the Community Resources Funding process, a truncated process for neighborhood centers for the 2014 budget, will look like yet. The Mayor is seriously looking at changes to improve the funding process.

* **The City has purchased a property on Theresa Terrace to create a new neighborhood center. An RFP will go out for programming.**

* **The Meadowood Neighborhood Center will expand. They are entering into a 10 year lease which will add space to the center and the Meadowridge Library, as well as provide some shared space between the two.**

6. [29711](#)

ECCEC Membership

Members with expiring terms wanted and have been reappointed. Anita Weier will be leaving the committee, but we do not know yet the new alder.

7. [29053](#)

ECCEC Subcommittee

The next meeting is May 9. A subcommittee of Scott Peters, Muriel Simms, and Karalyn Kratowicz was appointed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Pat Lasky, seconded by Muriel Simms to adjourn at 10:05. Motion passed by voice vote.