



City of Madison

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

Thursday, September 12, 2013

8:00 AM

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Staff Present: Monica Host, Varinia del Moral, Jennifer Stoiber

This is a meeting of the Early Childhood Care and Education Committee Subcommittee.

Scott Peters called the meeting to order at 8:07 am.

Present: 4 - Scott Peters; Jennifer Templin; Karalyn A. Kratowicz and Muriel Simms

Absent: 5 - Denise DeMarb; Linda E. Benzschawel; Michael B. Jacob; Patricia A. Lasky and Diane B. Adams

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Jennifer Dittrich-Templin, seconded by Muriel Simms to approve the minutes of August 8, 2013 with the following edit. On page 5, strike the sentence, "Simms advocated for like discussion." Motion passed by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. [30809](#) Amending Section 33.16(7) of the Madison General Ordinances to update responsibilities and revise terms/composition of Early Childhood Care and Education Committee.

Monica Host discussed the history of the ordinance change and asked committee members to make a formal motion approving the ordinance change. Changes involve lowering the membership from 12 members to 9 members. Terms will also run from October to October, so membership is not

changed right before the funding cycle.

A motion was made by Karalyn Kratowicz, seconded by Muriel Simms to approve the ordinance change. Motion passed by voice vote.

2. [31490](#) CDD Funding Process and Budget

Monica Host discussed the final recommendations of the CDD Conference Committee to the Mayor. The Conference Committee did not change any of the recommendations made by the ECCEC in the Children and Families program area. The B-list incorporates the recommendations in all program areas and is included in the packet of attachments. No one had any questions.

Scott Peters shared that Paul Terranova from Lussier Community Education Center did not feel that new funding was given enough consideration. Most of the neighborhood center discussion revolved around living wage. Monica told the committee that the Community Development Division put forward a supplemental request of a 1.7% COLA increase for all agencies, which totaled \$110,000. The Mayor will decide if he wants to include this in his executive budget, then it will go to Common Council. The Mayor's budget comes out in early October, then will go to Council in in November.

Next summer the committees will be deciding funding for all agencies, including neighborhood centers for 2015-2016.

3. [31491](#) Child Development Inc. Grant and Plan

Monica Host reported that at the end of July, the Mayor was contacted by the Board of Child Development Inc. (CDI) and Alder Strausser. CDI was in dire financial straits and could not pay their back taxes, and wanted help from the City so they could remain open. The Common Council decided that the City will not pay an organization's back taxes, but a grant of \$34,000 could be given if CDI would come up with an alternate plan for the money.

CDI had previously withdrawn their accreditation and they feel that it had a great negative impact on the center. They lost the 25% differential from the YoungStar rating.

Monica has been working with CDI to come up with an acceptable plan for the grant money. They need to tell us what they will use the money for. It appears they will use it for operational costs, such as salaries. This should hopefully free up some of the center's own money to pay on their back taxes.

The money for this grant will be coming out of the general fund, and it is a grant, not a loan. Accredited centers have been calling the office and telling us that they could use grant money too. Some of them really struggle to meet the City's accreditation standards, and do not feel it is fair that money is being given to a center that does not struggle with this.

4. [31492](#) Madison Out of School Time (MOST) Update - Jennifer Lord

Attachments: [MOST Brochure](#)

Madison Out-of-School Time (MOST) is a hot topic right now. Last February the Mayor started talking about out-of-school time. He feels there is not enough for children to do after school and in the summer. The City has a 60% position, filled by Jennifer Lord, dedicated to the MOST Initiative. Attachment #4C discusses the goals of the MOST Coalition and the Action Team. The Education Committee is a joint committee of the City, MMSD, and Dane County, who will be the policy makers.

The current focus is to get a sense of where the children are and where the services are available to them, and then determine where the gaps are. This collaboration is in the early stages and is building slowly.

5. [29672](#) Accreditation Update

Monica Host passed out a report regarding City Accreditation and discussed it with the committee. There are three new accredited programs, one of whom is Sandbox. This is fantastic because they serve about 95% low income families. YMCA is off probation. They have gone through great lengths to fix the problems.

KinderCare Old Sauk has lost their accreditation. They had four very serious licensing violations, including losing a child. There was a very serious complaint from a parent regarding the health and safety of their child. Due to the seriousness of the violations, child care staff did not feel we could put this center on probation, so they have been de-accredited. We will work with the center if they are willing to work on the issues, but we did not feel this center was committed to resolving the problems. KinderCare Old Sauk can apply for accreditation in six months, but they will have to show significant improvement, especially on the licensing violations. Varinia del Moral reported that two families, with 4 children total, attended this center and received City of Madison Tuition Assistance. All of the children were either of school age or going into kindergarten, so they were going through a transition anyway. They were not negatively affected by the de-accreditation, but they were informed of it by letter.

DCPC has closed three of their sites. Four centers are in the process of becoming accredited, and we have accepted applications from two Play Haven sites. Monica discussed the two pending applications that will have to be denied. Those centers have 30 days to request reconsideration, and that would come before the committee.

There was a serious complaint against a Satellite provider. The parent was not satisfied with Satellite's findings after their investigation, and was also not satisfied with our findings. He then went to the City Attorney, and has since gone back to Satellite and the University.

Red Caboose is asking the CDBG Committee for money for a feasibility study. They would like to expand.

6. [31493](#) Tuition Assistance Update

Varinia del Moral described the process she uses to release funds for the Tuition Assistance program. She does a release every six weeks or so instead of a few times a year. The last release was at the end of July when we went through the waiting list and are now taking walk-ins. There has been an increase in special needs families. There is about \$10,000 left for the year, and she and Monica are talking about how to best use that money.

When asked why families leave the program, Varinia reported that families leave for a variety of reasons, including opting out, moving out of the City, and refusing to turn in reviews.

Monica and Varinia are looking at systems for having step co-pays. Currently, as soon as a family's income goes up, their co-pay goes up. Families are not able to get ahead. They are looking at ideas on how to alleviate this, and will eventually come to the committee for advice.

Varinia reported that they will be getting out the stabilization grants application out soon so they can get them back by the end of the year.

7. [31494](#) CSC Report

No report.

8. [31495](#) Conference Committee Report

Monica Host described how the Emerging Opportunities Program came to be. The program was originally called Emerging Neighborhoods Funds and was for small grants for emerging needs in the community. Council members still want money to address emerging needs, so they have allocated \$200,000 to the Emerging Opportunities Program for 2013. CDD put out an RFP and received 75 applications for a total request of \$2.1 million. Staff is currently reviewing applications and putting together a slate of recommendations. The Conference Committee will meet on September 24th to review the applications and put together a slate for the Mayor.

9. [31496](#) ECCEC Subcommittee

October 10th is the next meeting. The subcommittee will be comprised of Muriel Simms, Karalyn Kratowicz, and Jennifer Dittrich-Templin. Scott Peters will not be attending the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Muriel Simms, seconded by Karalyn Kratowicz to adjourn at 9:40 am. Motion passed by voice vote.