



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Meeting Minutes - Approved EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 9, 2014

8:00 AM

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 7 -

Denise DeMarb; Scott Peters; Jennifer M. Dittrich-Templin; Patricia A. Lasky; Diane B. Adams; Karalyn A. Kratowicz and Muriel Simms

Absent: 1 -

Linda E. Benzschawel

Staff Present: Monica Host, Varinia del Moral

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION BY LASKY, SECONDED BY ADAMS TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 13, 2013 MINUTES. Motion passed by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

Monica Host briefly discussed the committee certificates that were handed to committee members to show their committee term expiration dates had been extended to reflect the updates to the ordinance. Terms will now expire in at the end of September instead of in April to allow for funding process needs. 8 of the 9 committee slots are currently filled. The vacancy is for a child care worker. Pass the word and refer them to Monica.

NEW BUSINESS

1. [32688](#) 2014 Child Care Assistance Rates

Attachments: [Proposed 2014 Reimbursement Rates.pdf](#)
[2013 Termination Data](#)

Varinia del Moral discussed the ordinance requirements to calculate new rates yearly. The new rates are calculated in October, a result of a survey to accredited centers conducted by 4C. There is a 97% return rate on surveys.

The city rates show what the city can pay for child care .For instance, for infants the maximum child care assistance can pay is \$307/week. If care costs more, the family must cover the difference. If the center rate is less than the child care assistance rates the center rate is paid.

DeMarb asked which centers were looked at to compile the new rates. Varinia del Moral explained that accredited centers located within the City of Madison were included. The city assistance program spends approximately \$750,000 each year. \$40,000 of that is dedicated to stabilization grants. The average rates calculated on the sheet represent those of accredited centers and Satellite accredited family child care homes. Demarb clarified that the \$307/week is the maximum payment and that the rest would be covered by a family co-pay or the center. Del Moral agreed. Parents apply for funding and based on income guidelines and other qualifications are assigned a co-pay and pay individual rates.

Kratowicz asked if those qualifying for City child care assistance were eligible for WI Shares. Del Moral explained that those eligible for WI Shares are not eligible for City assistance. Peters clarified that we reimburse directly to centers not to the families.

Host stated that the families receive a certain amount of funding for child care and have a co-pay assigned. Then the family chooses an accredited center. This allows for parental choice. When program first began they looked at funding a few specific centers and having families choose those centers. But the Council decided they wanted to support parental choice.

The families' income is tracked and reviewed every 6 months. As income increases co-pays also increase. Currently it is dollar for dollar, but child care staff are looking at a tiered system that may raise co-pays say 30 cents for every additional dollar earned. Adams added that when families decide to work that almost all of their income can go to child care. Host agreed and added that a \$50 pay increase can hurt the families. Adams did clarify that the assistance does not count as income for families. Adams also asked if we required audits. Host stated no.

Kratowicz asked if the Institute on Poverty was involved. Del Moral responded that yes they were assisting in the tier process. DeMarb asked about funding specific sites. Host stated that most child care occurs either near to where the families live or where they work. To only fund a few centers would limit options. Transportation would be problematic.

Adams stated that Milwaukee had specific centers by the county in the 1990s. No one was able to track which funding went with which children, there was little accountability and the system do not work.

DeMarb asked how many families are on the program. Varinia del Moral stated that 70 families were services with 103 children. Kratowicz asked if there was an income or working requirement for the child care assistance program. Varinia del Moral explained that the income limits for the City program are just above the WI Shares limits. Along with working parents, full time students

(under 78 total credits), families with special needs or families looking for employment qualify for the City Child Care Assistance Program. Dittrich-Templin added that all UW students are eligible for her program. Their grant fund is between \$850,000-\$950,000.

DeMarb asked if there was a waiting list for the City program. Varinia replied that yes there was a waiting list. The waiting list is run on a first come first serve basis. Last year families were continuously enrolled. Host clarified that in past years they waited until April or May to enroll people from the waiting list. Now as people leave the program new families are added. We are looking at how to connect this to other initiatives. For example housing programs that prioritize employment could benefit from access to quality child care.

MOTION BY ADAMS, SECONDED BY LASKY TO APPROVE 2014 CITY CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE RATES. Motion passed by voice vote.

2. [32689](#)

2014 Child Care Assistance Income Guidelines

Varinia del Moral discussed that the city guidelines are based on the federal poverty levels. They are published by the federal government each year in January, but have not been published yet. The income guidelines usually go up 2-5% which means some families will get more funding and other will be bumped from the program and will become eligible for WI Shares funding. Once the new city rates have been determined they will come to the ECCEC and be referred as a resolution to Council. Demarb agreed to sponsor the resolution.

- Varinia del Moral distributed a handout of 2013 termination data to the committee. The document shows how many families left in each period and for what reason. The number one reason families leave is they are eligible for or transfer to WI Shares program. The second reason families leave is they earn enough that the family share becomes greater than the maximum reimbursement. She explained there is no waiting list for WI Shares funding. Kratowicz added that the state spent \$400 million on Shares at its most recent peak.

- DeMarb inquired about the \$20,000 surplus and what happens to it. Host responded that this year we tied it to the stabilization grant fund, allocating addition funds to centers who received 2013 stabilization grants. Host stated that the budget is closely watched. Varinia del Moral reiterated that point and added that over-committing to families is exponential for the next year. Once a family is added they will be funded for the next year and those funds need to be encumbered.

- Varinia del Moral discussed that when co-pays become too high families go leave our program many times for less expensive care. DeMarb inquired about what it takes to be accredited and what it costs to be accredited. Host stated that accredited centers cost more and provide better care. Supplies, educated teachers, etc. all contribute to the higher cost of accredited centers. Quality costs more.

3. [31496](#)

ECCEC Subcommittee

The February 13, 2013 subcommittee will consist of Lasky, Kratowicz and Dittrich-Templin.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY LASKY, SECONDED BY KRATOWICZ TO ADJOURN THE MEETING
AT 9:06 AM. Motion passed by voice vote.**