

**Revised for 4/22/09 (RICHARD AND DIANE MET AND
MADE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES)**

**Early Education and Care Board Discussion
Item (January, 2009)**

Recognition of long-term child care center directors and providers

Research has shown that it takes experience to operate successful, high quality child care programs, whether in a center or in family child care (WCCRP, Brief 2 and Brief 13). Successful professional experience can be summed up as “doing it right, time after time” – no matter whether the field is medicine, sports, or education.

Recognizing successful experience in the community is done by many professions and groups: the Kiwanis and the Rotary Club and others have annual awards for community service and outstanding efforts, and the Mayor and Governor of Wisconsin frequently issue certificates of appreciation for contributions to local government. In the field of early care and education, Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C) once had a recognition program that operated for several years that would select one director and one family child care provider each year to receive a “Child Care Professional Award” that would pay their way to a national conference. Wisconsin Early Childhood Association has also offered recognition awards to professionals who contribute to the field.

Over the span of time since the City of Madison Early Care and Education program began in 1975, many providers who are city-accredited have remained in their positions, partly because of the support and satisfaction they found in their jobs – and have demonstrated successful professional experience. There are currently a number of early childhood leaders in their 20th or 30th years of leadership positions as directors of centers or operators of a family child care home, who will retire and may be unrecognized by the wider community.

To that end, the following resolution is offered:

Be it resolved that the ECCEB create an annual award which recognizes a director of a city-accredited, licensed center, or a city-accredited licensed family child care provider, who is retiring after at least 10 years of service to their program and Madison’s young children and families. The award is given in order to publicly recognize their service upon retirement.

The award and its timing will be determined by the ECCEB, and includes the following steps:

- a) Individuals meeting the above criteria will inform City Child Care program staff about their intention to retire. Individuals meeting the

criteria who have retired within the past year at the start of this award program are also eligible for recognition.

- b) Create a certificate of appreciation for outstanding service to children and families from the City of Madison and the Mayor's Office which recognizes the individual, and is presented to the recipient at a City Council meeting. **(DIANE WILL CONTACT BILL CLINGAN ABOUT THE APPROPRIATE PROCESS)**
- c) A press release to local newspapers and television stations announcing the award. **(RICHARD IS EXPLORING THIS WITH TELEVISION STATIONS)**
- d) A framed photograph of the individual, posted in the hall of the Madison Municipal Building near the Day Care Unit offices.
- e) Announcement to the program's board of directors and/or parents – and to state early childhood association (WECA, WFCCA, etc.) that this recognition award has been given.

A list of names of individuals to be honored shall be created by the City Child Care Program staff members, and be submitted to the ECCEB by July 1 of each year, with the awards to be presented in September of each year.

(Submitted for background and approval of the resolution at the April 22, 2009 meeting of the ECCEB).

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