



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Approved EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 11, 2016

8:00 AM

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Denise DeMarb; Linda E. Benzschawel; Scott Peters; Jennifer Templin;
Diane B. Adams; Nancy K. Brien and Muriel Simms

Absent: 1 - LeAndrea M. Vernon

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION BY BRIEN, SECONDED BY BENZSCHAWEL TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 14, 2016 MINUTES. Motion passed by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

2 committee members disclosed they have children who attend accredited family child care programs.

NEW BUSINESS

1. [41699](#) 2016 Madison Child Care Forum

Attachments: [Sign In Sheet](#)
[Anna Rue](#)
[Mary Ellen Tremelling](#)
[Nancy Bradley](#)
[Silke O'Donnell -Colleen-Billie-Mary Jo-Denise](#)
[Silke O'Donnell- Sunshine FCC Income Loss Data](#)
[George Hagenauer](#)
[Child Care & Job Market Report -George H](#)
[Estimated Need for Early Childhood Programs - George H](#)
[Oma Vic McMurray](#)

Several providers that couldn't attend submitted written testimony.

MOTION BY DEMARB, SECONDED BY TEMPLIN TO ACCEPT WRITTEN COMMENTS. Motion passed by voice vote.

The 2016 child care forum included the following speakers.
Shalander Byas & Christie Howell-Yrios – Animal Crackers

Michelle Seay – Satellite FCC Provider
Silke O'Donnell - Satellite FCC Provider
George Hagenauer – 4C
Meg Miller – Center For Families
Oma Vic McMurray – Satellite FCC Provider
Cigdem Unal – UW Madison

Animal Crackers Shalander Byas & Christie Howell-Yrios

They thanked the City for support. The center serves 65%-90% low income families. In the last few years the trend has been shared custody of children which means that child care assistance payments are attendance based only. There has been a significant increase in homeless families at AC, they are now up to 9 families. Larger families with single parents as the head of household are increasing as well. High staff turnover has occurred as it is hard to hire baseline staff with credentials. Barriers include higher cost of everything from custodial to energy costs, higher co pays that may not be received, but attendance based payments for WI Shares children has been the biggest barrier. The 25% differential from YoungStar goes to offset co pays. Diversifying teaching staff to include neighborhood or low-income staff has helped AC to better relate to families they serve. 8 of the staff currently participate in TEACH scholarships. This has opened doors to allow for people to go back to school. More stabilization grants are needed to keep centers on track for families, especially those with families on attendance based reimbursement.

Satellite FCC Provider – Michelle Seay

Michelle began by reading statements from Chris Garrett and Anne Alexander. Family child care centers receive only attendance based reimbursements from WI Shares. Chris Garrett is a family child care provider who has a family with 3 kids with health issues that can often mean work is missed or children do not attend and Chris does not receive funding for those days. This has led to less income but all of her bills remain the same rate. Anne Alexander is another family child care provider who suffers from the same WI Shares attendance based policy. With WI Shares children she is not paid for holidays or days when the children are unable to attend. Families need assistance, but family child care centers have limited space and they are not compensated the same for WI Shares families.

Michelle has been unable to serve funded kids without losing money. Michelle provides infant care which is expensive; she can only serve 3 children at a time. It is unfair to get paid less as FCC provider. Feeding healthy, whole foods is not cheap. Feels like family child care centers are seen as less important than centers based on this policy. Taxes and other bills still must be paid. Co pays are expensive. People don't always make enough to cover them. Often she takes the loss when families can't afford the co pays as she knows they need care. She also has a special needs child and an husband with special needs.

Satellite FCC Provider - Silke O'Donnell

Silke read a statement from parent Colleen McCabe regarding proper compensation for family child care providers. The attendance based WI Shares policy makes it difficult for providers; the co pays are too high for the parents to cover. Silke read a statement from parent Billie Haywright thanking Silke for

her efforts, her flexible hours and working within Billie's budget. Silke read a statement from Satellite FCC provider Mary Jo Flocca discussing unequal payouts for FCC providers vs. group centers from WI Shares. Services, equipment and operating costs have risen in recent years which have led to increased rates for families. The attendance based policy has created a disincentive to further education of providers. Why increase skills to receive no increase in pay. Silke read a statement from Satellite FCC provider Denise Mirkin. Denise has worked with WI Shares families in the past but can no longer afford to take the loss.

Silke has been a provider for 22 years and encourages quality improvement. In recent years she has moved to more private families than funded families due to the attendance based WI Shares policy. Her families live paycheck to paycheck and the county payments and losses have been substantial. In 2014 she lost \$21,000 in income and in 2015 she replaced 1.5 slots with private vs. publically funded and lost \$14,000. Silke provided documentation of her financial loss.

4-C George Hagenauer

Economic challenges for child care within Dane County. Rates need to cover wages for child care workers. There are empty slots but centers cannot hire teachers so they cannot fill those slots. People earn too much to qualify for WI Shares but cannot afford to pay the full rate. George provided comments and short papers including 'Using Birth Data to Estimate Need for EC Programs' and 'Child Care Hiring Problems May Effect Larger Job Market'.

Center for Families – Meg Miller

Thanked George and the child care providers for all the work they do. Many people do not understand the issues surrounding attendance based fees. There is also a huge need for immediate child care for people who need to start work. People will get a job and need to start in the next day or two and they cannot find child care. If there was a way to fund child care for families starting new work even for 1 month it would make a difference. Businesses should be investing in this.

Satellite FCC Provider – Oma Vic McMurray

Oma thanked everyone for their support. She used to serve more low income families but was losing thousands of dollars each year. Also private families pay in advance while funded families do not. Perhaps the city could reserve certain slots for low-income families who need immediate care. Could City funding be added to WI Shares funding to cover family co pays? Oma would like the City to adopt the United Nations Rights of a Child like other places in the world have done.

UW Madison – Cigdem Unal

It is difficult to hire quality teachers. Stabilization funds have made a large difference for centers that serve low income families. Director's have been meeting monthly for a director's caucus to discuss issues centers are facing.

The committee thanked the providers for their input.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY TEMPLIN, SECONDED BY BRIEN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT
9:44 AM. Motion passed by voice vote.**