

VA CHILD DAY CARE COUNCIL

**VA Dept. of Social Services
7 N. 8th Street
Richmond, VA 23219**

March 10, 2009

Members Present

Gail Johnson, Rosemary Burton, Mary Cole, Charles Finley, Bethany Geldmaker, Kathy Glazer, Susan Hackney, Kimberly Hulcher, Liz Dowdy, Jack Knapp, Ellen Nau, Emory Rodgers, Novella Ruffin, Rose Ann Smythe, Diane Smalley, Nancy Smith, and Kristi Snyder

Absent

Irene Carney, Letitia Clark, Margaret Collins, Tracy Cox, James Hare, William Harvey, Dona Huang, Linda Janulis, Denise Pearsall, and Lisa Shelburne

Call to Order

Chair Gail Johnson called the Council meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Members welcomed Liz Dowdy, recently appointed member to the Council. Ms. Dowdy is from Vinton, Virginia and represents IACCEPT on the Council. Ms. Dowdy previously served on the Council for 8 years.

Approval of Agenda

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Finley) and seconded (Ms. Smith) moved to adjust the agenda to hear action items while a quorum of members is present. Motion carried with all in favor.

Minutes

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Knapp) and seconded (Mr. Finley) moved to accept the Minutes from the November meeting as presented. Motion carried with all in favor.

Other Business

Gail Johnson advised the federal stimulus package included \$90 billion for early childhood development and asked Kathy Glazer to elaborate. Ms. Glazer stated that much of the stimulus funding is fairly prescriptive. It appears that Virginia is to receive \$38 million additional CCDBG funds for child care subsidy. Ideas for most effective spending of these funds are constrained by the fact that these are one-time, temporary dollars. Further guidance is expected from the feds. The timeline was discussed. Virginia has 2 years to commit and 3 years to expend the funds.

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Standing Committee Reports
Goal Committees-no report

Chair's Report

Ms. Johnson advised this had been a busy season. She recently spoke at the International Franchising Conference in San Francisco and attended the Rainbow Incorporated Conference in San Antonio Texas. She was pleased to see the economic growth taking place in San Antonio.

Information Presentations

Regulatory Update

Richard Martin, Manager of the Office of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs (OLRA) provided members with a copy of the Status of Regulation Report dated March 10, 2009.

A copy of this report is attached to the official minutes housed in the home office.

Legislative Update

Mr. Martin provided members with a copy of the Child Day Care Related Legislation Report as of March 9, 2009.

He advised that *HB 338 Emergency plans; fee for review* was a carry over from 2008 General Assembly and was never acted upon.

HB 2048 Child day programs; exemption from licensure was stricken from the docket by Health, Welfare, and Institutions.

HB 2265 Voluntary registration of family day homes: Commissioner may contract to certify passed General Assembly.

SB 969 Unlicensed child day center; permitted to reduce number of staff per child during rest time passed General Assembly.

A copy of this report is attached to the official minutes housed in the home office. Any questions can be referred to Mr. Martin at 804.726.7902.

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Presentations

Open/Close Facility Stats

Leslie Knachel was asked to provide the stats on the numbers of open and closed facilities to determine if the CDC regulations impacted these numbers. Ms. Knachel advised there were 726 facilities that opened and 758 that closed. A definitive conclusion whether the regulations had any impact is unknown.

Council is interested in knowing how many of these facilities were administratively closed, how many transferred license, and how many spaces for children were affected. The Council is also interested in knowing if the numbers in homes or unrestricted facilities rose due to the closings. Ms. Knachel will provide this information.

Regulatory Advisory Panels

Members were asked to share their interest in participating on any or all of the workgroups. Ms. Johnson will appoint a Chair and Vice Chair to each of the workgroups.

Work Group 1

Introduction and Administration

Chair Kim Hulcher

Vice Chair Charles Finley

Members

Novella Ruffin

Diane Smalley

Ellen Nau

Rosemary Burton

Susan Hackney

Liz Dowdy

Tish Clark-Wilkins

Linda Janulis

Leslie Knachel

Karen Cullen

Deb O'Neill

Debbie Beirne

Richard Martin

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Work Group 2

Staffing Qualifications and Training: Staffing and Supervision

Chair Kristi Snyder
Vice Chair Mary Cole
Members
 Susan Hackney
 Emory Rodgers
 Nancy Smith
 Jack Knapp
 Rosemary Burton
 Liz Dowdy
 Kim Hulcher
 Kathy Glazer
 Novella Ruffin
 Leslie Knachel
 Karen Cullen
 Debbie Beirne
 Debra O'Neill
 Jan Sigler

Work Group 3

Physical Plan; Programs

Chair Nancy Smith
Vice Chair Rosemary Burton
Members
 Novella Ruffin
 Diane Smalley
 Ellen Nau
 Susan Hackney
 Kristi Snyder
 Rose Ann Smythe
 Emory Rodgers
 Mary Cole
 Jack Knapp
 Liz Dowdy
 Leslie Knachel
 Karen Cullen
 Debra O'Neill
 Debbie Beirne
 Richard Martin

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Workgroup 4

Special Care Provisions and Emergencies; Special Services

Chair Susan Hackney
Vice Chair Bethany Geldmaker
Members
 Emory Rogers
 Novella Ruffin
 Rosemary Burton
 Liz Dowdy
 Kim Hulcher
 Tish Clark-Wilkins
 Linda Janulis
 Leslie Knachel
 Karen Cullen
 Debbie Beirne
 Debra O'Neill
 Jan Sigler

Work on these committees will be done outside of the Council's regularly scheduled meetings. The physical meeting will take place in Richmond with telephonic meetings in other areas of the state. An approved quorum will be three (one Council member, one OLRA staff, and one Licensing staff) at the Richmond office.

The regulation will be viewed line-by-line. Licensing staff will capture the changes and the intent, and submit them to the Workgroup Chair. Once approved, a streamlined report will be sent to Council for approval. Ms. Rengnerth will provide general minutes from the workgroup meeting and handle the necessary roll call votes for attendance and approval.

Dr. Ruffin confirmed that providers and others might attend the meetings and share their perspectives with the workgroups if asked to participate. This does not negate the Council from putting the regulation out for public comment.

Further details regarding the meeting dates, site information, and notification to meet the FOIA will be forthcoming. Mr. Martin advised that meeting sites must be open to the public and will be closed circuit only to published sites.

Mr. Martin mentioned there are several members on Council that have not received reappointment verification. These members will remain active unless advised otherwise by the Secretary of the Commonwealth on behalf of the Governor.

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He also advised that VDSS is moving to a location across the street sometime later this year. He will keep members updated on the move.

ON MOTION, DULY MADE (Mr. Knapp) and seconded (Ms. Snyder) moved to recommend three as a quorum for the Richmond workgroup meetings; to include one OLRA staff, one Licensing staff, and one Council member. Motion carried with all in favor.

Members asked Licensing staff to include emails to centers advising them of the workgroup meetings. Ms. Knachel agreed to send emails to the centers that have provided their email address and ensured Council this information will also be listed on the VA Regulatory Townhall site.

Debbie Beirne advised there are provider meetings in March and April and she will request email addresses at those meetings.

Council Check In

Bethany Geldmaker provided members with a copy of the school entrance health form and instructions. A copy of this information is attached to the official minutes housed in the home office. She also advised that the third edition of *Caring for Children* book is available electronically. She can also obtain a few copies if needed in the workgroups.

Emory Rodgers advised his agency is revising the Building and Fire Code in 2009. Items being considered are CO alarms; mandating residential sprinklers for one & two family homes that operate child/adult programs; arc-fault devices in residential facilities, and fire drills in licensed homes. The NOIRA will be presented in March 2009 with date for final regulations being September 2010. He will keep the Council informed as this regulation moved forward.

Ms. Hackney mentioned a recent CO poisoning in the eastern region. The CO poisoning occurred in a religiously exempt child care center that did not have detectors.

Ellen Nau advised that Generations Crossing, a new adult/child facility is open in Harrisonburg and encouraged members to visit this beautiful facility.

Kristi Snyder advised the Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children (VAECE) Conference is being held this week, Thursday through Saturday at the Marriot Hotel in Richmond. Attendance is welcomed.

Gail Johnson advised she would be presenting on "Strategic Planning" at the VAECE Conference on Thursday.

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Public Comment

None

Future Agenda Items

- Infant Toddler Network update
- Open/closed facility update to include: capacity numbers, administratively closed numbers, and if there is an increase in homes or unrestricted facilities due to these closings.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the Council meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Rengnerth.