

**Minutes**  
**VA Child Day Care Council**  
**VDSS – 7 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Richmond, VA 23219**

**January 13, 2005**

**Present**

Gail Johnson, Chair  
William Harvey, Vice Chair  
Rosemary Burton, Secretary  
Lisa Shelburne  
Norman Crumpton  
Terry Davis  
Charles Finley  
Bethany Geldmaker  
Susan Hackney  
Kim Hulcher  
Nancy Read Smith  
Jeff Walton  
Rose Ann Sharp  
Carol Logue  
Susan Ballard  
Judith Beattie  
Margaret Collins  
Donna Peters  
Alonzo Jones  
Kristi Snyder  
Anita Simpkins

**Absent**

Cleo Sims  
Jay DeBoer  
Deborah Gardner  
Dona Huang  
Donna Thornton  
Novella Ruffin  
William Tobin

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gail Johnson at 10:15 a.m. on Thursday, January 13, 2005.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Johnson introduced newly appointed Council member Alonzo Jones; members, in turn, introduced themselves and welcomed Mr. Jones to the Council.

**Agenda Approval**

***ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Harvey) and seconded (Mr. Crumpton) moved to amend the agenda to include moving Commissioner's Report; Conflict of Interest Training; and the public comment discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.***

**Chair's Report**

Ms. Johnson stated it was time to review the Council's Strategic Plan; reviewing goals and future directions. Time will be blocked during the March 10 meeting to accomplish this.

Committee Assignments

**General Procedures**

Susan Hackney, Chair  
Susan Ballard  
Jay DeBoer  
Terry Davis  
Rosemary Burton

**Background Checks**

Norman Crumpton, Chair  
William Tobin  
Dona Huang  
Donna Peters  
Kim Hulcher

**Public Participation Guidelines**

Bethany Geldmaker, Chair  
Lisa Shelburne  
Charles Finley  
William Harvey

**Nominating Committee**

Novella Ruffin, Chair  
Jeff Walton  
Susan Ballard  
Kim Hulcher

**Strategic Planning**

Kristi Snyder, Chair  
Deborah Gardner  
Bethany Geldmaker  
Nancy Smith  
Rosemary Burton  
Rose Ann Sharp

**Training**

Donna Thornton, Chair  
Judith Beattie  
Anita Simpkins  
Cleo Sims  
Alonzo Jones  
Novella Ruffin  
Margaret Collins  
Kristi Snyder  
Nancy Smith

**Liaisons**

Bethany Geldmaker - Department of Health

Alonzo Jones- Virginia Recreation and Park Society

Members were asked to review the Committee List and let the Chair know if they had an interest to serve on different and/or additional committees.

Chairman Johnson provided members with an updated Council membership listing and contact information. Any changes should be provided to Ms. Rengnerth.

A copy of the study *The Status of Early Care and Education in the U.S.*, written by the Institute of Women's Policy Research was circulated among members. This study confirmed the importance of education for children prior to age five; pointing out that if children are not prepared, they get behind and stay behind. Study results will be published on January 14 in the local paper.

**Child Day Care Related Legislation**

Richard Martin, Manager of the Office of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs reviewed Child Day Care related legislation as of January 12, 2005. He advised there are currently eight bills: HB 1550-Parental notification when a child is injured; HB 1900-Civil Liability Immunity for providers providing on site day care; HB 1901-Income tax-day-care facility investment tax credit; HB 1998 Exemption from licensure as day care centers for certain martial arts programs; HB 2046-Criminal history record information for employment in proximity to minors-penalty; HB 2098 child day centers-criminal background checks; SB 749-Family day homes-if not covered by liability insurance to post and notify in writing parent/guardian; and SB 895-Criminal background checks-to organizations providing care to children, elderly and disabled.

**Commissioner Report**

**Minimum Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers Regulation 22 VAC 15-30-10  
Current Status Review**

Commissioner Jones provided members with a copy of a letter Governor Warner sent to Senator Frank Wagner, Chairman of the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules in response to his concerns over the Council's day center regulations. Governor Warner advised his administration supports these regulations and feels particularly strongly about the enhanced child-to-staff ratios and other quality improvements provided by the regulations. He further stated he was sensitive to concerns by existing child day center owners about the enhanced square footage requirements and supports enhancing these requirements for newly licensed providers. He stated it was appropriate to allow owners to continue to meet the existing space requirements at currently licensed locations; however, they would meet the new space requirements should they construct new or expanded centers at any location.

For clarification, Commissioner Jones stated that existing centers would not only be grandfathered in, but so would anyone that was to purchase the center at future dates.

***ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Walton) and seconded (Mr. Crumpton) moved that current licensee and subsequent licensees at currently licensed facilities may continue to provide 25 square foot per child. (All other wording in 22 VAC 15-30-380 B.2. following 25 square feet per child would be removed).  
Voice vote: All in favor, motion carried.***

***ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Hackney) and seconded (Mr. Finley) to strike "for current" licensees from page 50 #3 of the regulation 22 VAC 15-30-380***

**Approval of Minutes**

***ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Sharp) and seconded (Mr. Harvey) moved to approve the Minutes of November 18, 2004 as provided. Motion carried with all in favor. The Chair thanked Ms. Rengnerth for a job well-done.***

### **Public Comment Discussion**

The Chair advised that public comment had been suspended in May 2004 while the Council worked on the center regulations to ensure deadlines were met. Members were asked to provide input as to whether public comment should be reinstated.

***ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Simpkins) and seconded (Mr. Crumpton) moved to resume public comment period beginning at today's meeting. Motion carried with all in favor.***

### **Public Participation Guidelines Regulation 22 VAC 15-10**

#### **Periodic Review**

Richard Martin reviewed this regulation and advised he would submit notice that the Council is receiving comment to determine if this regulation needs to be amended or not.

Mr. Martin advised the only part of the statute changed that would trigger amending the regulation was the requirement that the proposed regulation would be published in the Richmond Times Dispatch newspaper. This statutory requirement no longer exists since most everyone has adequate access to the internet.

***ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Harvey) and seconded (Mr. Finley) moved to allow Mr. Martin to publish the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action for regulation 22 VAC 15-10 entitled Public Participation Guidelines. Motion carried with all in favor.***

### **Public Comment**

Maile Hildenbrand from Virginia Beach spoke on the large scale "before and after school programs"; her excitement regarding the 25 square foot ruling and concern over the long range requirement for three semester training hours per year for leaders that may only work two hours. She also complimented Susan Hackney and staff on recent Background Training she attended.

Members voiced their concerns over parking issues today. Ms. Rengnerth confirmed parking notice had been given to the department and City Parking staff two weeks in advance. Unfortunately, with General Assembly in town, lobbyist may have used Council's allotted parking today. Ms. Peters offered the use of Jewish Community Center should the Council want to meet there as parking is not a problem.

### **Future Meeting Schedule**

March 10, 2005      VA DSS Home Office

### **Council Check In**

*Rosemary Burton* thanked everyone who reached out to her during her recent bereavement.

*Lisa Shelburne* advised her program is branching out to include infants and stated she would welcome assistance from anyone that could provide email information to her.

*Susan Hackney* asked that the current membership listing be updated to include member representation.

*Anita Simpkins* asked where letters from constituents should be forwarded for response. *Richard Martin* asked that they be forwarded to him for distribution to the appropriate person.

*Susan Ballard* advised that Children's World had recently acquired Kinder Care Centers and was now the largest child care provider in the country.

*Kim Hulcher* voiced her concerns about the numerous martial art centers that are opening up and possible lack of licensure. Mr. Martin advised that many of these programs are licensed under the "come and go" programs. He emphasized that any programs operating after school that are not licensed should be reported to the Licensing Division of the VADSS.

***ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Harvey) and seconded (Ms. Hulcher) moved to have staff from the VA Department of Social Services draft a letter for the Chair's signature (sent to appropriate committee Chairs) that would voice the Council's opposition to House Bill 1998 on legislation dealing with martial art program exemption in General Assembly, and allow department representatives to oppose this Bill in General Assembly on behalf of the Council. Motion carried with all in favor.***

*Bethany Geldmaker* advised that the Health Department now has flu shots available and reminded everyone of the importance of excellent hand washing techniques to prevent germs from being transferred to one another.

She reported there are over 2000 whooping cough cases and mentioned the need to ensure immunizations are up-to-date.

She further advised that the Emergency Preparedness Team had developed preparedness guidelines and plans for disease outburst; first aid; and flip charts.

Ms. Geldmaker advised she is heading up a project that is developing a plan to review the direction of early childhood in the next 5-10-15 years, improving parent support, etc.

*Kristi Snyder* advised the Virginia Association on Early Childhood will hold a conference in Richmond on March 17, 18, & 19, 2005.

#### **Conflict of Interest Training**

Members were provided Conflict of Interest Training via DVD provided by the Office of the Attorney General. Certificates of training attendance and roster were provided to Richard Martin.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Rengnerth