

VA Child Day Care Council

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

MARCH 13, 2008

Members Present

Gail Johnson, Kristy Snyder, Letitia Clark, Ellen Nau, Tracy Cox, Lisa Shelburne, Nancy Smith, Emory Rodgers, Margaret Collins, Jack Knapp, Kimberly Hulcher, Mary Cole, and Rosemary Burton.

Absent

Irene Carney, Charles Finley, Bethany Geldmaker, Kathy Glazer, Susan Hackney, James Hare, William Harvey, Dona Huang, Linda Janulis, Stephanie Jones, Denise Pearsall, Donna Peters, Novella Ruffin, Rose Ann Sharp, and Diane Smalley

Call to Order

The Council meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., by Chair Gail Johnson. She advised the Commissioner would not be at the meeting today due to a conflict in schedule.

Welcome & Introductions

Members and presenters were thanked for attending.

Approval of Agenda

By general consensus, the Council accepted to add several presentations to the agenda (Aleta Lawson and Jeff Williams).

Minutes

Without a quorum present, the Council was unable to approve minutes from the previous meeting.

Information Presentations

Patricia Thorne, Senior Project Finance Manager and ***Barbara Carter*** from the Virginia Department of Business Assistance spoke to the Council regarding child care financial programs. A copy of this handout is attached to the official minutes housed in the central office.

Zelda Boyd, Child Care Development representative spoke to the Council on the VA Scholarship Program. The department is in the process of automating the scholarship application so it can be filled out and submitted on line (current process requires it to be printed off, filled in and then mailed).

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Applications will continue to be accepted on a first-come first-served basis. The automated system will date stamp the application. Members verified there is a link on the VDSS website to the scholarship application. It was also verified the scholarship lifetime award is \$1760.

Ms. Boyd advised \$600,000 scholarship fund has already been expended for this year so there will be no summer scholarships awarded. At the time of the meeting, it was undetermined whether there would be additional funds available in the upcoming state budget.

Aleta Lawson and *Arlene Kasper*, Training and Education Consultants, provided members with a current professional development catalog and a career lattice. The career lattice was based on a lattice developed by Smart Beginnings South Hampton Roads. The South Hampton lattice initiative, which included consultations and supports, was instrumental in increasing providers' training and education hours. Copies of these handouts are attached to the official Minutes house in the central office.

Regulatory Report

Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers 22-VAC 15- 30 Fast Track Regulation
Mr. Martin advised this regulation became effective 15 days after public comment ended and is now in effect. He provided members with a copy of the public comment that was received (3 comments).

Ms. Johnson reminded Council they were approaching their responsibility to review this regulation (4-year periodic review) in May 2009. The Council will begin reviewing this regulation over the next few months to decide if the regulation should be amended, repealed, or left as is. This will be discussed at the September Council meeting. Recommendations from VDSS will be helpful.

Mr. Martin reminded members they can view the public comment received on the VA Town Hall site.

Legislation Update

Richard Martin provided members with a copy of the 2008 Session of the General Assembly Report that amended the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 63.2-1704.1, 63.2-1704.2, and 63.2-1704.3, relating to the Screened Family Day Home Provider List. A copy of this presentation is attached to the official minutes housed in the central office.

Members received a copy of the annual report on obtaining the maximum available federal funding for child care services. A copy of this report is attached to the official minutes housed in the central office.

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Mr. Martin advised that the Council now has a designated position for a representative from the YMCA. This is not an additional Council position. Clarification was provided that the Council will lose a non-profit position when the current member's term expires. The position will then become a YMCA designated position.

Ms. Hulcher requested a copy (pie chart) on the Child Care Block Grant. Mr. Martin advised this information is available in report-form and will provide it to members today.

Public Comment

None

Other Business

Members discussed changing the May meeting date to accommodate Mr. Harvey's work schedule conflicts. Unfortunately, other members had conflicts with the dates presented for change. The May meeting date will remain in effect.

Goal 3 *Collaborate with the Department of Social Services to enhance training opportunities.* Due to committee member's absence, this report will be heard in May.

Goal 4 *Increase awareness and support the development of funding opportunities to ensure that licensed operators can meet promulgated regulations.*

Ms. Burton advised this goal was now amended to 2 objectives.

Objective 4.1

When considering regulation, assess the financial impact of the regulation on the operator and advocate for funding to help the operator meet the new regulation.

Objective 4.2

Collaborate with the Alignment Project to promote funding efforts for early childhood initiatives.

A copy of this handout is attached to the official minutes housed in the central office. The Chair thanked Ms. Burton for her willingness to continue as Chair of this Goal.

Ms. Johnson advised the Council's Strategic Plan Goal Reports will be used as a tool to evaluate the need to revise the regulations—beginning with Goal #1 (*Develop and modify regulations that protect and promote the well-being and safety of children*) in September and Goal #2 (*Evaluate the effectiveness and impact of existing regulations*) in November. Council will hear from the Evaluation Goal Committee at the May meeting.

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There was some discussion on the Council's role as an advocate for legislation. Mr. Martin reminded them that they can speak on their own behalf but not as a member of the Council unless so directed by the Council. Ms. Hulcher confirmed with Mr. Martin that she could introduce herself as a Council member but state that she was speaking on her own behalf and not that of a Council member.

Jeff Williams advised all model forms and the technical assistance document are now on line. They can be accessed on the VDSS website. Ms. Shelburne advised she had used the technical assistance documents on this site and found them easy to use and extremely helpful.

Chair's Report

Ms. Johnson thanked members for their cards of sympathy received in November on the loss of her aunt.

She advised she had received dialogue from a MAT trainer asking for assistance to provide training in Virginia.

Correspondence was received from a gentleman looking for information on subsidy rates and the location of Council minutes.

Ms. Johnson provided highlights of her visit to day care centers in China. Members encouraged Ms. Johnson to provide a slideshow presentation at the May meeting.

Council Check In

Ms. Burton spoke to Council on how international child care regulations compare to those in Virginia. She advised that every country is different, mentioning that special-ed children are fully funded in Australia. Adult to child ratios in Great Britain are 3/1 for babies and 6/1 for 2-year olds, which far surpass those in Virginia.

Future Agenda Items

May 8

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| ▪ Nominating Committee Report | Rosemary Burton, Chair |
| ▪ Goal Evaluation Report due | Bethany Geldmaker and Jack Knapp |
| ▪ 2008-09 Meeting Schedule | |
| ▪ Goal 3 –(<i>Collaborate with the Department of Social Services to enhance training opportunities</i>) Report | Donna Peters, Chair |
| ▪ Slideshow Presentation of China | Gail Johnson |

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September 11

- Goal 1 –(*Develop and modify regulations that protect and promote the well-being and safety of children*) Report Nancy Smith, Chair
- Review Center Regulation for pre-work

November 13

- Goal 2 (*Evaluate the effectiveness and impact of existing regulations*) Report Susan Hackney, Chair

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the Council meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Rengnerth.