

Minutes

**VA Child Day Care Council
7 North Eighth Street
Richmond, VA 23219**

May 8, 2008

Attendees

Gail Johnson, Rosemary Burton, Irene Carney, Mary Cole, Margaret Collins, Tracy Cox, Charles Finley, Linda Janulis, Stephanie Jones, Jack Knapp, Ellen Nau, Rose Ann Sharp, and Kristi Snyder.

Absent

Letitia Clark, Bethany Geldmaker, Kathy Glazer, Susan Hackney, James Hare, William Harvey, Dona Huang, Kimberly Hulcher, Denise Pearsall, Donna Peters, Emory Rodgers, Novella Ruffin, Lisa Shelburne, Diane Smalley, and Nancy Smith.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Gail Johnson, Chair.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was accepted by general consensus due to lack of quorum.

Action Items

Due to lack of quorum, the following items will be carried over to the September meeting for approval:

- Minutes from November 2007 and March 2008
- 2008-09 Meeting Schedule
- Nominating Committee Report (Ms. Burton)
- Goal 3 Report (Ms. Peters)
- Goal Evaluation Report (Ms. Geldmaker & Mr. Knapp)

Presentations

Quality Rating and Improvement System Update (QRIS)

Kathy Gillikin, Interim Director of Division of Child Care Development (CCD) provided an update on the QRIS. She advised the program is rated on 5-star scale with most classrooms scoring at the 3-star level. She advised that Kathy Glazer will have more information on fund availability to continue—anticipated goal is one more year.

Members requested information on becoming a part of this program and asked this issue be presented on future agenda.

Minutes
VA Child Day Care Council
May 8, 2008
Page 2

Block Grant Breakdown

Mary Ward, CCD Subsidy Manager provided an update in the subsidy program. She advised that automation is continuing to move forward. Streamlining of payment process and procedures are consistent statewide. Piloting will begin in all or part of the localities by early fall.

She advised that the Child Care Development block grant is \$171 million dollars which includes local match money. Following federal guidelines, 4% of the funds must be spent on quality and availability for citizens (\$14.9 million). Of that amount, \$8.2 million dollars will go to Licensing to fund inspectors. \$1.5 million of the 4% will go to local agencies for quality initiatives, equipment purchases, training, etc. \$1.9 million dollars is targeted for federal infant and toddler initiatives to include the new parent toolkits, Early Childhood Conferences, CDR services, etc.

She advised that \$800,000 will be used for the Scholarship Fund; \$780,000 to professional development; \$700,000 to Child Care Resource Referral Network; \$304,000 for the school age grant; and \$500,000 to the Early childhood Foundation.

Of the \$8.5 million dollar increase given by the General Assembly, \$2.5 million will be used for Head Start wrap around program and \$600 million dollars is targeted to address the waiting list for subsidy program.

She advised that VA Tech surveys maximum reimbursable rates and VDSS reviews the data. There are currently no funds available for a rate increase; however, they are meeting in the next few weeks to look at ways to increase the rate without cutting families. Ms. Johnson asked if there was any data available on how many facilities are not taking subsidy children. Ms. Ward was asked to provide the market reimbursable rate and where providers currently stand in relationship to it. This will be provided at the September meeting.

Infant and Toddler RFP

Arlene Kasper, Program Consultant advised that VDSS issued a Request for Proposals (RFP CCD-08-069) entitled Infant/Toddler Specialist System on May 2, 2008.

The purpose is to collaborate with families and the community to implement a system that empowers and strengthens care and education programs to enhance the healthy growth and development of infants and toddlers.

- statewide system – intent is to award only one contract
- specific to child care/programs offering care/education to children 0-36 months

Minutes
VA Child Day Care Council
May 8, 2008
Page 3

The goals are to:

Improve quality of care

- offer health and safety training, TA and referrals
- provide intensive on-site technical assistance with consideration of environmental rating scale scores
- encourage use of Milestones of Child Development

Increase education/competencies of infant/toddler caregivers/teachers/directors

- promote existing professional development opportunities
- provide supports

Promote community connections to increase awareness and use of resources/services

- identify and encourage use
- engage existing and new partners to improve the accessibility, affordability and quality of services for caregivers/teachers/directors

Implement the system and increase the capacity to offer services

- contract or employ specialists through a competitive process
- require qualifications and training for specialists
- evaluate effectiveness of services

Applicants must be located in Virginia.

- Non-profit organizations
- Collaborative partnerships
- Faith-based organizations
- For-profit organizations
- Governmental entities
- Institutions of higher education

Funding is up to \$2,000,000 for the RFP contract period. No match.

- maximum of \$600,000 may be used from the start date of the contract through June 30, 2009
- maximum of \$1,400,000 may be used from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 (once fully staffed with specialists)

- Department has the option to offer two 1-year optional renewals of \$1,400,000 for each one year renewal

Minutes
VA Child Day Care Council
May 8, 2008
Page 4

There will be a mandatory Pre-proposal Conference on Monday, May 19, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Deadlines:

- May 31, 2008 (5:00 p.m.) – due date/time for the letter of intent
- June 30, 2008 (5:00 p.m.) – proposal due date/time

Expected Start Date: September 15, 2008

Web Site for RFP and Registration for Conference: www.dss.virginia.gov/redirect/?1449.

Licensing Updates

Leslie Knachel, Acting Interim Director for Licensing Programs advised she is filling in for Lynne Williams while on medical leave.

Jeff Williams, Program Consultant Division of Licensing is gathering information in support of regulations to keep the Council better informed. He advised they are looking at milestones and matching them up to the affiliated standard. It was the Council's wish to have this done with competencies as well.

Ms. Johnson asked Mr. Williams to provide an update at each meeting. She requested he identify where we are in the training infrastructure and any gaps at the September meeting.

He further advised that Ms. Williams had talked to providers about improvements in the areas of how we site violators; inspection protocol, and risks. Steve Lambert will provide training on "assessing risks". He is also available to speak during a Council Meeting if the members desired. Mr. Lambert can be reached at 804.726.7141.

The question arose regarding how long a violation appears on the current system and felt violation should be removed from the system after a period of time. It was stated there is not a mechanism in place with this system to remove them. Mr. Williams was asked to pass this request to the Commissioner for consideration.

Members also shared their interest in reviewing regulations from other states that have higher requirements than Virginia. Chairman Johnson stated that Texas gets an A+ on their regulations—they are easy to read and understand.

Mr. Williams advised the new CPSC handbook is out. He mentioned the allowable variance list continues to grow. Ms. Johnson confirmed variances will be given to new playground equipment.

Minutes
VA Child Day Care Council
May 8, 2008
Page 5

MAT Issues

Debbie Beirne, Program Consultant for Children's and Health and Safety Program, advised that nearly 10,000 providers have been successfully MAT trained. PMAT training has not been as successful since this training only deals with epi-pens. She spoke to members regarding a problem with 2 of the independent trainers, which resulted in over 400 providers being retested at department expense.

The Council thanked Ms. Beirne for keeping her work flowing at such a high level while being faced with problems.

Regulatory Update

Richard Martin, Manager of Office Legislative and Regulatory Affairs provided a regulatory update. A copy of this update is attached to the official minutes housed in the VDSS home office.

Public Participation Guidelines

Richard Martin reviewed the Public Participation Guidelines with Council. He advised that "Negotiated Rulemaking Panel or NRP" means an ad hoc advisory panel of interested parties established by an agency to consider issues that are controversial with the assistance of a neutral facilitator or mediator, for the purpose of reaching a consensus in the development of a proposed regulation. "Regulatory Advisory Panel or RAP" refers to a standing or ad hoc advisory panel of interested parties established by the agency for the purpose of assisting in the review and development of regulations. Mr. Martin also advised that an agency is required to conduct one or more public hearings during the comment period following the publication of a proposed regulation if the agency receives requests for a public hearing from at least 25 persons during the public comment period following the publication of the notice of intended regulatory action. If Council has any areas of concern, please contact Mr. Martin as soon as possible. This regulation should be before Council for vote at their September or November meeting.

Public Comment

None

Other Business

Slideshow of China Visit

Gail Johnson shared slides of her recent visit to China with the People to People Program. These were enjoyed by everyone.

Minutes
VA Child Day Care Council
May 8, 2008
Page 6

Chair's Report

Ms. Johnson advised that Irene Carney, Mary Cole, and Rose Ann Sharp's terms would expire June 30, 2008; however, each was eligible for reappointment. They were asked to contact the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth if they were interested in continuing service on the Council. (Address and contact information provided to members.)

The Chair stated that Council member Kathy Glazer had been named Director of Early Childhood Development. Congratulations were offered.

The National Association of Child Care Professionals recently named River Road Baptist Church in western Henrico County as the National Child Care Center of the Year. Council member Margaret Collins is the director of this school. Congratulations were offered.

Ms. Johnson advised that one of her teachers received the Tylenol Award for Best Infant Teacher of the Year.

She also shared a memo with Council recognizing May 9, 2009 as Early Childhood Appreciation Day.

The next meeting of the Council will be on September 11, 2008 10-2 p.m.

Council Check In

No reports

Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Rengnerth