

Minutes
Child Day Care Council
VDSS – 7 N. 8th Street
Richmond, VA
November 18, 2004

Present

Gail Johnson, Chair
William Harvey, Vice Chair
Rosemary Burton, Secretary
Donna Thornton
Norman Crumpton
Terry Davis
Charles Finley
Bethany Geldmaker
Susan Hackney
Kim Hulcher
Novella Johnson Ruffin
Nancy Read Smith
Jeff Walton
Rose Ann Sharp
Carol Logue

Absent

Lisa Shelburne
Jay DeBoer
Deborah Gardner
Dona Huang
Anita Simpkins
Kristi Snyder
William Tobin
Alonzo Jones
Cleo Sims
Susan Ballard
Judith Beattie
Margaret Collins
Donna Peters

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gail Johnson at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 18, 2004.

Agenda Approval

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Harvey) and seconded (Mr. Finley) moved to adjust the agenda where items requiring a vote would be presented first to ensure a quorum, since several members had to leave early today. Motion carried with all in favor.

Introductions/Announcements

Chairman Johnson introduced Carol Logue and Rose Ann Sharp, two of the newest members to Council. Other members, in turn, introduced themselves.

Chairman Johnson advised that the Governor is currently reviewing the regulation that Council approved in May 2004.

Council Review of House Resolution 18 Report/Letter to Governor

Chairman Johnson advised this report is submitted pursuant to House Resolution 18, passed by the House of Delegates during the 2004 General Assembly. This resolution requires the Council to review the impact of proposed revisions to the Minimum Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers (22 VAC 15-30) for providers and families.

The resolution requests that implementation of revised standards, pertaining to

staff-to-child ratios, educational requirements, square footage and group size be delayed until July 1, 2005.

Further, the resolution requires the Council to report on progress in meeting the request of the resolution no later than the first day of the 2005 regular session of the General Assembly.

Attachment A is a review of House Resolution No. 18; Attachment B is the detailed report that Dr. Payne presented to the Council last year; Item C is the JLARC Report; and Attachment D is the Final Child Care Regulation Implementation of Key Standards.

There was some discussion that the JLARC Report seemed contradictory; reporting staff agreed in one area but listed in another they did not agree.

Commissioner Jones provided clarification that the JLARC staff reported their agreement with the Child Day Care-Council; however, the legislative members of JLARC, for which the staff writing this report work, commended them for the report but disagreed with the findings.

Dr. Amie Lapp-Payne was asked to provide an overview of the Report. The Report is attached to the official copy of Minutes housed at the home office of VA Department of Social Services.

After much discussion among Council members as to what should be sent forth to the Governor along with the letter from Chairman Johnson, it was decided the Council should only send forth the information that was requested of them in the Study.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Thornton) and seconded (Ms. Hackney) moved to send the packet as presented with the letter to Governor Warner as prepared with attachments A, D, and the JLARC Study. Motion carried with all in favor.

Letter to Governor Warner from Joint Commission on Administrative Rules

Commissioner Jones provided a copy of this letter to Council as FYI only. It pertains to filing an objection to Proposed Regulation 22 VAC 15-30 entitled Standards for Licensed Child Day Care Centers. Members voiced concerns on inaccuracies mentioned in the letter. Commissioner Jones advised the Governor had discussed this letter with him and would be acting upon it.

Members requested a copy of Regulation 22 VAC 15-30. Mr. Martin will provide copies prior to the end of the meeting.

Conflict of Interest Training

Mr. Richard Martin advised there had been a delay in presenting the statewide mandated training. Chairman Johnson advised this will be added to the December meeting agenda as training must be done prior to the end of the calendar year.

Chair's Report

Chairman Johnson advised that Adam Thiel was moving to Arizona and had resigned from the Council.

She further advised that Mr. Alonzo Jones and Ms. Cleo Sims had been appointed to the Council but were unable to attend this meeting.

She mentioned attending several business meetings on Early Childhood Development and commented on involvement by the public sector.

Ms. Johnson also mentioned her interview by the JLARC Commission.

Approval of Minutes

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Crumpton) and seconded (Ms. Thornton) moved to approve the Minutes of April 22, 2004 as clarified on page 3 under Transportation #640 THE STAFF TO CHILDREN RATIOS NEED NOT BE FOLLOWED DURING TRANSPORTATION OF SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN TO AND FROM THE CENTER. ONE STAFF MEMBER OR ADULT IS NECESSARY IN ADDITION TO THE DRIVER WHEN 16 OR MORE PRESCHOOL OR YOUNGER CHILDREN ARE BEING TRANSPORTED IN THE VEHICLE. Motion carried with all in favor.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Harvey) and seconded (Mr. Finley) moved to approve the Minutes of May 12, 2004 as amended to report the meeting was recessed and not adjourned as indicated on page 4. Motion carried with all in favor.

Commissioner Report

(Topics were discussed at the beginning of the meeting and can be found on page two of the Minutes)

Bylaws

Council members were asked to review the Bylaws and decide if changes should be made to them. Mr. Walton advised the issue that had previously been discussed was proxy voting. Since proxy voting is not allowed under the Freedom of Information Act, it was decided by general consent that the Bylaws would remain as is.

Update on Childhood System Grants

Kathy Glazer, Division of Public Affairs, provided an update on Comprehensive Childhood System Grants.

Council Check In

Terry Davis reported she had the opportunity to sit on the Accreditation Team and was very excited about their work.

Nancy Smith advised they had received a Grant from United Way. Due to some difficulties with the CODE, it was decided they must build a new building. She mentioned that Roanoke LDSS had been very helpful to them.

Donna Thornton advised she had been meeting with center directors asking how they felt about the proposed regulations. She said many of the directors were not aware of the proposed changes and voiced her concern that directors are not reading the materials sent to them.

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Novella Ruffin advised she has been motivated by the efforts at the state level, Prevent Child Abuse Virginia and the Infant and Toddler Task Force reviewing systemic changes in Virginia.

Carol Logue advised that St. Christopher's School is holding a symposium on February 25, 2005, that she felt the Council may be interested in attending. Please call the school at (804) 282.3185 for brochures and registration information.

Liaison Report

Julie Christopher, Chairman of the State Board of Social Services was unable to attend due to a prior meeting in Washington, D.C.

Other Business

Chairman Johnson advised that public comment had been suspended when meetings became laborious and asked the Council's desire for public comment to remain suspended or resumed. As there was no quorum at this time, it was decided by the Chair to list this item as first for discussion on the December agenda.

Committee Assignments

Chairman Johnson distributed copies of the current committee listing and asked new members to decide which committee they preferred to serve on.

Reimbursement Procedures

Chairman Johnson advised that Phyllis Dalton had provided a private session to the new members on reimbursement procedures. A copy of the new travel regulations and a direct deposit enrollment form were distributed to members.

2004 CODE of VIRGINIA books were given to members attending the meeting.

Future Meeting

December 9, 2004 10-2 p.m.

The 2005 meeting scheduled will be reviewed in January.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Crumpton) and seconded (Mr. Finley) the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Pat Rengnerth
November 18, 2004