

NIH CHILD CARE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2005

Building 45 Natcher Conference Center

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Janet Austin, Valerie Durrant, Deborah Fountain, Alisa Green, Valerie Hurt (by phone), Susan Koester, Jayne Lura-Brown, Angela Magliozzi, Barbara Murphy, Kim Plascjak, Henry Primas, Mary Ellen Savarese, Lisa Strauss,

Members Absent:

Hyden Shen, Juanita Mildenberg, Tim Tosten

Liaisons in Attendance:

POPI: Paulina Alvarado, Patricia Blessing

ECDC: Anne Schmitz, Beth Levy

Childkind: Jaydah Wilson, Isolan Canty

Guests:

Gregg Levine (ChildrenFirst), Stephanie Kreider (CC)

Staff

Joy Postell

I. Welcome and Introductions: Janet Austin began the meeting by welcoming members, liaisons and guests. Introductions were made around the table.

II. Presentation:

Non-Traditional Hours Care - Mary Ellen reported on a recent Montgomery County survey on availability of care during non-traditional hours. There is care available, but is generally underutilized by parents. Most likely due to cost and the desire to have children at home during non-traditional times (evenings, overnight, weekends). Mary Ellen distributed and discussed handouts that indicated that the findings in Montgomery County are typical nationally.

Back-Up Care - Gregg Levin introduced a PowerPoint presentation about ChildrenFirst Backup care. Board members had many questions about operation, security, cost and availability in the areas around NIH. Gregg invited Board members to tour a center in D.C. or Virginia. Mary Ellen stressed that under the current federal legislation NIH does not have the ability to pursue this issue at this time, but the climate could change. The Board needs to be knowledgeable on this type of program to be prepared mentioned that any Board members that plan on utilizing ChildrenFirst, should talk to their ethics officer. Janet said that the discussion about back-up care would be continued at the next board meeting.

III. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the December 2004 meeting were reviewed and approved.

IV. Reports:

Child Care Subsidy -

Mary Ellen reported that things are moving forward internally in order to have Federal Employees Educational Association manage the subsidy contract. The Board and ORS must wait for approval from NIH management to announce or start the subsidy. NIH management is waiting for formal notification of Congress by the Department of Health and Human Services. The decision was made to wait for the new HHS Director to be confirmed. Janet said that if we still have not heard anything by the next Board meeting we need to think about an action to move forward.

Facilities -

At the last Board Meeting it was decided that the Board would send a letter to Tim Tosten informing him that the Board is still very supportive of an off campus child center in leased space at Rock Springs Park. The letter stresses that a leased space at that location with a high concentration of NIH employees would be an important step that demonstrates NIH commitment to Child Care.

Communications Committee -

Valerie reported that the committee met to plan implementation of the actions stated in the Board Communications Plan, which was presented to members. The plan includes the following actions:

Increasing visibility of the Child Care Board, by developing and maintaining a collection of information through stories, quotes, statistics, anecdotal and scientific support of the value and need of child care and support for families. For instance, Jayne has agreed to write a two part article in the Record about the history of child care at the NIH and the current child care issues at the NIH to promote visibility.

The communications committee wants to gather a list of organizations and groups that we should reach out to that have newsletters or listservs that we can get information out about our programs.

The committee supports updating the Child Care webpage and making it more useful for the Child Care Centers and Child Care Board information.

The committee welcomes any suggestions, ideas or participation to help meet these objectives. Janet congratulates the group for working hard to get a draft plan together to present to the Board.

Janet proposed a formal vote to support the new plan. All were in favor.

Center Updates-

Anne Schmitz, Director of ECDC reported on some recent data from the center. She found that, based on her last enrollment figures, 248, that the number one group of children (77 out of 248), one parent is an NIH employee and the other is non federally employed. In her Center there are more Asian children than any other group followed by Caucasian, multi-ethnic, and Latino children. ECDC has 7 sets of twins. 15 special needs children.

Jaydah Wilson, Acting Director of Childkind announced that 2 employees have recently left the Center and will be replaced this month. Childkind is fully enrolled through August.

Paulina Alvarado, Director of POPI announced they are fully enrolled at 150 children and are fully staffed. Paulina and Lucretia are currently taking the 45 hour infant class to gain more experience in infant programming. POPI is increasing the tuition in March. They have just finished auditing and are planning for the CFC. In addition, all licensing is full and up to date.

V. Parenting Festival-Committee Appointment

Alisa reported that there has been a struggle with the space issue, but that it would be interesting to see how well the Camp Fair will work in the Natcher atrium space. This will be a good way to determine success of the Parenting Festival in that same space. Mary Ellen said that although she, Joy, Alisa and Jessica have been planning the Festival she thought that it would be better to commence a committee. Jayne, Lisa, Barbara, Stephanie and Debbie volunteered to be on the committee. There will be activities planned both on and off campus for this event.

VI. Announcements:

- Mary Ellen and Joy will meet with LWS to discuss how implementation of the waitlist changes are impacting the list.
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) went live yesterday on the website.
- Beth Levy of ECDC has received only positive feedback from parents regarding the new two strikes policy for the waitlist.
- Montgomery County Commission on Child Care is looking for applicants.
- Meeting Adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Next meeting March 10, 2005 Building 31

JPostell: 02/16/05