

MINUTES FOR HOME ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

July 27, 2010

The following members were present: Rebecca Kenworthy, Coleen Land, Karen Burnside-Strack, Joey Scherschel, Tammy Dunn, Noel Hanson, Stephanie McKinstry, Jennifer Delucio, Brenda Kennedy, Christine Simpson, Heather Colglazier

Non-members present: Melissa Chalman, Melanie Brizzi, Debbie Sampson

Members absent: Bev Lozier, Maria Wynne, Bill Powell, Lena Burns, Jaime Jones, Rane Armstrong, Tamela Hunt, Kathy Bradley, Sabrina Harris, Ann Conner

Rebecca Kenworthy volunteered to take minutes since our secretary was not present today. There was an approval of minutes from the last meeting held on April 27, 2010.

Noel started the meeting talking about getting small groups together to discuss what should be presented to the Child Care Committee. The small groups should submit ideas and concerns for discussion at the next Advisory meeting. There is no date set for the Child Care Committee meeting, but it should be late September or early October. Senator Holdman is the new Chair of the Child Care Committee. Noel is going to post a discussion on the Facebook page asking for ideas to present to the committee.

Noel asked for feedback on the new Facebook page. Rebecca suggested that home advisory committee members contact their own areas to suggest the site. Christine stated that she likes the page and has referred many providers and parents to the page. Brenda also stated that she likes the page. Stephanie said she was not aware of the page, but Noel said emails and invites were sent out to all committee members.

The next topic of discussion was about the Paths to Quality program. Noel shared some concerns that had been presented to her from other providers. One such concern was presented to her about the financial ramifications of advancing a level on PTQ. They did not see any financial gain. Rebecca stated that she had a parent moving who asked her how to find a new provider at the same level as Rebecca. Stephanie felt that down the road the program will become more well known.

Noel stated that once someone achieves their CDA they are expecting to make a great deal more money. Realistically providers cannot afford to pay someone ten dollars or more an hour to work at their home day care. Melanie pointed out that increasing a person's knowledge about early childhood education will pay off by providing better quality daycare to the children in our care.

Colleen expressed some concern about not getting her in-service hours in even though she is acquiring her bachelors degree in Early Childhood Education. Her education classes are over and she is taking classes to finalize her degree. Debbie mentioned that food program training hours should be counted as service hours for PTQ. Melanie stated

that this issue had just recently been brought up and that it was being dealt with. More information would be given at a later date.

Karen brought up the fact that she was told she could not be a safe house for children in immediate danger. We were assured that there would not be any issues with us allowing an endangered child into our home to get help.

There was a question about why we could not have wading pools. Debbie informed us that it is a health department regulation that must be followed.

Karen expressed concerns over some children who have been in ISS classrooms at school. Debbie told us they do not have any control over those situations. She suggested we contact the school principal and parents. Noel stated that we should document any comments made by the child about the ISS classroom and put it into their file.

Tammy had a question about the PTQ ratings. Her concern was how someone could be on level 3 PTQ yet have several violations from the state inspections. Debbie explained that the raters have a checklist they use. Licensing also has a different checklist that is used when inspections are completed. The agency already has a procedure for suspending providers that are on probation, have a CPS investigation, and are in negative action status. Providers can be suspended from the program or taken off the program.

Stephanie had a question about letting the older children have a snack outside on the deck and letting the infants be with in sight or sound but stay inside. Debbie clarified the standard as all children would have to be inside or out, wherever the provider is located. It is explained in the supervision letter dated 6/3/2005 that is in the back of the regulation book.

Kristina had knowledge of an unlicensed provider, providing care with a felon in the house and reports of child neglect. Debbie informed all committee members that if we are knowledgeable of such we should report that information. The Attorney General's Office is very supportive of taking care of these kinds of situations. Fines have been levied against providers that are operating illegally.

Stephanie asked about a curriculum for her preschool. There were several suggestions made to her by the committee members. Noel stated that she would add this as a discussion on Facebook.

Noel brought the meeting to a close by listing several objectives to accomplish before the next meeting. She is going to put the discussions on Face book, we are to be thinking about nominations for president and vice president, and suggestions for topics to be presented before the Child Care Committee.

Our next meeting is on October 26, 2010 from 1 – 3 in conf rm 5 of the Indiana Government Center South or by calling in on the conference line.

There was a motion for the meeting to be called to an end and there were several second motions for it to come to a close.