

Indiana Licensed Child Care Center Advisory Board
June 17, 2010
Minutes

Attending (either in person or by telephone): Melanie Brizzi, Pamela Buschkill, Lisa Clifford, Lori Emmett, Patty Fisher, Noel Hanson, Carol Johnson, Terri Kosik, Jessica Lewis, Joyce McComiskey, Traci Mehay, Marie Pace, Tom Rayl, Debby Rowan, May Jane Scamahorn, Judy Smith, Gail Stout, Maxine Van Guilder, Janice Watson and non-member Kenny Walter.
Sending a Proxy: Janet Whalen Couch (Thayer Kramer), Rachelle Mosby (Jessica Lewis), Julie Petrowsky (Gail Stout)

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Terri Kosik, Co-Chairperson. Introductions were made. A welcome was extended to representatives of Bona Vista Head Start. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Marie Pace made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Joyce McComisky. Motion passed.

Melanie Brizzi and Lisa Clifford gave an update from the Bureau of Child Care. There are new rules, regulations, or interpretations. The playground grant applications and infant/toddler grant applications funded by the quality improvement funds are being scored. Facilities in Paths to Quality should receive an order for a sign (and banner if at level 4) soon. Level 2, 3, & 4 providers will have a choice of either a metal sign or a yard flag. There will be a state-wide roll out of PR materials on the Quality Rating System in a couple of weeks. Various media will be used in different areas of the state depending on the needs/resources in each community. For example, in Gary, IN bus signs will be utilized. Some of the quality improvement funds will be used for increased support/incentives for level 1 providers to attain level 2 status on the Quality Rating System. These funds should be available in September. There are current 1192 providers enrolled in Paths to Quality with 82% of all licensed centers and 46% of all licensed family day care homes. This has exceeded the expectations for participation. There will probably be over 2,000 providers enrolled by the end of summer.

The Reggio exhibit drew a lot of attention from legislators. Preschool curriculums have been added to the education study committee. The advisory board members may want to follow the progress of this issue.

Representative Summers is ready to move forward with the bill from last year that added more requirements to registered ministries. She will need support from the early childhood community if this legislation makes it out of committee and on to the floor of the House and Senate. Early childhood advocates must show up in vast numbers to support this legislation. This committee/advisory board needs to be ready to organize people to send letters, testify, contact legislators, etc. It would be beneficial to have people from outside early childhood, such as businesses, community leaders, hospitals, Chamber of Commerce, etc, to support this legislation if it passes out of committee. It was suggested that this committee/advisory board meet before the September meeting to work on the presentation to the Child Care Committee.

Melanie was asked to send an overview of the legislation to committee/advisory board members especially for new members and proxies. It will be essential that we gain support from stakeholders outside early childhood!!! The hearings on the bill in the House and Senate will probably occur in January and February. Members of the advisory board were also asked to talk with their local churches and church leaders about the legislation. There is so much misinformation about the bill such as it taking away the registered ministries ability to have the children pray or learn about specific religious beliefs. The focus is on protecting children in ways that have been proven to be effective such as child/staff ratios and teacher training/qualifications. The bill does not limit the freedom to pray or include religious beliefs in any way.

Melanie Brizzi was also asked to include at the IAEYC Public Policy Forum next Friday the fact that the Education Committee will be looking at early childhood curriculums in their study committee.

Tom Rayl asked why infants could not be put on the CCDF voucher waiting list prior to birth. Melanie and Lisa are going to check federal guidelines to see if anything prohibits this from being acceptable. Currently, the software requires a name and date of birth to go on the waiting list. This issue will be investigated and discussed at a later date.

Carol Johnson presented a concern about the 'special needs' box on the CCDF intake form being removed. Linda Kolbus, CCDF Policy Manager responded that the box no longer appears but the intake agent had the ability to identify special needs children at the time of intake and if a provider served a special needs child and the provider's charge to the general public was at least 10% over market rate, then the provider would receive market rate plus 10% for the special needs child if the provider could document the extra expense in providing service to the child(ren).

Melanie Brizzi told the group that children could still be put on the CCDF waiting list but that list will probably continue to grow. 3500 extra children were put on CCDF funds with the recovery funds received by the State. Eventually those funds will be gone and thru attrition the numbers will drop as children will not be put on the program to take the place of the ones going off the funding. Providers should encourage their parents to get to the intake agent in a timely manner when their voucher is up for renewal. If a family falls off the program (fails to recertify in a timely manner or any other reason) they will go back on the waiting list. Different states use different methods to subsidize child care for low-income families. Indiana has always chosen to serve who they can serve well and as close to the 75th percentile of reimbursement as possible. Some states serve all who qualify but with only a very little subsidy (i.e. maybe each child gets a \$15 per week voucher instead of a voucher at the 75th percentile)

Pam Buschkill suggested we have one face-to-face meeting when all the members tried to attend in person so we could connect names and faces. Everyone was in agreement that it was a good idea. It will not be mandatory—but requested of all members. The September 2nd meeting will be the meeting that everyone will be asked to make a special effort to attend. The

teleconference option will still be available for those who cannot attend. A meeting will be scheduled in July and another in August. These meetings will be to discuss the Board's presentation to the Committee on Child Care. If everything is completed in July, then the August meeting will be cancelled. If the bill does go forward, then additional meetings may be needed to plan strategy for the House and Senate hearings on the bills. Carol will send out dates for the meetings and ask for volunteers to work on the presentation.

The Licensed Family Day Care Home Providers Advisory Board has started communicating via Facebook which is something the Center and Ministries Advisor Boards may want to consider.

Terri Kosik spoke for the entire group in extending our collective appreciate to Heidi Dowell for all of her hard work as Co-Chairperson.

Carol Johnson and Marie Pace self-nominated for Co-Chairpersons. Tracy Mahay offered to be the Secretary. With no other nominations, the Chairperson asked for a consensus. Officers were elected unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Johnson, Substitute Secretary