

Licensed Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2011

Meeting Attendees: Lisa Clifford, Melanie Brizzi, Deb Chubb, Tim Dunnuck, Noel Hanson, Deb Hughes, Carol Johnson, Jessica Lewis, Kathy Lehman, Traci Mehay, Sharon Molargik, Marie Pace, Gail Stout, Tom Rayl, Debby Rowan, Mary Jane Scamahorn, Dianna Wallace.

Minutes from previous meeting reviewed and approved. Motion proposed by Tim Dunnuck and seconded by Deb Hughes. Approved unanimously.

Jillian Ritter, Military Liaison for Indiana, introduced herself and discussed her new position. She is employed by NCCRA and her role is to coordinate child care for military families. Indiana is one of a few pilot program states for this service.

Committee on Child Care: This group met several times, focusing on inconsistencies in child care regulations among provider types. There are two bill proposals from this committee, Senate Bill 0056 and House Bill 1226. These two were identical as proposed, but have been referred to separate committees for further review and will begin to change as a result. The group discussed the support/opposition to this bill. Dianna Wallace, Executive Director of Indiana AEYC, stated that IAIEYC supports adding ratio requirements and caregiver age/education requirements to these regulations.

Legislative Update: Melanie Brizzi stated that draft legislation that had been proposed to require all licensed centers to make flu shots available to employees has been pulled.

Education Roundtable: Dianna Wallace gave this report. The Education Roundtable is headed by the Governor and Superintendent of Public Instruction. This group has studied absenteeism in school age children and determined that these habits begin in early childhood, and that goals such as moving elementary students up to grade-level standards in reading require involvement in early childhood education to be successful. Legislation that has been proposed for this session include Senate Bill 428 establishing the Reggio Emilia grant fund, Senate Bill 317 setting ages for compulsory kindergarten, and Senate Bill 196 addressing Head Start employment and unemployment. In recognizing the impact of early childhood education in achieving goals and initiatives set for elementary grades and beyond,

Dianna Wallace stated that they have also worked to recognize early childhood education as it currently exists, and to recognize those already providing quality early learning environments as the experts in this arena.

Several members expressed the view that there is unusual opportunity in the various legislation proposed this year, and that there appears to be support from “non-traditional messengers” that may create momentum. They encouraged everyone to consider it their responsibility to educate locally with their own media and legislative representatives—that this is more powerful than having just one or two people speak for a group. They encouraged everyone to communicate a consistent message that the critical issue is the need for safe and healthy environments for children.

Tom Rayl proposed the idea of a State House Visit Day. Carol Johnson and Marie Pace will look into the feasibility of coordinating this, along with Dianna Wallace. Discussed that it would have to be soon in order to have an impact.

Melanie Brizzi talked about the coming ban of drop-side cribs. They are banned from manufacture immediately, and will be banned from use two years after the new crib guidelines are signed by Consumer Products Safety. The guidelines are not final until signed, so she did caution that centers may want to delay buying new cribs if possible, until the new guidelines are finalized.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Minutes submitted by Debby Rowan, substituting for the secretary.