

Licensed Child Care Center Advisory Board Meeting Minutes June 11, 2009 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Amelia Galloway will take minutes in the absence of Secretary.

It was noted that Rachel Mosby should be Rachelle Mosby. AND Karen Bale should be Carrie Bale.

Heidi called the meeting to order and attendance was taken. Members attending at the Indiana Government Center, South Bldg. Room 1 were: Carol Johnson, Traci Mehay, Rachelle Mosby, Julie Petrowsky, Carol Mc Croy, Judy Smith, Kenny Walter, Tom Rayl, Amelia Galloway, Joyce McComiskey, and Marie Pace. Attending for the BCC Melanie Brizzi and Lisa Clifford.

Heidi Dowell recorded the official attendance including those participating via conference call.

A discussion took place regarding who is eligible to be a proxy. The by-laws only state that a proxy can be assigned by a member. Can a board member be a proxy for another board member? After discussion Carol Johnson put forth a motion to amend the by-laws to state, 'A member can assign a non-member as proxy if it follows the by-laws. The motion was seconded and the group voted "Yes" to the amendment.

Lisa Clifford addressed interpretation of field trip written permission records. Neighborhood walks or other regular nearby trips can be covered with a blanket permission statement as long as the regular trips are posted. Summer field trips or other big field trips require parents to acknowledge each trip. Lisa will provide written clarification to be e-mailed to board members and it will be added to the interpretive guide.

Lisa and Melanie provided clarification regarding Criminal History Checks. Licensed Centers must pay for report from Indiana State Police/ Access Indiana. Homes and Not-for-Profits (other than licensed centers) are done by the state at no cost. Licensing Consultants provide annual checks for child abuse and neglect through the Central Office at no charge.

The state's definition of supervision and BCC interpretation was reviewed. All children must be supervised by sight and sound. The interpretation is that caregivers have a "reasonable awareness" of all children in the group. Although sometimes accidents can be prevented by supervision it is not assumed that accidents occur due to lack of supervision. Individual interpretation is very subjective. Great effort has been taken to help consultant's interpret consistently. However if you disagree with a specific case, please contact Lisa or Melanie.

Lisa Clifford left for another meeting.

Advisory Boards for Licensed Homes and Registered Ministries are receptive to a joint meeting with our Licensed Center Board. The goal is to find our commonalities, speak to the legislators around shared issues about what is best for children, rather than fighting with each other. Efforts will be made to schedule this meeting before the Legislative Session. Melanie is coordinating with an outside facilitator.

Minutes were approved from April 9, 2009 Meeting. The motion was raised by Tom Rayl and Carol Johnson and carried by the group.

Work Group for the Report to the Committee on Child Care: not well attended. The purpose is discuss regulations that our Board agrees are most important for health and safety of children in all forms of child care. Rules may never change-our best hope is to join together with other groups of providers to agree upon common requirements. (group size, teacher education, staff/child ratios) Mike will continue to lead the Work Group, next meeting Thursday, June 25th, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Melanie will arrange room and teleconference.

Given new Universal Pre-K, public school systems are likely to put us out of business with unfair competitive advantages. This issue is a concern among all groups of providers. Universal Pre-K will be managed by Dept. of Education, under new administration. No one has been hired for the Early Education Office at DOE. Title 1 Funds + ERA \$ will be sought after. There are successful models for supporting community based preschools, allowing parental choice. We need to research! Time is an obstacle. Melanie will research and gather info: How many states have Universal Pre-K? How do they pay for it? What are the various formats? (School System, Vouchers for Parental Choice of Community Centers, Head Start) Google preknow.org for more information. West Virginia has a good model for State Preschool. See also Lake County(?)

Unionization of Child Care- Indiana is the only state in the region without a union. We will table that subject for now.

Melanie gave an update on ERA Funding: \$42M must be allocated by 9/30/2010 and spent by 9/30/2011. \$37.8M already committed to direct services for children. This equates to 3000 CCDF vouchers. In past 2 weeks 1900 of the 9000 waiting children have been enrolled.

There may be a small amount of money to be used toward quality expansion for Infants & Toddlers, possibly grants to providers to maintain licensed centers in low income neighborhoods. Melanie recommended to FSSA-grant opportunities for quality child care settings. Decisions will be announced to every provider.

Adjourn.