

Licensed Child Care Center Advisory Board Meeting September 10, 2009

The meeting was called to order by co-chair Terri Kosik. Lisa Clifford recorded the attendance of those present in person and via the telephone. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. As members were making corrections, Heidi Dowell said she had sent an amendment to the minutes the previous day which already had some of the corrections mentioned. The following corrections still needed to be made to the revised minutes: Terri Kosik was in attendance and Tom Rayl was in attendance. Mike Garatoni made a motion that the minutes be corrected as amended and corrected. The motion was seconded by Marie Pace. Motion passed.

The following members were in attendance in person or by phone: Melanie Brizzi, Pamela Buschkill, Lisa Clifford, Janet Whalen Couch, Heidi Dowell, Lori Emmett (by Proxy - Ashley Isenberg), Patty Fisher, Amelia Galloway, Mike Garatoni, Noel Hanson, Deb Hughes, Carol Johnson, Terri Kosik, Joyce McComiskey, Carol McCrory, Traci Mehay, Sharon Molargik, Rachele Mosby, Marie Pace, Julie Petrowsky, Tom Rayl, Debby Rowan, Mary Jane Scamahorn, and Judy Smith

Melanie Brizzi and Lisa Clifford gave an update from FSSA. Care Finder Indiana has a section for Emergency Preparedness. When the red button is clicked, it will take you to info on H1N1 and referrals to two sources: CDC and Indiana Dept. of Health. The information from these two agencies is the information the Bureau is suggestions child care providers use since there is some information that is not accurate on other web sites. The 'Tool Kit' for N1H1 from CDC should have a link on Care Finder soon and can be accessed by hitting the same red button. Melanie will e-mail the direct link to members. The Federal Bureau of Child Care is monitoring any child care facilities that close due to H1N1 outbreaks. If any facility in Indiana closes, the facility staff should notify the State of Indiana so they can notify the Federal Bureau.. A list of the members of the General Assembly's Committee on Child Care was handed out along with the time, place, and agenda for the next meeting. A web site where information on the committee's activities can be accessed was listed. The web site is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/interim/committee/care.htm/>

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the presentation to the Committee on Child Care. Mike Garatoni had prepared a proposed outline of topics to be covered in the presentation. After much discussion, the consensus appeared to that the licensed child care center advisory board wanted to support quality child care and early childhood education for all Hoosier children. Research has shown that some basic elements are needed in a program/facility to be developmentally appropriate for children: child/staff ratios, group size, and supervision/teacher qualifications/training. Licensed facilities in Indiana are the only types of child care that are regulated to follow those (and other) guidelines. Since these are quality indicators, it is alarming that licensed facilities (homes and centers) are decreasing in numbers while unlicensed (legally licensed exempt) facilities/providers continue to grow. By meeting higher standards, licensed child care is helping prepare children to enter kindergarten and be successful, keeping

children healthy and teaching children healthy habits, and providing reliable child care so parents can be dependable workers in Indiana's workforce.

In addition to reporting to the Committee the importance of quality child care and early childhood education (and the long-term impact on children & families), the advisory board would like the committee to know that licensed care in Indiana is struggling and facing many challenges. Since licensed child care follows the highest standards in Indiana, it is important that licensed care be available to all children and families.

Rachel Mosby made a motion that the advisory board present to the Committee what we do with children under 6. Because 75% of a child's brain development takes place by age 3 and 95% by age 5, it is extremely important that children receive quality care and education because the care they receive at an early age will have a great impact on the lives of these children. Qualities that represent quality care are present in licensed centers. The advisory board would like the committee to close the gap of quality of care given in various types of child care in Indiana so all children receive quality care and early childhood education. Judy Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Since time was an issue, it was decided that a sub committee would finish the report and send it out to all the members. Mike Garatoni made a motion that a sub committee of 3-5 members work on a final report and e-mail it to all the members by Monday (September 14) afternoon. The motion was seconded by Rachel Mosby. Motion passed. Members can make comments and respond by e-mail.

A motion was made by Janet Couch that the members will vote on the report Monday, September 14th via e-mail with majority (14 votes) ruling. The motion was seconded by Mike Garatoni. Motion passed.

Volunteers were requested for the sub-committee to work on the final report. The committee will be Mike Garatoni, Marie Pace, Heidi Dowell, Terri Kosik, and Amelia Galloway. Mike asked that anyone with research information that would be helpful in the report to please get it to him as soon as possible. It was agreed by consensus that Mike Garatoni would present the report to the Committee on Child Care on behalf of the center advisory board.

A meeting date has been set for the licensed family day care home, registered ministry, and licensed center advisory groups to all meet together. The meeting will be October 19th in the evening (probably 6 or 6:30 p.m. with a professional facilitator. Place to be announced at a later date.

Heidi Dowell and Terri Kosik will work on dates for next year. The dates will be posted for comments before it becomes official.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Johnson