

Registered Ministry Advisory Group Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2009

Members present in person:

Marsha Goecker

Members present over the phone:

Melissa Peterson

Barb Newton

Glenn Myers

Joyce Read

Stephanie Brown

Deb Hughes

Bureau Staff Present:

Melanie Brizzi

Ken Hudson

Gary Rogers

Meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm.

Agenda Items discussed:

1. September minutes. Many members had difficulty opening the minutes. Marsha will resend. Minutes were approved by all with the addition of Deb Hughes as a member who was present.
2. December minutes. Deb Hughes was added as a member present. Additionally two typos were located and corrected. The date marked 10-10 should read 12-10. Additionally the future meeting listed as July 25 should read July 15. Minutes were approved, as amended, by all.
3. Future meeting times were discussed. It was suggested that the meetings be held in the evening hours. Issues against this were presented including the use of the building and a teleconference line. Melanie Brizzi will pursue possible solutions to these issues if the Group decides to hold the meetings after 6 pm. The possibility of holding half the meetings in the afternoon and the other half in the evening was discussed. Marsha will send out a survey to all members asking for input on the best time to hold future meetings. Members were reminded that the majority should rule when making this decision. The IAEYC conference was also discussed. There will be a full day session for Registered Ministries at the conference. The Advisory Group will be a part of this session. Members of the group were encouraged by Melanie Brizzi to attend this full day session.
4. The proposed Mission Statement was discussed. The Statement was received very well. Many thanks were expressed to Joyce Read for putting together the draft

statement. Suggestions included that the statement might be too long or overwhelming. Marsha and Joyce will continue to work on the draft and present revisions to the Group.

5. Member representation was discussed. Maps of the local Child Care Resources and Referral SDAs (service delivery areas) were distributed and current members were plotted on the map based on the SDA in which they reside. It was noted that there are still 6 SDAs that may be lacking representation. Melanie Brizzi and Ken Hudson will be working on filling these vacant positions.
SDAs without representation include the South Bend area (4C's of St. Joseph County), the Kokomo area (Child Care Solutions), the Terre Haute area (CASY), the Evansville area (4C of Southern Indiana), and the Aurora/New Albany area (SIEOC). If members have suggestions for additional membership please send them to Melanie Brizzi.
6. The draft of the postcard was discussed and approved by all. Discussion followed regarding the best use of the postcard. It was suggested that State Inspectors hand out the cards. It was believed that the cards should not come directly from the State, but that the Group would rather mail out the postcards. It was also discussed that providers would need a way to contact the members of the Group. It was suggested and approved that members would establish a separate email account from yahoo.com for this purpose. Each member will set up an email account using the following format: firstnamelastinitial.rmag@yahoo.com. Two members have already completed this process and said it was free and very easy to do. These emails will be the contact information that is listed for members of the Registered Childcare Ministry Advisory Group.
7. The by-laws were discussed and it was determined that Melanie sent out the wrong copy of the edits and that not all edits had been captured. Melanie will resend the amended by-laws for approval at the next meeting.
8. Goals of the Group were discussed and the following goals were determined:
 - a. Become a legislative voice with end goals of attaining equal licensing status and compensation with childcare counterparts including such safety standards as ratios and supervision guidelines, as well as redefining the requirements to become a Registered Childcare Ministry
 - b. Educate families and community members about Registered Ministries as an option for childcare
 - c. Become a resource for other Registered Childcare Ministries by providing information, mentoring and encouragement
 - d. Promote the healthy growth, development and safety of children by promoting best practices and increasing professionalism among Registered Ministries
 - e. Increase communication with the Bureau of Child Care

- f. Advocate for Registered Ministries to join professional early childhood organizations

Discussion about these goals included topics such as;

- The law that requires Registered Ministries to advertise themselves as unlicensed.
- Rose Ellen Adams discussed the information that the local R&R offices have available for families.
- The VCP program was discussed, as well as what equivalency to licensing standards would include.
- Preschool exemptions were also discussed.

It was suggested that Ken Hudson present VCP training at one of the future meetings. Marsha will work with Ken to determine the best time for this training to occur. Ken noted that it is best that members of the Group be present in person for this training because he uses a PowerPoint presentation for the training.

9. Future Meeting dates and times for 2009 were noted as follows:
April 15 1-3 pm
July 15 1-3 pm
October 21 1-3 pm

These meeting dates and times may change depending on the decision of the group.