

VA Child Day Care Council

**VA Dept. of Social Services
7 N. 8th Street
Richmond, VA 23219**

MARCH 8, 2007

Members Present

Gail Johnson, Irene Carney, William Harvey, Charles Finley, Nancy Smith, Terry Hill, Jack Knapp, Kristi Snyder, Emory Rogers, Donna Peters, Mary Cole, Susan Hackney, Rose Ann Sharp, Bethany Geldmaker, Kimberly Hulcher, Carol Logue, Ellen Nau, and Keith Hare.

Absent

Margaret Collins, Letitia Clark, Linda Janulis, Denise Pearsall, Lisa Shelburne, William Tobin, Dona Huang, and Rosemary Burton.

Call to Order

The Council work session was called to order at 9:00 a.m., by Chair Gail Johnson.

Welcome & Introductions

Members and presenters were thanked for attending.

Strategic Plan Work Session

Jackie Anderson worked with each goal committee in preparation for finalizing the Council Strategic Plan. Committees will ensure the strategies are what they want, a review of the measures will be done, and ensure a target is in place.

Goal #1

Develop and modify regulations that protect and promote the well-being and safety of children.

Nancy Smith reported this committee would develop a survey for parents and licensed providers that would provide insight to the Council as they prepare to open up the regulation for review. This survey would be developed, conducted and information compiled on line. It was mentioned that Council could also assist in the distribution of the survey through their centers. It was noted that the survey would not be an evaluation of the provider program; however, there would be a “check box” to indicate which region this survey was completed.

The definition of “child care” will be discussed and reported on at the May meeting when Goal #1 reports. Council members were requested to provide input on this definition.

Goal #2

Evaluate the effectiveness and impact of existing regulations.

Susan Hackney advised this committee would continue to obtain and review VDSS data and track compliance of standards.

The effects of current regulation changes on program models and childcare affordability could be examined. She also advised this committee mentioned the use of a survey to gain feedback about the regulations from providers and parents. It was thought they could “piggyback” on the Goal #1 survey.

Goal #5

Increase awareness and support the development of funding opportunities to ensure that licensed operators can meet promulgated regulations.

Kristi Snyder provided members with an OP ED piece and information on “What is the Virginia Child Day-Care Council” (clip art needed) and the Council Strategic Plan. Members felt a tri-fold brochure could be developed for these pieces. Members reviewed the handouts and made several changes. Ms. Snyder will work with a DSS representative on the rewrite. These documents will be posted on the Council website. They would also like this information distributed in the next provider mailing.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Snyder) and seconded (Mr. Knapp) moved to develop a tri-fold brochure to include information on the Virginia Child Day-Care Council, and the Strategic Plan as amended by the Council. Motion carried with all in favor. This brochure will be posted on the Council website and mailed to centers.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Snyder) and seconded (Ms. Smith) moved to approve the content of the OP ED on the VA Child Day Care-Council (under signature of the Chair) as amended by the Council with the understanding there may be some editorial repair. This OP ED will be listed on the website and distributed to newspapers throughout Virginia with the assistance of VDSS. Motion carried with all in favor.

Ms. Snyder provided members with a copy of a handout from Proprietary Child Care Association of Virginia entitled *Governor Kaine’s Preschool Agenda –A Report to the 2007 Virginia General Assembly*.

Ms. Snyder also advised that the committee plans to keep members of the General Assembly apprized of the Council’s work and the positive effect regulations are having on centers through several mailings throughout the year.

There was no report on **Goal #4** at this meeting.

Approval of Agenda

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Knapp) and seconded, moved to approve the agenda as presented, allowing time for the Commissioner's Report upon his arrival. Motion carried with all in favor.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Conyers welcomed members of the Council. He advised that the General Assembly was over for this session and felt that we had a successful legislative season.

He spoke on Poverty in Virginia and the importance of this issue. He advised that the State Board of Social Service has formed a Poverty Committee that is looking at the causes and cures of poverty that is being seen in Virginia and what impact it's having on Virginia children. The need to partner with other agencies and private and public entities is crucial in dealing with this issue.

Commissioner Conyers will keep the Council abreast of the progress of the Poverty Committee.

Council was thanked for all their important work and dedication to helping children in Virginia.

Legislation Update

Richard Martin reminded members of the mandatory Conflict of Interest Training being conducted following adjournment today, advising that it is necessary to keep this current to ensure members retain their voting rights.

Richard Martin reviewed 2007 Bills of Interest to the Council. Highlights included House Bill 2344; House Bill 3105; Senate Bill 888; Senate Bill 1060; and Senate Bill 1353.

Mr. Martin advised that the budget included monies to fund a voluntary quality rating system on childcare. He will keep the Council informed of developments. A copy of this report is attached to the Official Minutes housed in the VDSS home office.

Regulatory Review

Jan Sigler reviewed the Status of Regulation Report with Council. Of particular interest was regulation 22 VAC 40-690-10 entitled Virginia Child Care Provider Scholarship Program. Priority for classes will now be extended to applicants working in child care. A copy of this report is attached to the Official Minutes housed in the VDSS home office.

Goal #3

Collaborate with the Department of Social Services to enhance training opportunities.

Donna Peters reported that this committee will meet with Kathy Gillikin to discuss training opportunities and avenues of information distribution via the website. They plan to take another look at the Parent Tool Kit; assess current training opportunities for parents and follow up with VDSS on doing a statewide- training needs assessment.

The committee, with assistance from Kathy Gillikin will have baseline information available at the May meeting. Other committees that would like to share their baseline information should forward it to Ms. Peters.

Minutes

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Knapp) and seconded (Mr. Harvey) moved to approve the Minutes as distributed. Motion carried with all in favor.

Information Presentations

Update on Early Childhood Summit, Upcoming Policy Issues and Streamlining
Mary Jo Thomas advised that the General Assembly allocated \$750,000 to assist in planning for automation in Child Day Care. They will be streamlining policies and procedures and ensure alignment.

Federal Child Care requires that a market survey is done every two years. This year it will be done through sampling. VA Tech will conduct this survey. Ms. Thomas will make this available to the Council.

With challenges and mandatory child care, there are waiting lists. There are 6067 families on the waiting list (9351 children) which is down a bit from the previous year.

The Alignment Project and Summit will be held May 11 and 12 at the Albemarle County Government Building in Charlottesville.

She advised there is a proposal for a national error rate to be established and will continue to keep the Council advised.

Ms. Johnson stated she is hopeful that with the streamlining there would be one set of rules for subsidy reimbursement statewide.

Public Comment

Jeannette and Scott Kim spoke before the Council on the need for door guards in day care centers. Their small child had his finger tip amputated when it was recently caught in a door without a guard. The Council was asked to support a measure to mandate these door guards in their regulation when it comes up for periodic review.

Packets of information and samples of guards were distributed. Council members will share this information with their centers and Ms. Hackney will provide the information to regional licensing specialists at their next meeting. A copy of this brochure and samples are attached to the original Minutes housed at the VDSS home office.

VA School Age Care Association (VSACA) Meeting & Medication (MAT) Training

Debbie Beirne provided a copy of the Drug Control Act in the Code of Virginia, and a copy of the January 29, 2007 letter to providers advising them of the history of the Medication Administration Training Program, questions and answers, and next steps.

The first of seventeen MAT TOT (Training of Trainers for Health Professionals) classes began January 9 and the last MAT TOT class will be finished on March 22nd. As a result, there are more than 160 approved MAT Trainers ready to provide training to providers from child day programs across Virginia. The DSS website now has a “locate a trainer near you” feature to assist providers in finding contact information for an approved MAT Trainer.

She explained that the “law” (the Drug Control Act) supersedes the regulation regarding medication administration training contained in the Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers and that there was much confusion regarding the implementation date. Town Meetings (provider meetings) and MAT for Regulators (inspector training) are being conducted in each regional licensing office in March or April. Until the meetings are conducted, inspectors are to administer no violations and to provide no consultation other than to encourage the provider to attend the Town Meeting in their region. During the meeting providers and inspectors are being told that on the first inspection conducted, the inspector will review the Drug Control Act with the provider and discuss the provider’s decision regarding whether or not the program will administer prescription and/or nonprescription drugs; on the next inspection conducted, it is expected that at least one provider has successfully completed the required MAT or has registered for a MAT class. If neither has occurred, a citation will be issued.

The state of New York spent \$3 million dollars to develop and implement the MAT program three years ago. Trainers from the State University of New York (SUNY) graciously shared the program materials and their expertise with Virginia at no cost other than the fee for making the required modifications to the Training DVD. Only minor tweaking needed to be done to accommodate Virginia's needs. Ms. Ruffin has viewed this program and stated it is a good curriculum.

She reported that approximately 30 people attended the VSACA meeting. They focused on allowable variances and credentialing.

Summary of Allowable Variances and Technical Document

Jeff Williams shared statistics on allowable variances granted and denied for certain standards for Licensed Child Day Centers since June 1, 2005 to present. A copy of this report is attached to the Official Minutes housed in the home office.

He also provided a handout on the top 10 most violated standards during the 6 month period to the effective date of the new CDC regulation. A copy of this report is attached to the Official Minutes housed in the home office.

A copy of the Technical Assistance Document was shared with Council.

Chair's Report

Members were encouraged to visit the NARALICENSING.ORG on line to view the 2007 Study to see how Virginia ranks among other states.

Ms. Johnson advised it is with regret and sadness that Ms. Anita Simpkins has chosen to resign due to family illness. Ms. Simpkins was thanked for her diligent work on Council and wished the best for her and her family.

Response letters to correspondence received from constituents Ms. Durand and Ms. Wilson was provided to members.

Ms. Johnson reminded Council that she serves on the SCAN Board. They are sponsoring a National Prevention Model on *Darkness to Light* which deals with sexually abused children. She will provide further information to Council at their request.

Ms. Johnson spoke on behalf of the Council's regulatory changes urging that they remain intact.

She advised that private dollars are available for QRS (Quality Rating System) to be used with funds that may be available in the budget.

Old Business

The Strategic Plan had not been approved at the last meeting.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Snyder) and seconded (Mr. Harvey) moved to approve the Strategic Plan. Motion carried with all in favor.

Council Check In

Ellen Nau, Dept. of Aging provided members with a newsletter from the AARP Foundation Grandparent Information Center (GIC).

Bethany Geldmaker, Dept. of Health provided members with several handouts to include an updated School Entrance Health Form, information on Salmonellosis, Changing a Diaper the Safe Way, and Washing your Hands the Right Way.

Adjournment

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Knapp) and seconded (Ms. Ruffin) moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with all in favor.

Mandatory Conflict of Interest Training (following adjournment)

Al Wilson, Assistant Attorney General provided Conflict of Interest Refresher training to Council. Donna Peters, Nancy Smith, Irene Carney, Kimberly Hulcher, William Harvey, Bethany Geldmaker, Kristi Snyder, Novella Ruffin, Charles Finley, Carol Logue, Mary Cole, Susan Hackney, Terry Hill, and Rose Ann Sharp were in attendance.

Since several new members have not completed the DVD Conflict of Interest Training and in light of new appointees to be made, it was decided that a future class will be held to combine everyone requiring this training.