

## **VA Child Day Care Council**

**VA Dept. of Social Services  
7 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Richmond, VA 23219**

**September 11, 2007**

### ***Members Present***

Gail Johnson, Irene Carney, Charles Finley, Nancy Smith, Jack Knapp, Bethany Geldmaker, Kimberly Hulcher, Susan Hackney, Donna Peters, Margaret Collins, Letitia Clark, Novella Ruffin, Diane Smalley, William Harvey, Stephanie Jones, Ellen Nau, Kathy Glazer, Rosemary Burton, and Tracy Cox.

### ***Absent***

Denise Pearsall, Emory Rogers, Mary Cole, Linda Janulis, Roseanne Sharp, Carol Logue, Dona Huang, Kristi Snyder, Lisa Shelburne, and Stephanie Jones.

### **Call to Order**

The Council meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., by Chair Gail Johnson.

### **Welcome & Introductions**

Members and presenters were thanked for attending. The Chair advised that Commissioner Conyers would not be in attendance today due to a scheduling conflict.

Tracy Cox was introduced as the newly appointed representative for the Association of Christian Schools International. She replaces Terry Davis Hill who did not seek reappointment.

Kathy Glazer, representative from the Governor's Office, working on Early Childhood Initiatives, was also appointed to the Council in a new position.

Gail Johnson has been reappointed to serve as Chair of the Council for another year.

Congratulations to Rosemary Burton, Margaret Collins, William Harvey, Kimberly Hulcher, Stephanie Jones, Jack Knapp, Denise Pearsall, Donna Peters, Novella Ruffin, Nancy Smith, and Kristi Snyder who were reappointed to serve another term.

The Chair was notified by Carol Logue that she would be resigning from the Council due to work schedule conflicts. The Council has not received formal notification from the Office of the Secretary as yet.

William Tobin did not seek reappointment to the Council. His position on Council and the position of Fire Programs are still vacant.

**Agenda Approval**

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Harvey) and seconded, the Council accepted the agenda with the caveat to move action items forward to ensure a quorum is present for voting purposes. Motion carried with all in favor.

**Presentations**

*Voices for Virginia's Children*

Suzanne Johnson, President of Voices for Virginia's Children spoke to the Council on future initiatives, advocacy and the importance of continuing dialogue with legislators. To stay informed on the work of this organization, please visit [www.vakids.org](http://www.vakids.org).

*Board of Nursing*

Brenda Krohns, Medication Aide Registry Manager and Elaine Yeattes, Agency Regulatory Coordinator with the Department of Health provided an update on Medication Aide Training (MAT). Members were provided a copy of draft Guidelines for Prescription Drug Administration Training Programs for Child Day Programs. A copy of this report is attached to the official minutes housed in the home office.

Ms. Peters questioned whether the "finger prick" test would have to be done by a MAT person. It was confirmed that the MAT trained person doesn't have to do the test but does have to be present at the facility.

Mr. Knapp questioned, and Mr. Martin confirmed, the guidance document is already in effect and everyone will be in compliance by 1/1/08. Information on training will be sent to members by October 1.

Debbie Beirne from the VA Department of Social Services was introduced as the Council liaison to answer questions regarding the MAT training.

*Start Strong Pre-K Initiative and Quality Rating Improvement System*

Kathy Glazer provided an update on the Start Strong Pre-K Initiative and Quality Improvement Rating System.

Copies of Research Citations for Star Quality Initiative, Frequently Asked Questions, Standards for Classroom-based Programs, Virginia Preschool Pilot Initiative, and Start Strong Recommendations were shared with Council. Copies of these reports are attached to the official minutes housed in the home office.

Ms. Hulcher confirmed that a facility without a director holding a master's degree would still be eligible to receive a 5-star rating.

Ms. Burton confirmed that the QRS would be used in the 3 & 4 year-old classes for this test year.

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Ms. Smith confirmed that score sheets would be available. Ms. Glazer advised they would but not with this test pilot.

#### *Child Care Block Grant Subsidy Status*

Mary Ward, Subsidy Manager of Child Care and Development spoke to the Council on the status of the Child Care Block Grant Subsidy. She advised they are working on an automated child care subsidy program that will assist in providing information not only for themselves but to legislators, etc. The General Assembly provided a small amount of funds for this project.

#### *Alignment Project Update*

Kathy Gillikin, Quality Manager of Child Care and Development spoke to the Council on the Alignment Project. Prior to the meeting, Council received copies of Milestones of Child Development and Competencies for Early Childhood Professionals books. Copies of these books are attached to the official minutes housed in the home office. These documents can also be found on the department website for free downloading.

Ms. Ruffin stated she would like to see the Milestones of Child Development Book adopted as teaching materials to be used in DOE preschool programs and Headstart.

Ms. Gillikin advised they hope to work with Virginia Community College Systems on administering the Virginia Scholarship Program beginning in 2008.

#### **Nominating Committee/Election of Officers**

***ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Finley, Chair of the committee) moved to approve Kristi Snyder to serve as Vice Chair and Nancy Smith to serve as Secretary of the Council for one year. Motion carried with all in favor.***

Congratulations were offered to the newly appointed officers.

#### **Minutes**

***ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Knapp) and seconded moved to approve minutes from the previous meeting as distributed. Motion carried with all in favor.***

#### **Regulatory Review**

Richard Martin reviewed the Status of Regulation Report with the Council. A copy of that handout is attached to the Official Minutes housed in central office.

Members received copies of 2008 Draft Legislation and a copy of Statement of Assurance from Affected Agency or Constituency information in their meeting packets. Copies are also attached to the official minutes housed in the home office.

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### **Goal Committee Reports**

#### Goal 2 Report

Susan Hackney discussed challenges the committee faced that require them to review data and reformat information. Ms. Geldmaker suggested putting performance target on hold and she will talk with Ms. Hackney on formatting.

#### Goal 1 Report

Ms. Smith reported the definition of child care continues to be reviewed. It was decided to word-smith the definition with the assistance of Mr. Harvey and bring before Council at the November meeting. Council will receive a copy of their work prior to the meeting.

The Provider/Parent Questionnaire was discussed. Ms. Ezra-Evans advised there is a great deal of information already available. She will do the research and provide information at the November Council Meeting. Members felt it would be a good idea to have the survey located on the Council website.

#### Goal 5 Report

It was advised a new strategy needs to be developed to get the Op Ed out since it was not picked up by media. Members were asked to provide feedback to Mr. Finley. It was suggested that members could query their local media outlets. A letter to the editor approach could also be used.

Internal Surveys for Members: Ms. Geldmaker requested goal committee members to clarify the percentage of members agreeing with a particular result.

#### Evaluation

Ms. Geldmaker provided members with a copy of Evaluation Framework (copy attached to minutes housed in home office). She advised the Evaluation committee can provide the percentage number of where we want to be versus the percentage figures of where we really are.

Child Care Feedback Survey- Ms. Stevens advised this probably won't be sent out this year due to funding issues.

Mr. Martin advised Council the regulatory process for their upcoming regulation would need to begin prior to May 2009. He advised the Council may want to begin discussions at their March 09 meeting. There would be no need for a periodic review if the Council knows what changes they want to make.

Mr. Williams is compiling a list of “points of pain” over the regulation.

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Ms. Johnson advised there are vacancies on Goal committees 3, 4, and 5. Please contact her if you have a particular interest on any of these committees. If not, assignments will be made.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Other Business**

Ms. Johnson advised Council that Carolynne Stevens would retire from the department in January 2008. Members gave a standing ovation and applauded Ms. Stevens for her dedication to protecting the children of Virginia.

Leslie Knachel, Program and Policy Development Manager provided an overview of her office and introduced staff Muriel Azra-Evans and Jeff Williams who would work as liaisons between her office and the Council.

Correspondence received since the last meeting included a letter Ms. Ruffin provided regarding MAT training, a letter from Ms. Bell regarding staff qualifications and training. Copies of these letters were provided to Council in their meeting packet.

Members felt it would be beneficial to let the public know that they heard the issues and responded accordingly. Ms. Beirne will research an avenue to showcase this information.

### **Chair’s Report**

Ms. Johnson advised she had attended a Pre-K symposium sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

She provided copies of an article in Style Magazine entitled *Pre-K: An idea Whose Time Has Come*.

Ms. Johnson advised she had been asked to serve on a delegation to China that would study day care. She will provide a report to Council in January.

### **Council Check In**

The Council, in turn, provided new members with information on their positions and affiliations.

Ms. Geldmaker provided members with information on Asthma Guidelines, Pandemic Flu Outbreak Plan Campaign and addressed the issue of multiple toy recall due to lead

poisonings. She advised the Governor will release information on October 22 as Lead Awareness Week.

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She discussed school preparedness and hearing screening. A grant was awarded for a physician to work with five early Head Start programs to evaluate hearing loss in children.

Ms. Geldmaker advised the Division of Injury and Violence Prevention has funds allocated for prevention projects. For further information please visit their website at [www.vdh.virginia.gov](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov).

Ms. Nau reported that Sunday, September 9 was Grandparents Day. She also provided information on The Arc of Virginia's activities and on the Bereavement Coalition of Central Virginia. Copies of these handouts are attached to the official minutes housed in the home office.

Ms. Ruffin advised MAT training will be held at Virginia State University on September 12, 22, and 29.

Jeff Williams advised Council that the Supreme Court ruled on Come & Go cases. The department is waiting to hear a ruling from the District Court. He will keep the Council advised.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 8 at 10:00 a.m.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss and by member consensus, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Rengnerth.