

Minutes

VA Child Day-Care Council

**VA Department of Social Services
7 N. Eighth Street
Richmond, VA 23219**

**September, 8, 2005
2:00 p.m.**

Attendees

Gail Johnson
Susan Hackney
Charles Finley
William Harvey
Jeff Walton
Carol Logue
Bethany Geldmaker
Mary Cole
Lynn Wray
Nancy Smith

Absent

Susan Ballard, Judith Beattie, Margaret Collins, Norman Crumpton, Margarita Mora, Aubrey Hyde, Rose Ann Sharp, Cleo Sims, Kristy Snyder, William Tobin, Kim Hulcher, Terry Davis, Lisa Shelburne, Jay Deboer, Dona Huang, Novella Ruffin, Anita Simpkins, Donna Peters, and Rosemary Burton.

Call to Order

Chairman Gail Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Johnson advised the Council could not handle its business today due to lack of quorum. She reminded everyone how important it is to attend meetings. The next meeting will be held on November 10, 2005. Orientation will be held from 10-2 p.m. with the full Council meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Public Participation Guidelines Committee Report will be moved forward to accommodate Bethany Geldmaker's prior commitment.

Introductions and Welcome

Newly appointed members Mary Cole and Lynn Wray were introduced and welcomed to the Council. Chairman Johnson advised she had been reappointed to serve as Chair of the Council and Lisa Shelburne had also been reappointed.

Mary Cole has been an employee of the City of Virginia Beach Department of Parks and Recreation for fifteen years. Since 1997, she has served as division head for the Recreation Division. The division is comprised of 6 full service community recreation centers and swimming pools, summer before-and-after school programs in over 60 schools, the Therapeutic Recreation Unit, the Promoting Leisure Activities for Youth (PLAY) Team that provides intervention and prevention programs, a tennis center, and the City's Youth Opportunities Office.

Lynn Wray is regional manager for Bright Horizons Family Solutions where she supports the management teams of 6 child care centers. She plans and facilitates training and regional meetings for directors and faculty; guides and facilitates NAEYC accreditation and reaccreditation process, and oversees implementation of GSA, Licensing and NAEYC standards.

22 VAC 15-10 Public Participation Guidelines

On behalf of the Public Participation Guidelines Committee and its Chair, Bethany Geldmaker, Richard Martin briefly summarized 22 VAC 15-10, Public Participation Guidelines—Proposed Amended Regulation. He advised of an error on page 5, item K, the second word should be “least” not “lease”. This regulation sets forth the procedures the Council uses to obtain public input when developing, revising or repealing a regulation. The regulation covers the following topics: petitions from interested parties, solicitation of input, public hearings, and withdrawal of regulations. The proposed regulation provides for electronic transmission of information and incorporates recent statutory changes. A letter of Assurance from the Office of the Attorney General was provided.

Public Comment

Maile Hildebrand commented on increased training requirement (120 hours) and advised a letter requesting a variance had been sent to the department, but not responded to as yet. She also spoke about “come and go” programs that had been operating 30 years without problems in school settings. There are 65 schools that have recently received notification their facilities are now unacceptable for use. She asked that the Board consider the impact on low income children using these facilities.

Mr. Williams advised that the 65 schools mentioned in Ms. Hildebrand's public comment was not a part of regulation; but was in CODE.

A letter from *Camille Wilson*, co-teacher at Chancellor Street Pre School Co-op was provided to members as public comment. The Council was asked to allow for grandfathering of playgrounds established before the new standards were enacted; allow a grace period for instituting standards; and allow exemptions for centers that exceed the supervision ratios. (A copy of this letter is housed with the official Minutes at the VDSS home office.)

22 VAC 40-80 General Procedures and Information for Licensure

Ms. Susan Hackney asked that Richard Martin speak to this. Mr. Martin stated two standards are being amended and one new standard added to incorporate the emergency regulations. A few other amendments are being made for clarification and to remove unnecessary detail. He advised that the committee may want to set a date to discuss comments received from Council members. Ms. Hackney asked that Council members review this regulation and comment on opened sections (underlined) by October 14. Comments should be sent to susan.hackney@dss.virginia.gov. The committee will formulate the recommendations for presentation at the November meeting. Ms. Hackney asked members to keep in mind that much of this regulation is under the authority of the Commissioner and Board.

Committee Structure

New members were asked to review the committees and advise Chairman Johnson of their interest in serving on a particular committee.

Chair's Report

Copies of correspondence received by the Chair since the last meeting were provided to members.

- Letter from Camille Wilson requesting the Council to allow variances on the new standards.
- Letter to Delegate Hamilton regard House Bill 1550
- Letter to Senator Hanger regarding House Bill 1550
- Letter from Robin Sizemore regarding scissor incident at daycare
- Letter to Delegate Bell

Ms. Johnson advised she had attended and chaired one event at the Governor's Summit on Early Childhood Care in Virginia. As a result of this conference, a taskforce was formed to look at Early Care and Education in Virginia.

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Presentations

Jeff Williams, Licensing Programs provided an update on the Status of Technical Assistance to newly released CDC standards. Mr. Williams advised there will be a learning curve for the new regulations. It is his hope that time will settle out most of the concerns.

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Unable to approve due to lack of quorum

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Conyers is handling social service business at Ft. Pickett today and unable to attend the meeting; however, he will be present for the November meeting.

Liaison's Report

State Board Chair Julie Christopher was unable to attend the meeting due to family illness.

Council Check In

Susan Hackney advised she attended the State Board meeting in Portsmouth. She also attended the Virginia Head Start Director Conference; mentioning concerns over activated charcoal and equipment height.

Bethany Geldmaker spoke of issues surrounding air-dry sanitizing and problems with children touching the items with their hands while the items are still wet. She will report back to Council on this issue. She also spoke of children of evacuees not having immunization records, mentioning that Health, Education, and Social Services are working through this problem.

Jeff Walton had nothing to report.

Nancy Smith had nothing to report.

William Harvey had nothing to report.

Carol Logan had nothing to report.

Mary Cole had nothing to report.

Charles Finley had nothing to report

Lynn Wray had nothing to report.

Members were reminded to update their personal information and provide it to Richard or Pat for inclusion on the DSS website.

Other Business

Chairman Johnson and the Council discussed concerns highlighted in the letter from Robin Sizemore. Ms. Sizemore would like the regulation to have consequences for both major and minor infractions; scissors should not be in the toddler room unless a specific brand; and spoke of training issues. Jeff Williams will relay this information to Carolynne Stevens, Director of Licensing on how and when to address all concerns relayed through the Council. Division staff will attend the November meeting to discuss the compilation of concerns.

Jeff Walton advised that training requirements and resilient surfacing are two large concerns for him.

Carol Logue mentioned issues arising from the recent hurricane evacuees and asked how emergency variance could be developed. Ms. Hackney advised the Commissioners of Health, Social Services and Education are currently looking at these issues. Mr. Martin advised the Governor has authority to issue an Executive Order if needed---Virginia has not been faced with this before.

New Business

A representative from the Office of the Attorney General was requested to brief the Council on their duties as it relates to the APA process.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m. Chairman Johnson again reminded members of the importance of attending meetings so the work of the Council can move forward.