

WASHOE COUNTY CHILD CARE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

DATE: March 12, 2020

PLACE: Washoe County Commissioners' Chambers

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Hayley Hamel, Child Development Specialist
Ryan Putzer, For Profit Child Care provider (Center)
Kristen Mareno, For Profit Child Care Provider (Center)
Harmony Shreve, For Profit Child Care (Home)
Julieta Ferraren, Recipient of Child Care Services
Sylvia Lee, Reno Fire Department
Kim Franchi (on behalf of Jeff Brasel), Washoe County Health District
Karen Micklish on behalf of Kristy Baker, Washoe County HSA

MEMBERS

ABSENT: Alexis Erlach, Recipient of Child Care Services
Candace Dietrich, Recipient of Child Care Services
Chris McCubbins, Sparks Fire Department
Kathy Sobrio, Washoe County Health District – Immunization Program
Tiffany Dyer, Nevada State Division of Child and Family Services

Item 1: Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Kim Franchi, and roll was taken.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes of September 23, 2019 Meeting

The minutes of the September 23, 2019 meeting were approved.

Item 3: Board Positions

Karen Micklish welcomed new board member Jeff Brasel. Ms. Micklish asked the three board members, Ryan Putzer, Kristen Mareno, and Hayley Hamel, whose first term board positions came up due for renewal in February 2020, if they wished to continue on the board for a second four-year term. All three accepted and agreed to a second four-year term expiring February 2024. Ms. Micklish also mentioned that Sylvia Lee's first term will expire June of 2020 and asked if she knew if she would be continuing on the board. Sylvia Lee feels that she would like to, and should be able to, continue on the board and will seek the approval of her supervisor. If for some reason Ms. Lee would be unable to continue on the board, she would let the board know right away. Kim Franchi asked if a vote was needed by all board members, and since the volunteer members of the board are happy to be there and no one had any objections to any board member continuing their term, it was determined that no vote was needed. Ryan Putzer, Kristen Mareno, Hayley Hamel and Sylvia Lee were welcomed again for their second board terms.

Item 4: Grading System Updates (Karen Micklish)

Karen Micklish discussed that State Child Care Licensing continues to work on developing protocols on how exactly centers and homes are going to be graded. The State was hoping to present this topic at the State Board of Health meeting on March 5, 2020, but that meeting has been postponed to June 2020. Hayley Hamel asked if it would be helpful if this board had a copy of the proposed changes, as the board is entitled to a copy of the proposed changes. Ms. Micklish feels that it would be a good idea to ask for a copy. Ms. Hamel was asked if she would volunteer to draft a letter to the State asking for a copy of the proposed changes on behalf of the board. Ms. Micklish advised that Ms. Hamel could work with Washoe County Human Services Agency Child Care Licensing Division Director on any needed approval of the letter. Ms. Franchi agreed that having Washoe County Human Services Agency Child Care Licensing Division Director's approval on that letter would be advisable. Kristen Mareno and several other board members agreed on Ms. Hamel drafting the letter. Ms. Micklish will help facilitate Washoe County Human Services Agency Division Director's approval.

Item 5: Staff to Child Ratio – Regulation 24.4.A.3 (Karen Micklish)

Ms. Micklish advised that Kristy Baker contacted Latisha Brown at the State to verify that Washoe County was interpreting the language of the new proposed regulations regarding ratios correctly, as the County has typically always been stricter than the State. Currently it reads that home providers can now have two children under the age of one, and four children under the age of three, so, potentially, one home provider could end up having six children under the age of three. Board members feel that they want to remain more restrictive, as they all agree that it is very difficult for one person to handle that many non-ambulatory or young children. Ms. Micklish asked Sylvia Lee if she was able to make contact with the various Fire Districts and if they had any safety concerns about these proposed new regulations. Ms. Lee was not able to make contact, as they are in the process of changing Fire Marshalls. Ms. Lee will again attempt to follow up with the Fire Marshalls about this regulation. A motion was made by Harmony Shreve to take a vote to adopt back the previous verbiage of the regulations (four children under the age of two, with no more than two children under the age of 12 months). The Board members all agreed.

Item 6: CDC Guidelines Regarding Discarding Breast Milk – Regulation 17.11.H.18

Kim Franchi turned the discussion over to Karen Micklish for follow-up on this agenda item. Historically, the County has been more restrictive than what the CDC guidelines call for. Ms. Micklish advised that Kristy Baker reached out to the State confirming that they do not have any regulations or protocol on this guideline, and the State does not have any regulations pertaining to the discarding of breast milk, so in follow-up from September 2019 meeting, the board agrees to follow the CDC guidelines. However, Washoe County Child Care Licensing regulations would need to be updated. Ms. Micklish advised that since Washoe County Child Care Licensing recently updated their regulations and printed out the booklets, that Washoe County Child Care Licensing staff could send out a memo to currently licensed providers advising that Washoe County would now be following the CDC guidelines of discarding breast milk after two hours of it being unrefrigerated. The board agreed to keep it on the agenda for the next board meeting in September. Ms. Franchi stated she feels that the one-hour time frame is preferable to her due to the immune systems of newborn/infant children. Ms. Hamel made a motion for the board to take a vote on it and all board members agreed on the two-hour timeframe.

Item 7: Department Update (Karen Micklish)

Karen Micklish reminded everyone that Child Care Licensing workers Elise Henriques and Jamie Taylor have retired and re-introduced new licensing workers, Maggie Moore and Katie Nichols. Ms. Micklish advised that some of the areas covered by all three of the licensing workers were shifted a little bit, stating that Maggie Moore covers all of Sparks now. Katie Nichols covers all the North Valleys, parts of northeast and southeast Reno, except for the childcare that her child attends, as that would be a conflict, so Ms. Moore has been assigned to that center. Ms. Micklish took over another center that was already in her assigned zip code that was being handled by Elise previously. Ms. Micklish mentioned that Washoe County is in the process of an audit and there could be a change to the way childcare licensing background checks are done, but everyone will be notified if that change is made. Laura Caprioli has been promoted to the Foster Care Licensing Supervisor, which left both her and Katie Nichol's foster care licensing positions open. Those positions were filled by Jessica Shepherd and Lindsey Klaes.

Item 8: Next Meeting Date September 29, 2020 from 6:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.

The next Washoe County Child Care Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for September 29, 2020 from 6:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.

Item 9: Public Comment on Items Not on Agenda

Audience member, Nicole Jacobs-Jones, the owner of Mommies and Daddies Preschool, came to the podium to ask if, or suggest that, Washoe County Child Care Licensing could do more to assist people who want to expand/open up a second or third center when they run in to issues with zoning permits. Ms. Jacobs-Jones is trying to open a second center out in Lemmon Valley, which is currently zoned as a commercial building. Ms. Jacobs-Jones expressed her frustration about the issues she has been running into and feels like she doesn't have the proper support that she needs to successfully open a second center. Ms. Franchi sympathized with Ms. Jacobs-Jones and asked her if she had possibly reached out to her local council member. Ms. Jacobs-Jones stated she is working with someone to help her figure out exactly where she needs to go and who she needs to contact for all the barriers she is running into. A Board member asked Ms. Jacobs-Jones if they were a QRIS center, which led her to express additional frustrations with that process. Ms. Micklish sympathized with Ms. Jacobs-Jones and explained a few processes to her and suggested that if Ms. Jacobs-Jones feels like she isn't getting proper support from her licensing worker, to reach out to supervisor Kristy Baker.

Ryan Putzer asked if an item could be added to the agenda for the September 29, 2020 board meeting pertaining to independent contractors that are coming into centers needing to have a center staff member with that contractor at all times, referring to Regulation 17.15. All board members agreed to put it on the agenda for September 29, 2020.

There were no further questions or comments from either the public or the board members. The meeting was adjourned at 10:19a.m.