

NIH Child Care Board Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2021
WebEx

Members, Liaisons, and Guests in Attendance: Dr. Theresa Cruz, Dr. Kristin Dupre, Ms. Ila Flannigan, Mr. Dan Fogarty, Dr. Chao Jiang, Ms. Olivia Kent, Mr. Dan Lonnerdal, Dr. Seema Nayak, Ms. Nicole Ray, Dr. Suzanne Ryan, Dr. Gilman Toombes, Dr. Blake Warner, Ms. Heather Rogers, Ms. Laura Bardini, Ms. Julie Margel, Ms. Tracy Carrico, Ms. Christina Segura, Ms. Jennifer Rooms, Ms. Anne Schmitz, Ms. Barbara Acquaviva, Ms. Debbie Washington, Dr. Sila Ataca, Dr. Carl Hashimoto, Mr. Ivan Locke, Ms. Mallory McCormick, Ms. Melissa Porter, Dr. Pragma Prakash, Dr. Judith Walters, Ms. Tammie Edwards, Mr. Russell Mason, Ms. Linda Owen. Guests: Mr. Bradley Alvarez, Ms. Monica Chavis, Dr. Luciana Crotti Espinoza, Dr. Tuba Fehr, Mr. Matthew Finger, Ms. Brenda Fogel, Ms. Jaelyn Franco, Ms. Beverly Gildersleeve, Dr. Michael Grigg, Dr. Daniel Melters, Ms. Meenakshi Shelat, Ms. Victoria Townsend, Dr. Bethany Stangl, Dr. Ashley Vargas, Dr. Louis Velasco, Dr. Quan Yuan

I. Welcome and Introduction of Board Members, Liaisons and Guests: Chair Kristin Dupre called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and asked guests to introduce themselves in the Chat Box.

II. Updates:

A. Approval of Minutes – A motion to approve the March 11, 2021 meeting minutes was made by Dr. Blake Warner, seconded by Ms. Nicole Ray, and approved by all.

B. Contracts –

i. Subsidy: A six-month extension (July 1-December 31, 2021) is currently being sought and anticipating new contract competition will commence by late-June 2021.

ii. Waitlist/Resource & Referral/Family Education: A three-month extension (July 1-September 30, 2021) is currently being sought and anticipating new contract competition will commence by mid-June 2021.

C. Childcare Subsidy Recertification – The re-certification deadline was extended until May 31, 2021 to align with the extended IRS tax filing deadline. A global email will be released on June 1, 2021 advertising the program.

D. Child and Family Programs Team – Hiring for the Program Specialist position is proceeding with interviews scheduled at the end of the month.

III. Childcare Centers:

A. ECDC- Ms. Anne Schmitz, Executive Director, reported that almost two dozen new children have recently been enrolled although continued licensing restrictions not allowing commingling of groups of children is preventing them from enrolling more students; their current enrollment of 150 children is the maximum that they can safely accommodate. Staffing is currently a significant struggle (due to competition with unemployment benefits and vaccine hesitancy). A full licensing inspection was conducted in late March 2021; the center was in complete compliance.

B. POPI - Ms. Christina Segura, Executive Director, reported on the activities happening at the center in celebration of the Week of the Young Child. The center is enrolled to the maximum number the staff can safely accommodate at this time; Christina reported that enrolling two-year old children was a challenge due to the large number of declines for each offer. The POPI board of directors is considering if a virtual kindergarten cohort will be offered next school year; half of their current cohort withdrew to attend school in person. Enrolling kindergarteners may help the center reach full enrollment as they anticipate about 35 children will matriculate to kindergarten at the end of the summer.

C. **NWCCC** - Ms. Julie Margel, Director, reported on the WOYC activities being offered virtually by their teachers. A full licensing inspection was conducted in late March 2021; the center was in complete compliance. The Education Director, Ms. Stacey Cumming, left NWCCC to accept a director position at another Rockville Day Care Association site; RDCA plans to hire a new individual as soon as possible. Enrollment for available spaces continue; Julie reported that enrolling two-year old children has been a challenge due to the large number of declines for each offer.

IV. Membership Committee Report: Committee chairs Dan Lonnerdal and Olivia Kent reported 23 applications were received and are being reviewed. Interviews will be conducted at the end of April and, in early May, voting members will be asked to approve the committee's recommendations of three or four new members.

V. Waitlist Committee Report: Committee chairs Theresa Cruz and Heather Rogers followed up on the committee's recommendation to ORS that registration on the NIH Childcare Waitlist be opened to preschool-age children (3- to 5-year-olds) of NIH contractors. DATS Acting Director Tammie Edwards commented that the proposal was under consideration by the ORS Director. The committee considered a proposed recommendation to ORS that new hires registering on the Waitlist be allowed to provide a signed Letter of Intent from an IC instead of an official Offer Letter from the Office of Human Resources. After review and discussion, the committee did not find sufficient justification to recommend changing the current policy and procedures. 2020 waitlist data was presented; the dramatic drop in the number of children currently waiting for immediate enrollment is due to parents and guardians pushing their desired enrollment dates out into the future due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

VI. Board and Committee Leadership for 2021-2022 Board Year: Chair Kristin Dupre and Vice Chair Olivia Kent encouraged interested voting members to speak with them or Linda Owen regarding future chair and vice chair positions, in order to take advantage of the opportunity to "shadow" the current chairs during the upcoming Board year. An appeal for new co-chairs (and chair, in case of Waitlist Committee) for most committees for upcoming year was made.

VII. Announcements and Adjournment:

- A. Lunch and Learn Webinar: Stress and the Parenting Connection – today, Thursday, April 15, 1:30 PM
- B. 27th Annual Take Your Child to Work Day – Thursday, April 22 – Registration open at <https://takeyourchildtowork.nih.gov>
- C. Work-Life@NIH: A Supervisor's Guide to Enhancing Workforce Well-being – Thursday, May 13, 9:00 AM, register at LMS
- D. In May (Mental Health Awareness Month): EAP Workshop titled "Exhaustion and Burnout, Bench to Bedside," and interactive and experiential workshop for scientists, researchers and health care providers. More information to follow.

The next Board meeting will be Thursday, June 3, 2021, 10:00 AM, by WebEx.