

NIH CHILD CARE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 26, 2006

Building 31 – Conference Room 3B13

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Janet Austin, Christie Baxter, Valerie Durrant, Monica Ellerbe-Scott, Hilary Fitis, Tom Hayden, Jayne Lura-Brown, Angela Magliozzi, Juanita Mildenberg, Richard Morris, Kim Plascjak, Henry Primas, Mary Ellen Savarese, Lisa Strauss, Tracy Waldeck

Members Absent: none

Liaisons in Attendance:

POPI: Paulina Alvarado, Christine Koch-Paiz

ECDC: None

Childkind: Jaydah Wilson, Michael Difilippantonio

OGC: Valerie Bonham, Katherine Lindsay

Board Staff: Joy Gaines

Guest: Nadine Butler (WFL) Stephanie Kreider (NHLBI)

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Board President Janet Austin welcomed members, liaisons and guest. Introductions were made.
- II. **Liaison Attendance at NIH Child Care Board Meetings:** Valerie Bonham followed up on a question that was raised during the December Board meeting by Michael Difilippantonio regarding the ethical question concerning child care Board liaisons attending NIH Child Care Board meetings. She explained that federal employees may not represent the interest of a private party to the NIH (i.e. the Board). It may be a violation of the code of federal regulations, 205. She is researching the issue and realizes that in order for the Board to complete the charter revisions, a conclusion must be reached as soon as possible.
- III. **Transportation to Campus and Children:** Tom Hayden spoke briefly about a possible change in policy concerning children coming onto campus with their parents. This has recently become a “hot topic on the NIH parenting listserv due to conflicting information given by the Guards and the ORS website. Tom said he was planning to set up a meeting to discuss further.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:** Janet asked for a motion to approve the December 2005 Board minutes. All approved and the minutes were accepted into the Board record.
- V. **Charter Revision:** Richard Morris spoke on behalf of the Charter committee by presenting the revised charter. The Board recommended a few minor changes. Richard asked the Board for a motion to send the revised charter up the chain of command with changes. Angie Magliozzi seconded the motion and the Board approved.

- VI. Child Care Waitlist Update:** Mary Ellen shared with the Board the quarterly report from Life Work Strategies (LWS) on the Child Care Waitlist contract from October through December 2005. In summary:
- LWS handled a total of 149 newly registered children
 - Children 12 months or younger represented 35% of the total number of children on the waitlist
 - During this quarter, POPI enrolled 8 children, ECDC enrolled 6 and Childkind enrolled 4
 - There were 964 children actively waiting for enrollment
 - 73% of the waiting children live in Montgomery County
 - The Child Care Resource & Referral Service served 74 waitlist families; an increase of 24 referrals from last quarter

LWS asked that the Board consider informing the NIH community that the NIH sponsored child Care centers are not “better” than community based centers. Apparently there is a wide misconception that the NIH Centers are the only option for quality care in the area, while community centers are considered substandard. Mary Ellen asked the Board to consider adding this disclaimer to the frequently asked questions on the Child Care Board website. The two declines policy was also discussed around the table, but it was decided that because it is so loaded, it would be left to the waitlist committee for further discussion before presenting any new recommendations to the entire Board. Members who volunteered for the Waiting List Committee: Lisa Strauss, Monica Ellerbe-Scott, Hillary Fitis, Christie Baxter, Tracy Waldeck

- VII. NIH Child Care Board Survey:** Joy Gaines gave an overview of the preliminary results of the December 2005 NIH Child Care Survey. Approximately 2,600 people responded to the survey. Most respondents want the NIH to increase child care spaces near NIH work sites, offer summer and holiday care for school aged children, back up care and the expansion of the child care tuition assistance subsidies. The NIH sponsored child care centers received overwhelmingly positive responses to the quality of care they provide. The survey results show that the length of the waitlist is the main deterrent from enrolling children in NIH sponsored Centers. The survey also indicates that the NIH Work and Family Life Center is the program that has assisted most in managing parenting responsibilities.
- VIII. NIH Parenting Festival:** Janet and Mary Ellen called on volunteers to form the Parenting Festival Committee. Lisa Strauss, Jayne Lura Brown, Nadine Butler, Stephanie Kreider, Hilary Fitis and Monica Ellerbe-Scott graciously volunteered.
- IX. Announcements:** Nadine announced that the NIH WorkLife Center will sponsor a Camp Information Outreach to be held on February 21 and 22. Mary Ellen talked about the success of the first Homework Help Session sponsored by the Division of Employee Services. Angie Magliozzi announced the 2006 Montgomery County Women’s Fair. Lisa Strauss talked about some interesting things going on in her office, the Office of Science Education. Kim Plasjak told the group to get the word out to students interested in working at the NIH summer 2006. March 1st is the deadline for summer student applications.

Meeting adjourned at noon.