

NIH CHILD CARE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 7, 2006

Building 1 – Wilson Hall

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Members in Attendance:

Valerie Durrant, Christie Baxter-Espinoza, Jayne Lura-Brown, Angela Magliozzi, Richard Morris, Kim Plascjak, Henry Primas, Monica Ellerbe-Scott, Lisa Strauss, Susan Persons, Juanita Mildenberg, Matthew Kohn, Mary Ellen Savarese

Voting Members Absent: Tracy Waldeck, Hillary Fitis

Center Liaisons Attending: POPI: Nikolay Nikolov, ChildKind: Michael Difilippantonio, Jaydah Wilson, Amy Cliber

Guest: Nadine Butler

I. Welcome and Introductions

Board Chair Valerie Durrant welcomed members and guests. Dr. Durrant directed member attention to the letter from Drs. Zerhouni and Kington regarding the Board Annual Report. Although the letter did not give specific responses about Board recommendations, it did include information that ORS would work with the NIH Facilities Working Groups to consider additional space for child care. The Board discussed the need for more child care space and considered on and off campus solutions.

A motion was made to write a letter to the ORS Director to ask him to actively seek leased space off campus (in the Rocksprings Cluster) for an additional child care facility and to request funds in the FY 2008 budget to cover the lease costs. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

There was additional discussion about opportunities to collaborate with other Federal agencies to solve the waiting list problem. Mary Ellen Savarese reported that there are some collaborations already in place (Nuclear Regulatory Commission, FDA), but she would try to begin some discussion with the National Naval Medical Center Child Care Services to see if there spaces available.

II. Approve October Minutes

Valerie Durrant asked for approval of the minutes of the October 26, 2006 meeting. The minutes were approved as corrected.

III. Presentation: Child Care Legislative Proposal

Ms. Patricia Brandt-Hansberger from the Office of Legislative Policy discussed the text of a proposed legislative change that had been included in the Board Annual Report. Ms. Brandt reviewed the “why” of the proposal: there is demonstrated demand for NIH sponsored child

care and there are no funds to build or lease space for child care. So, what are options that are less expensive? One solution is to lease/prioritize spaces in existing child care programs. Current Federal legislation does not permit that option. The process to change Federal legislation is VERY long and complicated (OD to NIH Director to DHHS to OMB to Congress). For the current proposal to start in that process there needs to be strong support by the NIH leadership.

Board members Richard Morris and Susan Persons raised the issues of Federal outsourcing initiatives and public-private partnerships. Any Board proposal should include information about the continued need for current child care programs plus more options for employees and how child care benefits the NIH scientific mission.

Board members thanked Ms. Brandt-Hansberger for her thoughtful consideration of the Board proposal and her suggestions to move this project forward.

Board members continued to discuss the idea of community based options. Kim Plascjak asked if there had been contact with the NIH Foundation regarding the idea of using NIH collaborations as a means of improving community based child care - something that the entire community of parents and children would benefit from.

Valerie Durrant, Susan Persons, Richard Morris, and Juanita Mildenberg agreed to continue this discussion about public-private partnerships and approach the solution to the NIH child care problem from all possible angles.

IV. NIH Child Care Subsidy Program Report

Valerie Durrant introduced a one page summary of the outline of a report to Drs. Zerhouni and Kington regarding the child care subsidy pilot. She reported on the committee discussion and the specific issues that need Board approval and direction. Specifically, should the program move from pilot to “on-going” NIH program? Also, how much should the Board recommend to fully fund the program and eliminate the waiting list?

There was discussion of the possible future inclusion of Fellows in the program and what that would mean for funding. Juanita Mildenberg recommended inclusion of as much data as possible to make the argument for this program. Kim Plascjak suggested that the Board report also include the plan to advertise the program to current and new employees. Board members would like to review the final report and will give final approval at the January 2007 meeting.

V. Board Recognition Proposal

Mary Ellen Savarese asked members to review the language drafted by Richard Morris to provide formal recognition of individual Board member efforts and accomplishments on an annual basis for the purpose of linking Board work to Personal Performance Reviews. Members were supportive of this idea. Mary Ellen Savarese will work with Richard Morris to refine the proposal, develop a format and determine timing of this effort.

VI. Announcements:

Mary Ellen Savarese announced that Paulina Alvarado, Director of POPI, was absent from the meeting due to NAEYC Accreditation visits to the center today and tomorrow. POPI is one of the first programs to participate in the “new” and much more difficult accreditation process.

Meeting adjourned at 12 Noon with wishes for Happy Holidays to all.

Next Board Meeting January 11, 2007