

The Permanent Legislative Commission on Child Care in Rhode Island

May 9, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Representative Diaz, Chair
Representative Duffy Messier
Kate Begin
Charlotte Boudreau
Lisa Hildebrand for Tammy Camillo
Rachel Flum
Heidi Flynn
Leslie Gell
Laura Mason Zeisler
Esselton McNulty
Joseph Morra
Kathie Sandberg
Khadija Lewis Khan
Mike Burk
Susan Libutti
Jeff Gale
Lisa Futado from Dr. Day Care
Angela Ankoma
Katy Heneghan

Minutes:

Minutes were accepted from previous meeting.

Chair Diaz asked Leanne Barrett, from RI Kids Count to speak with the membership regarding an overview of the Federal FY11. It passed, now they are moving on to FY12. FY11 Budget had some good news for early childhood programs. Early childhood is a priority for President Obama.

Head Start: Nationally, a \$340 million increase for Head Start and Early Head Start, which would allow the additional children funded by ARRA to continue to receive services. Rhode Island would be able to maintain 18 Head Start slots in Providence and 152 Early Head Start ARRA slots in Pawtucket, Providence, and North Providence through March 2012 and likely through September 2012.

Child Care: Nationally received a \$100 million increase in the Child Care and CCDBG, about 10% of one year ARRA of funds. Nationally, it includes a proportional increase over baseline (pre-ARRA) funding levels in the quality set-aside (from \$271 million to \$284 million) and the infant/toddler set aside (from \$99.5 million to \$104 million). The new funding that would go to the states would also require them to spend additional money on quality dollars above and beyond their standard 4%. Quality dollars and infant/toddler set-aside. How much money would this mean for Rhode Island, not much, the formula is based on the population under 13 years of age, which was updated with the 2010 census, we have a lower proportion of children under 13. Our number of children has gone down. We probably won't see increase in the Federal CCDBG fund available in Rhode Island.

Early Learning Challenge Fund: A portion of the \$700 million allocated to Race to the Top competitive education grants for states to be used for grants to states to improve their early care and education systems. Goal is to increase the number and percentage of low income children in each age group; infants, toddlers, and preschoolers who are enrolled in high quality early learning programs by offering incentives to states to design and implement an integrated system of high-quality early learning programs and services.

They are working on developing the funding opportunity announcement. It's not clear how much nationally is for early learning, or how much each state would be able to get, not clear which agency within the state could apply for it, it's all still in development. Kids Count will keep their eyes on it. The question asked if your state already had a Race to the Top grant,

would you be able to apply for additional funding, Kids Count believes the answer is, yes. You can't find out until the guide is released. Member will keep the commission informed.

Blythe Berger, Department of Health: Blythe stated that they are continuing with their quarterly trainings for child care health consultants. They are looking to expand it to family child care providers who are interested. If anyone has questions for Blythe Berger they can call her at 401-222-5949.

Joseph Morra, RI Afterschool Plus Alliance: Save the Date, 2011 Lights on Afterschool Breakfast of Champions, Friday, October 21, 2011, 7:45 a.m.-9:30 a.m. at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet, Cranston, RI. Keynote Speaker Wes Moore, author of, *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*.

Update on bill they supported H-5590. Hearing scheduled before House Finance on Wednesday, May 11, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. The Bill would provide resources, give money to RIDE to put out a RFP to support summer learning programs that are collaboration between schools and community based organizations.

Kate Begin: EBFCCP Child Abuse Prevention & Children's Mental Health Summit is on Monday, June 6, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency in Newport. To register go to, www.childandfamilyri.com. It is funded by DCYF, no cost to attend, but you must register. Presentation by Dr. Susan Dickstein, Director, Bradley Hospital Early Childhood Clinical Research Center, and Ben Tanzer, Senior Director of Communications, Prevent Child Abuse America. They will be Talking about Child Abuse Prevention and The Science of Promoting Early Childhood Development and Mental Health. Janet Anderson, Assistant Director Children's Behavioral Health, RI DCYF. She will be presenting, Family Care Community Partnership Presentation, Understanding National Trends and Best Practices. There will a Panel Discussion with Panelists, Steven Costantino, RI Secretary of Health and Human Services, Commissioner Gist, Peter

DiBari, President of Child & Family, and Kathy Ciano, Executive Director of Parent Support Network of RI/Parent. Then there will be the Afternoon Breakout Sessions: Breakout I, about Understanding Family Strengths: Building Parent Empowerment and Parent Leadership. Speakers will be, Kate Begin, Lisa Conlan from the Parent Support Network, and Patty Carbone from Child and Family. Breakout II, Building an Advocate Network for Children and Families. The speakers will be Elizabeth Burke Bryant, from RI Kid's Count, Chris Kent, the Former External Communications Director for Congressman Patrick Kennedy. Breakout III, A Systems Approach to Integrating Education and Children's Mental Health. The speakers will be Frank Pace, Clinical Director, RIPEP, Virginia Stack from RIPEP, Lavonne Nkomo from RIPEP, and Lynn DeMerchant from RIPEP. Breakout IV, Child Welfare Partnerships: Exploring current practice changes and trends in child welfare as resources for enhancing partnerships across public, private and natural helper systems. The speaker will be Tanya Glantz, Acting Director, from RI Child Welfare Institute/RI College. You should indicate when registering which Breakout session you want. Kate asked that members spread the word about the Summit.

Mike Burk, DCYF: They met on the Child Care licensing violations part of Bill-H 5529. The first part they linked to existing statute, the access to public records statute. That says what information agencies can and cannot release. One exception to that are final actions taken by and agency in regard to licensing, regulation and statutory authority. The change (see attached, section 42-72.1-9) that is underlined, "of any instance....., put in its place, pertinent to findings.....
"Basically it says if we take a licensing action that's considered a final action, then it is considered a public record, the lowest level of final action would be a notice of violation coming from DCYF in the form of a letter. Violations would be discussed, you would be given compliance dates, if you comply, everything is great, if you haven't some things you tried to do and couldn't, they could be renegotiated, but at some point in time if it's still non compliance, and it would become a violation. A letter would come and it would state what you are in violation of. The letter is what would be

available to the public". There could be immediate action, Re: kids in harms way. Appeals can be filed. If the Court asks for a "stay", DCYF could not release that piece of information. Letter stays, if violation is corrected, but it is noted. Under the public records law, DCYF feels it has the authority to share any and all violations. Violations can be against an entity and/or an individual. The Legislation needs to be shared with the Chairs and their sponsors. It is House Bill 5529, and Senate 647, by Senator Perry.

Leanne Barrett, Kids Count: Violations would affect Bright Stars.

Chair Diaz asked Mike Burk from DCYF about S 236 is about fingerprints for prospective DCYF employees.

Mike Burk also explained that Senator Fogarty's bill passed Committee, Senate version of Representative Keable's Bill. Mike couldn't remember the bill number.

Chair Diaz spoke about H-5624 and H-5206; both have to do with child care eligibility. They are scheduled for Finance, Thursday, May 12, 2011.

Rachel Flum stated that Chair Diaz Bill, H-5624 is about exit eligibility. It would help those who get raises or are eligible to work extra hours, it would help those already receiving child care assistance to continue doing so, up to 225% of the Federal Poverty Level, it would be a small number of people. Rep. Cimini bill would help those who work 25 hours a week if they wanted to get an education or training they could get child care assistance for those extra hours. There is no cap on the number of hours. Bill H5206, Senate 323. Representative Diaz is requesting a fiscal note. The Poverty Institute and Kids Count will be testifying in support. Rachel also said she has a parent to testify to talk about turning down raises and promotions. Karen Feldman from Young Voice may also testify. Rachel also said a member from the Child Care Commission should also testify saying the Commission endorses the Bill. The

commission also suggested having someone testify who would represent Child Care Providers. Written testimony is also helpful.

Meeting was adjourned.