

WASHOE COUNTY CHILD CARE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

DATE: March 10, 2021

PLACE: Washoe County Commissioners' Chambers and via Zoom

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Kim Franchi, Washoe County Health District
Julieta Ferraren, Recipient of Child Care Services
Sylvia Lee, Reno Fire Department

MEMBERS

PRESENT

VIA ZOOM: Hayley Hamel, Child Development Specialist
Ryan Putzer, For Profit Child Care Provider (Center)
Kristin Mareno, For Profit Child Care Provider (Center)
Harmony Shreve, For Profit Child Care (Home)
Alexis Erlach, Recipient of Child Care Services
Candace Dietrich, Recipient of Child Care Services
Kathy Sobrio, Washoe County Health District – Immunization Program
Tiffany Dyer, Nevada State Division of Child and Family Services
Amy Sandvik, Program Coordinator, Washoe County Human Services Agency

Item 1: Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Kim Franchi at 9:05a.m., and roll was taken.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes of September 29, 2020 Meeting

The minutes of the September 29, 2020 meeting were approved.

Item 3: Board Positions

Amy Sandvik, Washoe County Human Services Agency (WCHSA) Program Coordinator, Child Care Licensing, advised that she is filling in at today's meeting for retired Child Care Licensing Supervisor, Kristy Baker's, vacant position, which should be filled by April 2021. Board Chair, Kim Franchi, asked Ms. Sandvik about the open Board position for Sparks Fire Department, which Chris McCubbins has filled for the past two terms. Mr. McCubbins' second term expired in February 2021. Ms. Sandvik advised that she communicated with Chris McCubbins, and he is willing to continue in this position if the Board is willing to allow. The Board discussed the matter and unanimously accepted Chris McCubbins' continuation on the Board.

Ms. Sandvik confirmed that Tiffany Dyer has accepted a second term on the Board. Ms. Dyer verbally confirmed her acceptance. Kim Franchi asked attending WCHSA

clerical staff for the expiration dates of upcoming Board positions whose terms were due to expire and was advised that Alexis Erlach's second term will expire in June of 2022, Kim Franchi's second term expires in December 2022, and Kathy Sobrio's second term expires August 2023. Tiffany Dyer just accepted her second term, which will expire in 2025. Sylvia Lee advised that she is resigning her position on the Board and recommended Brett Lee, Fire Inspector with Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, to fill the vacant position. Brett Lee introduced himself and addressed the Board, advising that, in his position of Fire Inspector with Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, he has heard about, and seen some of, the Child Care Licensing challenges. Mr. Lee mentioned that the Board has not had representation from Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) in quite some time, and he felt that a joint relationship between the Board and TMFPD would be beneficial to all entities involved. Kim Franchi proposed that the Board accept Brett Lee to the position, and the Board happily welcomed Brett.

Item 4: Regulation 17.5 - Independent Contractors in Presence of Employee

This regulation states that Independent Contractors cannot be left alone with children. Currently, Washoe County Child Care Licensing is requiring that the centers provide an employee from the center to be with the contractor. This caused the center to question their licensing worker about it, thus prompting this regulation to come up as an agenda item.

WCHSA Licensing Worker, Victoria Bowers, advised that she and Licensing Worker, Katie Nichols, reached out to the State on March 9, 2021 and asked how they are enforcing this regulation. The state advised that it depended on who was paying for the independent contractor to come in and provide the service. Amy Sandvik read aloud a statement from the Outside Contractor form that the State is using. The form states two options. The first option is if the facility is paying for the independent contractor (Soccer Shots, TumbleBus, etc.), the facility would be required to have a background check completed on the independent contractor and also provide an employee to be in the presence of the independent contractor at all times. The second option is if a parent of a child is paying the independent contractor to come in and provide a service to their child, the independent contractor is not required to have a background check done. In this option, the center would sign the child out of the facility to the care and control of the independent contractor and not provide a facility employee to be in the presence of that independent contractor. The independent contractor works for the parent, not the facility, and children may be left alone with the independent contractor. The facility assumes no liability while the child is in the care of the independent contractor. The independent contractor would then sign the child back in to the facility once their service has been completed. After multiple discussions ensued between Board members and a few center directors about how to handle this, it was decided that the Agency will be researching options to reduce staffing stresses during the use of extracurricular

programs such as Soccer Shots, TumbleBus, etc., while adhering to the regulation, and follow-up at the next Board meeting in September.

Item 5: Regulation 24.4.A - Staff to Child Ratios for Family Child Care Homes

The Board approved the additional language of being more restrictive than the State to allow no more than four children under the age of two years, and no more than two children under the age of one year.

Item 6: Regulation 29.3.I - Sleeping Accommodations

Amy Sandvik presented information on “Safe Sleep” practices being more clearly defined for children under 12 months of age and submitted proposed regulation changes to Section 29.3.I before the Board. In addition, Ms. Sandvik recommended that wording be added to the proposed regulations stating that “swaddling is not permitted once child shows signs of rolling on their own”. The Board voted to approve moving forward with amending Regulation 29.3.I to adopt safe sleep practices that include prohibiting the use of all blankets or other items for infants up to 12 months of age in both homes and centers. Wearable blankets known as sleep sacks will be permitted. Licensing workers will begin enforcing safe sleep regulations moving forward.

Item 7: Department Update (Amy Sandvik)

The Agency is recruiting for the open Child Care Licensing Supervisor position and hopes to have the position filled by April.

Item 8: Next Meeting Date September 15, 2021 from 6:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.

The next Washoe County Child Care Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2021 from 6:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.

Item 9: Public Comment on Items Not on Agenda

There were no further questions or comments from either the public or the board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16a.m