

## WASHOE COUNTY CHILD CARE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: March 13, 2024

PLACE: Washoe County Commissioners' Chambers and via Zoom

### MEMBERS

PRESENT: Ryan Putzer, For Profit Child Care (Center)  
Dianna Karlicek, Environmental Health Services, Northern Nevada Public Health  
Kellisa Shirane, Northern Nevada Public Health  
Lindsey Klaes, Washoe County Human Services Agency

### MEMBERS

#### PRESENT

VIA ZOOM: Kristin Mareno, For Profit Child Care Provider (Center)  
Harmony Shreve, For Profit Child Care (Home)  
Candace Dietrich, Recipient of Child Care Services

### MEMBERS

#### NOT

PRESENT: Haley Hamel, Child Development Specialist  
Angela Nolan, Recipient of Child Care Services  
Brett Lee, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District  
Tiffany Dyer, Nevada State Division of Child and Family Services  
VACANT POSITION, Recipient of Child Care Services  
VACANT POSITION, City of Sparks

### Item 1: Roll Call

Roll call was taken. Initially only five board members were present; however, board member Harmony Shreve joined in via Zoom soon after, bringing the total to six board members present, forming a quorum.

### Item 2: Approval of Minutes from October 25, 2023 Meeting

Minutes from the October 25, 2023, approved noting that the spelling of Kellisa Shirane's name will be corrected.

### Item 3: Department Update (Lindsey Klaes)

Ms. Klaes said the major topic of discussion today is that as of July 1, 2024, the State of Nevada will be taking over all of Washoe County child care licensing functions to include licensure, complaints, enforcement of regulations, and inspections being performed by State of Nevada surveyors. A formal press release is expected to be sent out in the next few weeks. Ms. Klaes explained some of the reasoning for this major change, as well as a couple of changes that were put into effect as of February 20, 2024, regarding home providers requiring licensure to care for five or more children, rather than two or more children, and the change of the outdoor staff-to-child ratios. A transition packet will be sent out to all providers, and Ms. Klaes is hopeful to be able to schedule a Meet & Greet or a Q & A session for providers to connect with the State Child Care Licensing Division to help ease in this transition.

Due to the transition of Child Care Licensing moving to the State of Nevada, child care licensing workers, Katie Nichols and Jamie Pugh, and supervisor, Lindsey Klaes, will transition to other

roles within Washoe County Human Services Agency. They hope to still be able to continue contributing their passion and knowledge for child care within the community. Licensing worker, Heather Jessop, left the child care licensing unit back in January 2024, transitioning into a different role within Washoe County Human Services Agency.

#### Item 4: Board Positions (Lindsey Klaes)

Ms. Klaes explained that because this is the last Washoe County Child Care Advisory Board meeting, vacant board positions will not need to be filled. She thanked all the board members and presented certificates of appreciation recognizing their tenure on the board. Ms. Klaes will ensure that board members not in attendance today receive their certificates.

#### Item 5: Public Comment on Items Not on Agenda

Nikole Jacobs, owner of Mommies and Daddies Preschool, came to the podium and expressed her thoughts about Child Care Licensing being taken over by the State of Nevada and the fact that home providers can now care for four children without a license. She expressed concern that center employees may feel they could potentially earn more doing unlicensed care than they could working at a center, thus making it harder for centers to find staff and remain open. Ms. Jacobs acknowledged how licensing social workers Katie Nichols and Jamie Pugh were instrumental in helping her through the many struggles of opening her location in Lemmon Valley, and without them, she would have given up. She thanked everyone at Washoe County that she has had the pleasure of working with over the years.

Elizabeth Rayburn, owner of Creative World Children's Academy, came to the podium with a few questions relating to the transition and the dates of her current license, and asked about the State's Advisory Board. Ms. Rayburn expressed the hardship it is causing with the implementation of the State's staff-to-child ratios. Ms. Klaes encouraged providers to reach out to their legislature to express concerns, as this regulation would require a legislative change.

Bridget Bach, owner of Little Golden Goose Child Care Center, expressed her sadness about the transition and the struggles of trying to learn the State's NABS system. Ms. Bach suggested having a point of contact at the State for transition-related questions.

Rebecca Vizina, with UNR Cooperative Extension's Infant Toddler Child Development Associate Coaching Program, came to the podium to express her shock about the transition to the State. Ms. Vizina asked if Ms. Klaes knew how many surveyors at the State will be hired, to which Ms. Klaes advised it is her understanding that two surveyors and a supervisor are being hired and that more may be added in the next fiscal year. Ms. Vizina thanked everyone on the Board for their time and commitment to the field over the years, and she looks forward to hearing about the Meet & Greet, as she will definitely be there.

Jessica Marsala, with The Children's Cabinet (via Zoom), asked if providers are being notified about this change, as she and her staff didn't feel that providers should find out from the staff at The Children's Cabinet. Ms. Klaes advised that e-mails have gone out to everyone, and that licensing workers, Katie Nichols and Jamie Pugh, are also having conversations with everyone they come in contact with about this upcoming change.

No further public comment was made.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:42a.m.