

NIH Child Care Board Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2009
Rockledge II Room 3087

Members in Attendance: Valerie Durrant, Jayne Lura-Brown, Henry Primas, Heather Rogers, Sheri Schully, Lisa Strauss, Angela Magliozzi, Brian Rabin, Susan Persons, Rosalind King, Kim Plascjak, Rachel Weinstein, Joslyn Kravitz, Conrad Farina, Shanil Haugen, Mary Ellen Savarese, Tonya Lee

Members Absent: Christie Espinoza, Hillary Fitis

Guests: Emily Noll, LifeWork Strategies, Inc.

Center Liaisons Attending: POPI: Paulina Alvarado, ECDC: Anne Schmitz, Beth Levy

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Durrant welcomed Emily Noll from LifeWork Strategies. Chair Durrant stated we had a full agenda with two presentations and called the meeting to order.

II. Approval - Minutes for January

Chair Durrant called for a vote to approve the minutes from the January 2009, meeting. The minutes were approved.

III. Report from Chair

Child Care Referral Service Update

Chair Durrant updated the Board on the status of the Resource and Referral Service. Chair Durrant wrote to Dr. Raymond Kington, acting Director of NIH, on January 16, 2009 about the Board's concerns on the elimination of this service. Chair Durrant received information from Dr. Alfred Johnson on January 23, 2009 that the service was reinstated for the remainder of FY 2009. Funding beyond FY 09 will be requested. The NIH Child Care Resource and Referral Service is sponsored by the ORS Child Care Programs and Services. (See ATTACHMENT)

Letter to Dr. Kington Regarding the Northwest Child Care Center

Dr. Sheri Schully drafted a letter to Dr. Raynard Kington concerning the use of Stimulus Funds for Construction of the Northwest Child Care Center on behalf of the Board. The Board gave suggestions and comments on the letter. The issue of the "shovel ready" status of the Northwest Child Care Center was raised. Conrad Farina, ORF liaison will verify the status. Dr. Durrant will send the revised letter.

Report from Wait List Committee - Lisa Strauss

The Waitlist Committee met on March 4, 2009 to discuss: (1) data collection and its purposes, (2) semi-annual profile update, and (3) sibling priority. The Committee decided that no new data is necessary. The data that is being collected is helpful for the Committee, however distributing it to the public would create more confusion than information. The Wait List is a fluid process and at any give time, an individual's status could change.

The Committee agreed that the idea of a semi-annual profile is definitely worth pursuing. The Committee gave Emily Noll suggestions on elements of the profile. Ms. Noll will discuss the changes with Lifeworks Strategies (LWS) staff and follow up with Mary Ellen Savarese and Tonya Lee on the implementation of the profile process.

Another topic was sibling priority, an issue that comes up periodically. The Committee felt the issue needed further discussion and wanted participation from the entire Board. A meeting to discuss the Sibling Priority was planned for the week of March 24th on Executive Boulevard. All Board Members are welcome.

IV. NIH Child Care Referral and Waiting List Management – Emily Noll, LWS

Emily Noll gave the presentation on *Quality Care for the Children of NIH Parents*.

LifeWork Strategies currently provides Waitlist Management, Child Care Resource and Referral, Summer Camp Events, and Parent Educations services to the NIH population.

- **Waitlist Management** - Currently there are 1,200 children on the waitlist for NIH Centers with an average wait time of 2 years. LifeWork Strategies' goal is to provide a continuum of care to NIH families from the moment the child is registered on the waiting list to finding alternative care until an NIH space is available. About 70% of the NIH families that use the Child Care Referral service are also on the Waiting List for NIH Centers.
- **Child Care Resource and Referral** - As of February 2009, this service is now offered by the NIH Child Care Programs and Services. This service offers NIH families individualized counseling to understand their needs and to educate them on the types of care options and regulations. The Child Care Specialist interviews the parent/guardian, conducts a search of licensed providers and gives the parent three to five providers with openings. The information is either mailed or emailed to them with additional resources relevant to their needs. A follow up survey is sent to evaluate the service and experience. NIH families can use this service as many times as needed.
- **Support Services** - In addition to the previous services, LifeWork Strategies also provides Summer Camp Events, Parenting Specialist, Parenting Seminars, Nanny Services, Adoption Resources, and College Planning Resources.

V. NIH Working Group on Women in Biomedical Careers Intramural Committee, Child Care Committee--Joslyn Kravitz

The co-chairs of the NIH Working Group on Women in Biomedical Careers Intramural Committee are Dr. Raynard Kington, acting Director of NIH, and Dr. Vivian Pinn, Associate Director for Research on Woman's Health. The working group was developed to look at the barriers and challenges for Women in Biomedical Careers and gave recommendations.

Highlights of the Working Group-Intramural

- NIH-wide message from Dr. Zerhouni highlighting family-friendly initiatives which included the NIH Child Care Board
- Raised awareness about the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (VLTP)
- Extended the tenure-track clock to accommodate family leave
- FAES-Sponsored off site child care program for new tenure-track hires
- Pilot leave Bank

Child Care Subcommittee Issues/Concerns

- Continuation of Resource and Referral Service after FY 2009
- Back-Up Care
- Northwest Child Care Center
- FAES Daycare Priority Program

How can the Board best work with the Child Care Subcommittee?

- Chair Valerie Durrant attends Working Group on Women in Biomedical Careers Intramural Committee
- NIH Child Care Board Members: Valerie Durrant, Rosalind King, and Heather Rogers will attend meetings of the child care subcommittee
- NIH Child Care Board can share its years of research and efforts
- Both groups have expressed an interest in Back-Up Care-Both groups should share resources and research

VI. Parenting Festival Update - Jayne Lura-Brown

Ms. Lura-Brown thanked the Parenting Festival Committee for their hard work and efforts. The Parenting Festival Committee distributed the Lunch and Learn Seminars flyer, the Parenting Festival flyer and the Sign-Up sheet for volunteers during the Parenting Festival. Hillary Fitis has agreed to display the Parenting Festival posters at the Clinical Center again this year. The board thanked her.

VII. Announcements and Adjourn

Tonya Lee gave an update on the Summer Camp Guides. A global email went out reminding NIH Families that this resource is still available. Within four hours of the global message, 500 guides were requested and emailed.

The next meeting will be May 7, 2009 at Building 45

(ATTACHMENT)

Sent: Friday, January 16, 2009 3:42 PM
To: Kington, Raynard (NIH/OD) [E]
Cc: Johnson, Alfred (NIH/OD/ORS) [E]
Subject: NIH Work-Life Child Care Resource and Referral Service

Dear Dr. Kington:

The NIH Child Care Board received a briefing at our January meeting (1/15/2009) on the status of the NIH Work/Life Referral Services. We are very surprised and disappointed that NIH would consider the elimination of such a program at this time, with so little notice to the NIH community. But we were pleased to learn that there is some possibility that a decision by NIH Administration may permit the continuation of the Child Care Resource and Referral Service. We encourage and support efforts to reinstate and continue this critical program.

Board members are aware of many messages to the Work Life Center about the importance of the child care referral service. These messages include detailed accounts of the positive impact that the service has had on employees' ability to work productively for NIH and care for their families. More than 2,500 NIH employees have used child care referral services to assist with identifying child care options in the past five years. This service is critical in light of the continued waiting list of more than 1,200 children for the three NIH child care centers.

Please let us know if we can be of any assistance in this matter and please accept our appreciation for your interest.

Dr. Valerie Durrant, Chair
NIH Child Care Board

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From: Johnson, Alfred (NIH/OD/ORS) [E]
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2009 2:32 PM
To: Durrant, Valerie (NIH/CSR) [E]
Cc: Kington, Raynard (NIH/OD) [E]; Barros, Colleen (NIH/OD) [E]; Bartrum, John (NIH/OD) [E]; Persons, Susan (NIH/OD) [E]
Subject: RE: NIH Work-Life Child Care Resource and Referral Service

Dear Dr. Durrant:

I am pleased to inform you that the child care referral services will be continued through FY2009. We will also seek funding through the budget submission and review process to continue this activity in FY2010 and beyond. We are very cognizant of the importance of the referral service to the many NIH employees who have children on the waiting list. Please contact me if I can be of additional assistance.

Alfred C. Johnson, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Research Services