

**NIH Child Care Board Meeting Minutes**  
**December 3, 2009**  
**Rockledge II, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**Members in Attendance:** Valerie Durrant, Julie Berko, Angela Magliozzi, Brian Rabin, Rosalind King, Sheri Schully, Lisa Strauss, Hillary Fitis, Conrad Farina, Joslyn Kravitz, Adam Lee, Nicole Gormley, Mary Ellen Savarese, Bea Curl, Tonya Lee

**Conference Call:** Kelli Carrington

**Members Absent:** Jason Levine, Susan Persons, Heather Rogers

**Center Liaisons Attending:** POPI: Paulina Alvarado ECDC: Anne Schmitz, Dawn Gerhart  
ChildKind: Jaydah Wilson, Amy Cliber

**Guest:** Jody Miller, NIMH

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Valerie Durant welcomed everyone present in person and via phone. Chair Durant welcomed the new Assistant Director for Executive Child Development Center, Dawn Gerhart to the meeting.

**II. Approval - Minutes for October 2009**

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

**III. Report from Chair—Valerie Durrant**

Chair Durrant stated that the main issues to be discussed were in the Committee Recommendations and asked that we proceed with the next agenda item.

**IV. Committees Recommendations for the Annual Report**

The Subsidy Committee and the Back-up Committee both meet in November to finalize their recommendations for the Annual Report.

**Subsidy Committee-** Brian Rabin, Chair

The Subsidy Committee met on November 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss 4 items to be considered for the Annual Report to Dr. Collins:

1. To consider raising the subsidy benefit cap per year per family (currently \$5000)
2. To consider a multiple child subsidy allowance
3. To consider adjusting the percentage of eligible child care expenses paid
4. To consider increasing the total adjusted household income cap which has remained at \$60,000 for the past five years.

The Committee discussed each of the items and how each item would impact the subsidy recipients. After evaluating current data, increasing the benefit cap would have little to no impact. The multiple children suggestion was an interesting concept. The Committee decided that these two items would need to be revisited after the recommendations are implemented and more data is collected.

The committee heard information about what the other Federal agencies in the D.C. Metro area have their adjusted household cap for subsidy set on.

Prior to reviewing other agency caps, the committee discussed raising the NIH total adjusted household income level from \$60,000 to \$70,000. Based on the cap amounts of the other Federal agencies, the committee Chair proposed NIH raise the total adjusted household cap to \$75,000 to come into alignment with the other similar organizations in the D.C. metro.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Board approved the following 4 items to be included in the Annual Report:

1. Recommend the Child Care Board request in the Annual Report that NIH modify the total adjusted household cap to \$75,000.
2. Raise the percentage of eligible child care expenses paid by 10% for each category.
3. Recommend NIH maintain the annual cap amount of Subsidy paid at \$5000 per family.
4. Recommend the NIH Child Care Board request in the Annual Report the Child Care Subsidy be increased by \$240,000 to support the proposed total adjusted household cap and Subsidy increases.

**ACTION: Board approved recommendations.**

**Back-up Care Committee**-Hillary Fitis

The Back-up Care Committee met on November 18<sup>th</sup> to finalize their recommendation. The Committee agreed NIH needed true Back-up Care (*True Back-up Care is available within an hour of the request and it is reliable.*). After much discussion on which recommendation would be the most effective in providing true back-up to the NIH community, the Committee agreed on the following recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Pilot a 3-year true Back-up Care program that would include all NIH employees and trainees, estimated cost \$300,000.

**ACTION: Board approved recommendation.**

**V. Board Annual Report –Valerie Durrant and Bea Curl**

The Board approved the following 4 items to be included in the Annual Report:

1. Increase capacity of sponsored NIH child care space: continue to support the Northwest Child Care Center and additional off campus space.
2. Back-up Care/Dependant Care: 3 year pilot program.
3. Increase funding for the Subsidy program and adopt new Household cap and subsidy percent.
4. Support changes at NIH that permit flexibility and innovative work/life balance options.

The Annual Report will be written in plain language. There will be a 2 page letter highlighting the recommendations. Attached with the letter will be the Annual Report book with the information on NIH child care needs and a history of the efforts of the NIH Child Care Board.

**VI. Jody Miller, NIMH-Presentation Community Outreach Initiative**

Tonya Lee introduced Ms. Jody Miller. Ms. Lee spoke about the success the Parenting Festival has in educating the NIH Community on the many resources and research opportunities the NIH offers. Ms. Lee explained that the National Institute for Mental Health has always been a strong supporter of the Parenting Festival and that Ms. Miller was here to present a similar idea to the Board. The Board was not being asked to participate in the Community Outreach but to offer suggestions and ideas to Ms. Miller. Ms. Miller is hoping to create a parent resource event in collaboration with interested NIH ICs that can take the vast resources of NIH beyond the campus boundaries into the surrounding community. The Board gave Ms. Miller several ideas and several members offered to assist Ms. Miller in her efforts.

**VII. Parenting Festival 2010**

Ms. Miller's presentation prompted a discussion on the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Parenting Festival. Chair Durrant stated that this year was the Board's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and that the Parenting Festival could include a celebration marking this occasion. It was mentioned that the Parenting Festival should be showcasing topics rather than specific Institutes. This would allow the participants to go to the tables that would interest them. Ms. Savarese stated that this was the original goal of the Parenting Festival and perhaps the theme of the Parenting Festival should be "Going back to our roots". There was discussion on inviting past Board members and having Dr. Collins personally invite/greet the participants. Mr. Rabin, the chair for this year's Parenting Festival Committee, acknowledged the discussion and commented he would continue this discussion with the Parenting Festival Committee in January.

**VIII. Announcements and Adjourn**

Tonya Lee reminded the Board members of the December 8<sup>th</sup>, Lunch and Learn Parenting Seminar: "Presence for the Holidays". Ms. Lee also commented that the Summer Camp Guides will be distributed again this year in January.

**The next meeting will be January 21, 2010  
Building 1, Wilson Hall**