

PLUMAS COUNTY CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT PLANNING COUNCIL

Minutes of the Regular Meeting on August 24, 2009

Members present: Shelley Morrison, FRC Childhood Development Center
Aimee Heaney, Consumer
Janine, Plumas Children's Council
Lucie Kreth, Portola Kids, Inc.
Anne Nielson, PRS-Child Care Resource & Referral
Sue Swicegood
Ellen Vieira, First 5 Plumas
Dennis Thibeault, PCIRC

Members absent: Shelley Miller, Susie Wilson, Pam Becwar, Merle Rusky, Jerri Adams, Wendy Hood, Rattana Ros

Public present: Jeanne Brovelli

Staff present: Joyce Scroggs, Coordinator

Chair Sue Swicegood called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm.

Additions to the agenda were placed by Dennis Thibeault (abstinence curriculum) and Shelley Morrison (toddler care).

Dennis moved and Aimee seconded to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2009 meeting as submitted.

Approved

The Council reviewed the financial report for July 1, 2009 to August 24, 2009. There were no unusual expenditures.

Change Member Category for Sue Swicegood

Sue is now the director of the Graeagle Preschool. Dennis moved and Shelley seconded to change Sue Swicegood's member category to child care provider. Approved.

Election of Officer for 2009-2011

Dennis moved and Ellen seconded to elect Sue Swicegood as Council Chairperson and Aimee as Council Vice-Chairperson for fiscal years 2009-10 and 2010-11. Approved.

Joyce requested that the Council appoint a member to the Executive Committee as allowed in the bylaws.

Dennis moved and Aimee seconded to appoint Ellen Vieira as the core member of the Council to the Executive Committee. Approved.

The Council agreed to meet every other month. Meetings will be held in even months. However, the December meeting will be held on the first Monday (Dec 7).

Discussion on the CDE-CDD Process for Voluntary, Temporary Transfer of Fund by Contractors in Plumas County

Joyce reported on the guidelines that have been developed by CDD so far. She gave the members a copy of Management Bulletin 09-07 and the PowerPoint presentation from the August 11 CDD meeting. She explained that the Council will want to review the bylaws for "conflict of interest" policies. She suggested that the bylaws be reviewed by the Executive Committee in September with the proposed amendments to be approved at the October 26 meeting.

Ellen said that the First 5 Plumas Commission has used a Conflict of Interest Policy that has already been approved by County Counsel. She reminded the Council that they will need to complete Form 700 (disclosure). The Council agreed that the Executive Committee should review the bylaws.

2009 Kindergarten Round Up Update

Jeanne Brovelli reported that this year's KRUP had some real successes, especially the banner which was hung at each school for the week before the Round Up. Overall, everything went smoothly. The number of participating children was down at each school. She took more readiness materials to the schools this year, but the "transition table" was not used as much by parents. Based on parent surveys, Jeanne recommends that there be an evening at the school for questions and answers about kindergarten before school starts. It could be announced in the registration packet. Ellen suggested that the ECE Transition Committee be reactivated.

Shelley suggested that parents and children be prepared for the KRUP procedures. A discussion followed on the possibility of having a health screening and registration day with a separate meeting for parents about kindergarten readiness. Ellen said that the parent survey at KRUP could be revised and approved by the school board. The Council thanked Jeanne for the update and information about this year's Round Up.

2009-10 New Plumas Cares Program Update

Ellen reported that the Advisory Committee met on Sept 4. First 5 Plumas has contributed \$47,000 to the local Cares Program. There will be more flexibility in the program for participants in developing an area of quality improvement.

Ellen added an update on the First 5 California Legacy Project. \$5.7 million has been sent to Healthy Families to ensure that children do not lose health care benefits, but that has meant an erosion of the reserves. The Legacy Projects are likely to be in the areas of child health (home visiting), literacy. All will use research based models. There will be no CARES program at the state level. Ellen encouraged Council members to email the First 5 Commission and urge them to develop programs that will benefit small, rural counties.

Committee Reports

Training-Anne reported that 19 folks have registered for The Outdoor Classroom workshop on Sept. 12. Current committee members are: Literacy Training (Shelley Miller, Merle, Lucie, Aimee); Needs Assessment (Ellen, Lucie, Sue, Anne, Janine); Inclusion (Vikki Tuck)

Toddler Care

Shelley reported that the FRC Child Development Center turned away 19 families who were seeking care for two year olds. She said that the state has been cutting infant/toddler care. Dennis reported that PCIRC has resubmitted their application for block grant funds which would include a child care center. There is no indication on when the decision will be made. Teeter Totters (Central Plumas Recreation District) is struggling and may close in December. Lucie said that Portola Kids, Inc. has closed their toddler center because all the 2 year olds turned 3 and she hasn't had any requests for 2 year old care.

PUSD Curriculum

Dennis handed out the newspaper article on the school board's discussion on the sex education curriculum. The Council was concerned about the decision to revisit the curriculum based on parent objections to the "Making a Difference" curriculum.

Member Updates

Dennis reported that PCIRC has applied for stimulus funds for programs to address homeless prevention and rapid re-housing. The proposal would serve a three county area. PCIRC is also seeking FEMA shelter funds. The infant/toddler center and homeless day center is "shovel ready." Other PCIRC programs continue to work with emancipated foster youth. Plans for the 21 unit transitional housing have been completed.

Anne said that there are many child care openings now with parents staying home with their children. However, there are only four family child care providers in Portola. PRS has closed the domestic violence shelter. NACRA has recommended that exempt providers receive 40 hours of training before they would be paid by Child Care Resource & Referral. Subsidized child care will continue to receive cutbacks.

Janine reported that the Plumas Children's Council has selected Healthy Touch, Women's Mountain Passages, Birth Partners, Community Connections and the 4-H Camp to receive CAPIT funding for the next two years. Mini-grant applications will be going out soon. The Farmers Market went very well. Probation will be joining the Council.

Sue is now the director of the Graeagle Preschool. She will continue as a breastfeeding counselor with WIC and Birth Partners.

Aimee reported that there has been some rescheduling of kindergarten and Reading Recovery teachers.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.