

Minutes of the Acadia Road Combined Daycare Communicare Society

January 12, 2010 in the Administration Building

In Attendance (in bold; absent members are not in bold)

Infant Centres:			
Little Goslings		Coho	
Toddler Centres:		3-5 Centres:	
Sitka	Christina Hendricks (VP Advocacy, Faculty)	Acadia	Allen Lehman
Huckleberry	Denise Pritchard	Little Raven	Victoria Yang Shelly Gershuni Csilla Tamás
Canada Goose		Pacific Spirit	Jim Johnson (Web Master) Elpi Schober
Discovery	Marcus Hallensleben Anna Cohen	Tillicum	
Lilliput	Julie Stitt Karen Bakker	Lluvia	
Chuva	Jessica Irwin Maged Senbel	Barish	Sabrina Chen-See (Fundraising Chair) Doug Carlow
		Summer of '73	Lisa Sundstrom (President) Todd Handy (Treasurer)
18 months – 5 years Centres:			
Salal	Eileen Hallam (secretary)	Kittiwake	Musarrat Nahid
Auklet			
Out-of-School Care (ages 5-12):			
Kids Club	Kristin Loheyde (VP Advocacy, Staff)		
Staff:	Etovre Vese (Tillicum) Susan Jones (Sandpiper)	Others:	Tim Chu (VP external, AMS) Brad Morrison , Childcare Commissioner, AMS External Office
Directors:	Darcelle Cottons Bev Christian		

Please ask your council rep or senior staff members for contact information if you have any questions.

Contents:

1. **Introductions**
2. **Review of the Minutes**
3. **Administrators' Report (Darcelle)**
4. **Request for council to sponsor staff grant proposal (Lisa, Etovre)**
5. **Fundraising Update (Kristin/Sabrina)**
6. **Informing families about Olympics period logistics (Kristin)**
7. **Revisiting centres' communication systems (Lisa)**
8. **Interpretive park project—getting started (Lisa)**
9. **Advocacy update (Christina/Brad)**
10. **Misc.**
11. **Confirm next meeting**

1. Introductions

See attendance of council members in bold on first page.

2. Minutes

Christina moved, Kristin seconded accepting the minutes from our last meeting with no corrections. The minutes from the **November 2009** meeting have been approved.

3. Administrators' Report (Darcelle)

Darcelle – The board of governors has approved hiring the architect to determine the cost feasibility of renovating various other buildings on campus. Tomorrow we will take the administration building and old barn plans to the campus development permit board. Koerners lounge is pulled off the table now because the GSS has not yet approved, and the Bastion display suite is rotten and unsuitable. Koerners, if approved by GSS in February, could be ready in September 2010, as that would be the drop-in center and it requires little renovation.

There will be a public open house meeting at the Barn Coffee Shop (the green restaurant, not the community centre) at 2323 Main Mall on Wednesday, Jan 27 from 4:00 to 7:00pm, regarding the proposal for 24 short-term child care spaces at the Barn Coffee Shop and 80 child care spaces in the admin building on Acadia Road. Staff from Child Care Services and Campus and Community Planning will be available to provide information and respond to inquires.

We received a letter from the ministry that we have been approved to go to a full-day kindergarten. The kindergarten will be moved into the Kids Club building, and there will be a seamless day for the children. There will no longer be a half-day k option. By 2011 all children are supposed to have access to all day K

in all public schools. The VSB has a list of the schools initiating all-day K beginning in fall 2010 and fall 2011 at <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/district-news/full-day-kindergarten-sites-announced>. Some schools at capacity will not be able to handle the same number of kindergarten children they currently have, so it is unclear how this will play out.

The childcare staff's collective agreement expires at the end of April, so we will be back at the bargaining table. Part of the process for the expansion plan is to hire more staff in the office and staff to do program evaluation. Jim—Do groups work without an agreement? Darcelle--The existing agreement stands until a new agreement is reached and a new contract is signed.

Need to do a survey to see which children will be here for the Olympics. Staff will be sending out queries in a few weeks to appropriately staff the centres.

Three people have inquired in the last month about whether or not we have a Strong Start program here at our facilities. Strong Start is a government funded program in which an Early Childhood Educator models scenarios for stay at home parents, it allows their kids to interact with other children, and provides them with an opportunity to meet other members of the community. These programs do exist in other parts of the city, but not near UBC.

Jessica and Maged—the parents from Chuva voiced their dismay that the half-day programs are ending. They argue that the half-day schedule is perfect for their children and if UBC wants to support families, they should include a half-day option for students and employees that are choosing to arrange their schedules to both work and be with their children as much as possible. For many students with multiple children, the half-day program is the only one they can afford to have childcare every day. The price will double for them. Many families have chosen the half-day program because they don't have to pay for care they don't need in the summer, and they cannot afford to pay for a spot they aren't using in months that they are away. They advocate that the half-day option be considered again in the future.

Darcelle--All of our toddler centers lose money. The issue isn't money, it is what do the majority of university families on the waitlist need? The decision has been made to support full-time employees who need full-time care, who are the majority of waitlisted families. Chuva and Barish families will be treated as internal transfers and will be offered new contracts at existing full-time centres for 3, 4 or 5 days per week.

Discussion about the history of the admin building and the domino effect as children age through the programs, as well as how an initial logic for the half-day programs was that closing for months in summer worked to keep some programs full (rather than needing to lay off staff while enrollment was low).. Some council members suggested that perhaps we could offer two half-day spots per day (morning and afternoon), so that families could still have a half-day and the centre could still run full time. This has been tried in the past and found not to work, because many toddlers nap in the afternoon and few parents want the afternoon half-day spots.

Brad—the drop-in centre in the Sub would take over from GSS, and would accommodate toddlers as it would be designed for that age group, but it will only be useful for emergency care.

4. Request for council to sponsor staff grant proposal (Lisa, Etovre)

Lisa – Some of the staff are submitting a grant proposal that requires a nonprofit to manage the grant funds. Etovre Vese is the head project coordinator, and Susan Jones from Sandpiper will also be involved. Etovre--ECEBC have government funding to bolster leadership potential in communities. Seeking Communities of Innovation: writing a proposal has to do with engaging the university community with UBC Childcare—they don't have specific ideas of what that relationship would be but want to co-create this. Med students currently do observations and rotate through the centers and do observations (this is part of their training so they can see all of the developmental stages of young children). They

want it to be mutually beneficial, either in formal or informal ways. Try to build community in novel ways between UBC and childcare. Want to explore the possibilities. The role of council would be to manage the funds. There are two reporting periods and it is quite simple—the project lasts a year, and reports need to be submitted twice (mid and end). They would do a majority of the report and accounting—council would verify the accounting. The ECE staff that participates would attend seminars at various institutes, and the majority of the funding will go to pay for subs when the staff is off the floor. Todd motioned to have council accept the responsibility to manage to funds for this grant. Kristin seconded. Approved unanimously. Jim—The council should be updated periodically.

Action item: Etovre will provide updates to council periodically.

5. Fundraising Update (Kristin/Sabrina)

Sabrina—This year there were 74 orders for the Gift Card Fundraiser, with \$29,760 collected, and we had just under \$1500 in profit. 17 centres participated. In comparison with last year, there was more money and orders collected but less money profit for council since some of the retailers included in the order form offer lower percentages of profit. Many people liked it—the best selling card in dollar amount was T&T Supermarket, and Starbucks was the best seller by number of cards. Chapters, IGA, the Gap, and White Spot were the other top sellers. Many have requested that it be done on a more regular basis. Others say the timing was wrong as the local schools did the exact same fundraiser just before our order forms went out. In order to do it more frequently, we should have a designated person (ie. council rep) at each centre be responsible for distributing their orders. This would solve the hassle of individual parents picking up their orders at the main office, and the need for volunteers to sit at the pick-up table. Kristin—Compared to last year's "Grocery Gift Card" program, the amount of choices for parents may not justify the extra work, and less overall rate of profit. Jim—perhaps if the timing of the counting and sorting coincide with a council meeting, it would be less work. Sabrina—we now know to submit 17 separate order forms (one per centre) rather than one, and that would reduce the risk of counting errors, and the time necessary to organize the orders for distribution; next time we would make the company do the work. Kristin—What are we going to spend the money on? Do we need to do another giftcard fundraiser this spring? Lisa—if we are going to do an interpretive garden, we should get organized and perhaps devote raised money to it. Another possibility is coming up with a better solution for communication with centres-- is there a way to get the staff to have internet connection in each centre or computers in a location other than the kitchen in the admin building? Kristin—put on the agenda for next meeting.

6. Informing families about Olympics period logistics (Kristin)

Kristin – There will be updated information about the road closures for the Olympics on the UBC website.

<http://www.webcommunications.ubc.ca/ubc2010/>

<http://www.webcommunications.ubc.ca/ubc2010/commuting/road-closures/>

For city road restrictions, you may want to refer to this map:

http://www.ctvbc.ctv.ca/pdfs/ctvbc_olympic_roadnetwork_2010.pdf

It is recommended that since all buses and cars will be rerouted during the event, that you check these sites and plan ahead. The daycares will be open. The only parking lot that will be closed is Thunderbird.

The first of the road closures begins on Jan 25: Thunderbird Blvd from Wesbrook Mall to the parkade entrance will be closed until March 22. Wesbrook Mall road closures will take place from Feb 4 to March 20. This closure has the most impact on bus routes and getting to the daycare centres. She suggests

that since University Blvd will be the route for all of the routes, spectators, and officials, if families have an option try to avoid it. There will be four games a day on campus during the Paralympics, and the students will be in session. Those are the weeks that will be the most challenging. Cambie Street Bridge is to be closed to cars noon to midnight on 4 days: Feb 10,12 & 28 and March 12.

There will be a winter carnival at the old bus loop by the SUB for the torch relay on campus on Thursday February 11, from 4-8 pm, and the torch will arrive between 6 and 7 pm., There will be an info center and a night market there, various booths, and music and beer garden. A family celebration site will be at Old Barn Community Centre, 3:30-6:30 pm. On March 11 the old bus loop site will be a celebration site for the Paralympic torch relay.

It would be a good idea to check with the Translink bus schedule at www.translink.ca for the bus you normally take or will have to take for the days you need it.

The game schedule for UBC Arena is published here: <http://www.webcommunications.ubc.ca/ubc2010/2009/12/03/what-is-the-competition-schedule-at-ubc-thunderbird-arena>. However, this schedule does not include practices that may be held at UBC.

There will be lots of inconveniences during these events, so plan ahead to ensure you get to the daycares on time.

7. Revisiting centres' communication systems (Lisa)

Lisa – Bev says to reps if your centres are not able to distribute minutes electronically, then post hard copies at your centre, or alternatively the parent rep can gather email addresses and maintain an email list. Discuss ideas about this in the next meeting.

8. Interpretive park project—getting started (Lisa)

Lisa--Table until next meeting.

9. Advocacy Update (Christina/Shelly/Kristin)

Brad--Two things. There are now changing tables in the student union building in the washrooms on both floors. And AMS is arranging a childcare conference on May 21-22, 2010. More info forthcoming on details.

10. Misc.

Issues to be put in next month's agenda: communication systems for centres, the interpretive park, discussion as to whether to do another gift card fundraiser this spring.

11. Confirm Next Meeting

Next meeting: **February 9, 2009 at 7:00pm**. Todd motioned, Shelly seconded. Meetings will continue to be on the third Tuesday of each month on a regular basis after the Olympics.