

Minutes of the Acadia Road Combined Daycare Communicare Society

April 20, 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 Kelli Kadokawa	Little Raven	Victoria Yang Shelly Gershuni Csilla Tamás
Canada Goose		Pacific Spirit	Jim Johnson (Web Master) Elpi Schober
Discovery	Marcus Hallensleben Anna Cohen	Tillicum	Elinor Delgatty
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 Jamie Paris (AMS/GSS)
Directors:	Darcelle Cottons Bev Christian		

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

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1. Introductions

See attendance of council members in bold on first page.

2. Minutes

Denise moved, Elinor seconded accepting the minutes from our last meeting with several corrections. The minutes from the **March 2010** meeting have been approved.

3. Administrators' Report (Darcelle)

Darcelle- The UBC Board of Governors has approved Board 3 of the Child Care Expansion project with conditions. Money is approved and spendable coming at or below projected estimates. Estimates for quotes are due next week on renovations for the Barn Coffee Shop which are projected to begin on May 3. The Barn will house a group of 8 toddlers and a group of 16 3-5 year olds. Renovations to the Child Care Services Admin building will be initiated after the long weekend in July. The Admin building kindergarten room will house a group of 8 spaces for children under 3 and 16 spaces for the 3-5 year old age group as well as expansions for Barish (to 25 FTE) and Chuva (to 12 FTE). Staff will have to separate the two groups during the middle of the day and the renovations will include putting in partition walls to create separate rooms. Renovations performed in the Admin building should not interfere with other daycare centres or cause major road closures. The Koerner Lounge drop-in daycare will take place in the Graduate Student Centre building but the decision is still pending subject to approval by the Graduate Student Society board. As a drop-in daycare Koerner would house a maximum of 16 spaces for the 3-5 year old age group.

May is provincial childcare month so there will be a special staff breakfast. The staff will be participating in a communication and conflict resolution training course, which is a 4 night training class. Many of the staff have signed up. Out of 100 FTE (not including part time staff) around 70 staff have signed up for these classes. This type of course helps build stronger organizations and more rewarding relationships with others,

Bev- they are just getting back to the wait list now since they have not made any calls to offer spots since October. The majority of spaces have gone to siblings and children ready to move onto the next age group. The wait list will probably change in June to a wait of 2 years for the age 18 months spaces. They probably won't be able to offer spaces for children ages 3-5 year old until after July. They anticipate that the wait time will go down to a 1 year wait for 3-5 and under 2 years for toddlers in September due to the opening of new programs and the yearly turnover.

The issue of sibling priority and policy was discussed. Currently the second child will get priority if they are on the wait list for 1 year. At what point do we not allow sibling status if the older child is on their way out of the system? How much time is an acceptable overlap? It has been the rule of thumb to require a minimum 6-month overlap. There was discussion on how the council feels about this issue since this has been an ongoing ethical dilemma. Overall it was decided by the council that 6 months is reasonable. On deciding when to allow sibling status it was discussed that one should consider what the impact would be to the other people on the wait list and what circumstances surround the family that is being considered.

On the topic of kindergarten, currently the enrollment for kindergarten is full with all spaces going to internal families and fees for kindergarten will be going down slightly due to the provincial funding the program will receive for all-day kindergarten provision.

4. Review of application received for council grant (Denise)

Denise – reviewed the application proposal sent in from Huckleberry for the renovation of the gazebo structure in the corner of Huckleberry play yard. Huckleberry parents have volunteered to participate in a work party to repair the structure, as UBC is not able to repair it at this time. They would like to put up tiles with the kids handprints to decorate the gazebo area. They will look into finding tiles that are unbreakable and sustainable. The proposal and idea was brought together with the help of other Huckleberry parents at a parent meeting. Council members had questions about the extent to which this project would take over tasks typically expected to be paid for by UBC, as well as any potential liability related to work completed by parent volunteers. Darcelle clarified that since UBC gardeners do not maintain childcare play yards, parent volunteers are welcome to work on the yards and there should be no liability issues. The proposal will be approved by UBC licensing and all parent volunteer work will be insured by UBC. Jim moves to approve the proposal and all council members are in favor.

5. Guest speaker event (Julie)

Julie- the guest speaker event will now have 3 components. The first component consists of a lunchtime seminar, which will be open to the public on the topic of picky eaters. The second and third components consist of two evening workshops. The first workshop on picky eating will be focused on toddlers and the second will be focused on the 3-5 year old group. There will be 15 spaces open per workshop. Kristin Yarger-Edgar will be speaking at the seminar and running both the workshops. She is able to schedule the workshop for the 8th-9th of June and the 1st of June for the lunchtime seminar. How can we allocate the spaces for the workshop? It will be a on a first come, first serve basis. In order for all parents to have open access to sign up at the same time, there will be a system wide email distributed with a link to the UBC daycare website and sign up system. Julie will work on identifying the best way to organize the sign up process. If there proves to be huge parent interest in the topic and a wait-list of parents, the council can consider hosting additional sessions in the future.

4. Advocacy (Christina, Kristin, Shelly, Lisa) – Composition of childcare conference panel

Lisa – currently there are 4 people that have volunteered to speak on the parent panel at the AMS childcare conference. 1. Denise has volunteered to speak on her experience with childcare from a student perspective. 2. Naomi who is a student (medical resident) has volunteered to speak. 3. Vivienne who is a faculty member has volunteered. 4. Kristin who is both a single parent and staff member has volunteered. We could look for other volunteers by contacting people on the wait list or asking around each other's departments. Lisa offered to inquire among graduate student parents in her department for potential panelists. Denise – what should be the take home message that we should focus on for the seminar? Darcelle- focus on sharing individual experiences. This will be the most powerful to connect with the audience.

Lisa- submitted a question to the April 7 webcast that was hosted by the Council on Early Child Development. The topic was on the benefits of investing in children and families. Presenters Paul Kershaw and Lynell Anderson discussed why early child development is important and the long-term economic costs of not investing in it. Lisa's question was about how as parents we can best advocate for early childhood investments by government, and Kershaw responded by emphasizing the importance of trying to break down barriers and traditional conflicts between working and stay-at-home parents and working together to advocate, since there are insufficient resources provided for both types of families. The webcast supported the Human Early Learning Partnership initiative called 15 by 15, which outlines a policy that supports an argument for reducing the percentage of developmentally vulnerable children in B.C. to 15 by 2015. People can find their report at <http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/>

7. Fundraising – Spring grocery fundraiser (Kristin)

Kristin – Should we go ahead with the spring gift card fundraiser? Julie - Do we really need the money? The distribution of gift cards will be significantly less work for the fundraisers the next time. The gift card company can distribute the cards to the 22 centres, which will cut down on the time it takes to organize the cards. Shelly- could the fundraising goal be to provide Internet access to all the centres? Julie- we should approach UBC IT to provide us with more information on why the daycare area has been blocked from accessing the wireless network. The council decided not to hold the spring gift card fundraiser, as there are still sufficient funds in our budget. The timing of the fall gift card fundraiser will be revisited at the September council meeting.

8. Preparations for Annual General Meeting

Lisa- The AGM is usually held in June but it recently it has been held in May after the regular council meeting. It was proposed that the AGM be held in May and at that point the council would decide if there should be a regular meeting in June (tentatively June 15). Jim moved to have refreshments offered for those attending the AGM, and all approved. Lisa will send out an email to parents two weeks before the AGM to notify them of the upcoming meeting in May.

9. Misc.

Lisa- any new items? Response: None.

10. Confirm Next Meeting

Next meeting will be the AGM: **May 18, 2010 at 7-9 pm.**