

CHILDCARE COMMISSION MINUTES
January 22, 2024
City of Coeur d'Alene - Conference Room 6
6:30 pm

Commissioners Present

Iris Siegler, Chair
Kim Torgerson
Susie Freligh
Beth Ann Fuller
Stephanie Goss
Royale Lockhart

Staff Present

Kelley Setters Deputy City Clerk

Commissioner Absent

Jolie Wenglikowski

Call to Order - Chairman Siegler called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call – Jolie Wenglikowski absent.

Approval of the Minutes from the November 27, 2023 meeting (Action item)

Motion Freligh **to approve** the **November 27, 2023** meeting minutes **second** by Fuller; **Motion carried.**

Commission Comments – Iris Siegler Commission Chair shared that Emmy Hazard (Student Rep.) has resigned from the Commission.

Public Comments – None.

Discussion with Shelby Walsh from the United Way on ways to collaborate to aid in local childcare. Commission Chair Iris Siegler inquired about ways the childcare commission could assist United Way in providing recommendations for childcare providers to secure a building or explore available resources for potential rentals. Shelby stated they have been working with some local businesses to keep the conversation going for business-supported childcare. At this time nothing has moved forward in creating partnerships with business and childcare facilities. Shelby noted that the North Idaho Early Learning Collaborative Committee is restructuring the meetings and creating five committees that support the current work and strategic plan and invited the commission to join. The five committees will include Scholarships, Stipends & Grants, Education & Outreach, Childcare Workforce Development, Business Supported Childcare, and Advocacy. These committees will meet monthly and convene as a whole group quarterly to review and update the strategic plan which will take place in April, July, and October.

Discussion for changes to the childcare volunteer license. The Commission discussed changing the volunteer license to not require a background check or tuberculosis test for any person who visits the facility less than 12 hours a month which is what the state requires currently. The Commission requested at the February childcare meeting to review the city childcare code versus the state childcare code to compare the differences.

Representative Reports

IDAHOSTARS – Commissioner Royale Lockhart announced an available position for a Childcare Health Consultant at Idahostars. The University of Idaho Early Learning Conference, focusing on science, technology, robotics, engineering, art, and mathematics, is scheduled for May 18, 2024 in Coeur d'Alene. The specific location and time are yet to be determined.

NAFCC – None.

CENTER – Commissioner Beth Ann Fuller announced the opening of a new NIC Head Start site in Fernwood, Idaho, on April 1st. Erin from Idahostars played a significant role in investigating the medical underservice status of surrounding cities and the availability of childcare programs. The findings revealed that there are no childcare programs in the area.

STUDENT – None.

PANHANDLE HEALTH – Stephanie Goss shared that Marylin Peoples and Aubre Hunt from the Department of Health and Welfare would be willing to sit in on a childcare commission meeting if needed.

Next Meeting February 26, 2024.

Adjournment

Motion by Torgerson to adjourn, seconded by Freligh **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.