

Child Care Center in Norwich
March 5, 2018
5:30-7:00 pm at the Center

Present: Jane LeMasurier, Marisa Donovan, Allison Colburn, Julia Rabig, Hannah Caldwell

Absent: Lily Trajman

Tuck Interns: Mark Emmanuel and Cassandra Farnow

Minutes: Hannah motions; Jane seconds; Feb minutes approved.

Director's Report: Update on professional development. Sunny is new curriculum coordinator for state of VT and advisor of professional development for Upper Valley. She came to explain to multiple providers in the area what CCB will be offering through state grant.

Hannah impression that offerings are narrower than Childcare Project, but that it's close and well-structured model.

Allison notes that provisions now align with new licensing requirements and are consistent across the state. But trainings are not as "meaty" as before. Scott Noyes and Jeanne Fitzgerald have done this and are incredibly popular trainers offering in-depth program. CCB hopes that other groups will step up to do these within community. Allison and others are working with Couch Foundation to expand—may still happen.

NH did something similar a few years ago and put training through Childcare Aware, which is national. Both states have done different models and don't talk to each other, so training close by in NH won't be credited in VT.

Marisa points out that it could be great for CCCN to host one of these trainings, given great need and interest. Allison is continuing to work on this.

Staff: Ongoing hiring, staff out sick.

Worker's Comp Board Vote: We must vote on standard exclusion of board members from claiming workers' comp. The state is requiring more notarized material now.

Jane makes motion; Julia seconds; all approve.

Tuck Intern Update: Provide handout of research into fee scales—few are sliding scale, although it is difficult to collect info. Bottom line is that all of these are much simpler than CCCN. Child Care Center of Upper Valley has an online system to calculate that's fairly transparent.

Centers that qualify for Act 166 are transparent about this.

Interns also met with Lily. She shared documents on scale she's devised. Interns said new scale seemed less complicated than the current one, yet still more than the others. Interns are still confused about how to deal with Act 166 in a clear, transparent, and fair way.

Allison wants to know if there is any other in the state of VT that has the same mix of funding as CCCN (including Act 166).

Marisa suggests we contact someone at state level who deals with Act 166. Allison will get list of the schools that qualify for Act 166, which would help narrow down possibilities.

Allison points out that Act 166 is in flux (described by some as “building the plane while we fly it”) and in the future some public school programs will be under Dept of Education and others under Health and Human Services.

Other complication is that CCCN currently partners with towns that all have different forms and requirements.

Mark asks if we’re primarily looking to change the structure of fee itself OR to make it more transparent on website?

Allison says we must simplify to make less prone to errors, right now every change needs to be manually entered by her. We’d like a fee scale that could use a childcare billing software.

Mark suggest that the goal may be to get it as simple as possible, but acknowledge complexity of Act 166, which would be handled separately. Doubts that standard billing software could handle the variations in funding streams.

Other goal is to be fair and equitable by having objective and transparent criteria for fees.

After speaking with Lily, interns didn’t think they could find any other ways to organize and maintain revenue, but they’ll spend more time looking over her spreadsheets.

Board also needs to decide how to implement and whether to grandfather in new scale.

Follow-up: Interns will review new scale more closely, consult Act 166 list and try to find another center, and also meet with Lily.

Retreat: Lizann Peyton would be willing to do a half-day (or more) retreat to think through fundraising, which wasn’t included in the last strategic planning section. Jane will send out some options for April or May.

Survey Monkey Results: 14 respondents; Childcare as a factor in joining is a concern for 50%; everyone responded that they were too busy; they did feel they had adequate information; As for mtg times, response across the board, so change of mtg time may not matter. Bottom line: we must keep recruitment ongoing.

Fun Run Committee Updates:

Publicity/marketing: Paula offered to redo posters, Marisa will print and see about banner.

Getting on listserves: Jane will do Google Doc for us to sign up and we’ll start posting, with increasing frequency. Hannah will do FB group.

Volunteers: Every board member will bring 1-2. Interns will look to Tuck. Hannah will try Hypertherm.

King Arthur: Marisa will check.

(We have decided against high school volunteers b/c we can't put them on the road.)