

The Child Care Advisory Committee held their monthly meeting on January 6, 2016. Committee members present included Lucinda Burns, Mike Connelly, Greta Shackelford, and Elisabeth Lawrence. Jennifer McAtamney was absent. Mike Barney, Jenise Jensen, and Emily Oberheide attended. Mark Wimberly attended as an interested candidate for BCAC. The following agenda items were covered:

Child Care Advisory Committee Interviews

BCAC Interviews scheduled for Tuesday, January 12th about 4:00 at the Town Council work session. There are 8 interested candidates. Although just two members' terms expired, Council could appoint up to 5 new members to a total of 10 if they choose to do that. BCAC members' opinions on how many members would be ideal included: focus on gaining new skill sets, more people is not always better if it's repeated skills and views, but also not wanting to turn away strong candidates interested in child care issues.

Once new members have been appointed, we will provide them with a packet of information including such information as the history of the BCAC, the PowerPoint created to explain the crisis that began the program, the changes to the program in the past year, the funding source of the program, the scope of the committee, our attendance policy, what we advise on, and who we advise. Emily will pull together that packet of information. Jen offered (via phone call before meeting) to meet new members with Emily for coffee to have a chance to welcome them. Greta offered to meet if we need someone else.

BCAC will look at writing goals for 2016 once the new members are appointed.

Child Care Needs Assessment

Town has hired BBC Research to conduct an update to the original Childcare Needs Assessment done in the spring of 2007. BBC Research met with Emily, Mike, and Laurie mid-December as well as all four centers to begin their work.

BBC Research also did the Economic Impact Study and Lucinda mentioned they want to get an updated Impact Study as well.

Emily will follow up with BBC Research to share the following ideas/questions that committee members had: look at how housing and childcare work together, make sure they are aware of the employee housing projects in progress, how do they survey families that are not enrolled at centers that may be needing childcare in the near future, how to survey families about their needs for night/weekend/drop-in child care, possibly ask big employers to help get the survey out, and to possibly ask the HOA of big neighborhoods like Wellington to send out surveys.

Program Updates

Mike and Jenise gave the staffing update about how there will be a posting for one, full-time Town employee whose work will encompass what both Sole and Emily have been doing in the past 9 months. When the job is posted, we will inform BCAC so they can help get the word out.

Emily asked if the committee believes the cap of 150% AMI is when a family enters into the program or each year when they re-apply. Since this is a needs-based program, the group felt that each year the family must meet the 150% AMI requirement to continue to receive tuition assistance. Lucinda brought up the point to consider whether we will continue to do yearly applications or is there a better time frame, potentially birth through 3 years.

Elisabeth asked where things stand with offering online applications. Jenise said there is no way to do it through the current software system without taking in revenue. Fillable PDFs are another option, but they have found that people don't always have the software to do that. We offered families to email applications this year and because there are so many supporting documents to upload, most families still dropped off paper copies at the lockbox at the Rec Center.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 3rd at 3:00