

The Child Care Advisory Committee held their monthly meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Committee members present included Mike Connelly, Anne Marie Chapin, Johanna Gibbs, Erin Gigliello, Greta Shackelford, Mark Wimberly, Lucinda Burns and Shelly Aleshire. Town staff/representatives present were Peter Grosshuesch, Laurie Best and Jennifer McAtamney. Karla Randle Schapansky from St John's Episcopal Church's Outreach Committee was also in attendance.

August Minutes were approved and signed by Greta Shackelford.

The following agenda items were covered:

- **Update on Tuition Assistance**

We completed processing the final applications from the initial round on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Since that time we have had one to two families a week contact us regarding tuition assistance. Based on life changes like new babies, moving to the community and employment changes these families have all been eligible to apply and we have set them up with a new application and processed the applications as they are completed.

We queried the committee to see if they are hearing anything in the community regarding the Tuition Assistance process since the annual round has closed. Committee members have heard some concern regarding the AMI targets of the program. It arises out of the fact that the AMI has dropped for two consecutive years and families are concerned that a pay raise or further drop in the AMI will make them ineligible for Tuition Assistance. These comments led to a larger conversation with the committee about the 150% AMI cap (\$122,500 for a family of 4) and how families over that cap can be cost burdened in certain situations. We are going to do further research and bring this to the committee so they can make a recommendation for the 2017-18 tuition assistance cycle. In a related topic the committee would also like to examine how our threshold of 13% - 16% of gross income spent on child care impacts our local families, especially when paired with ever increasing healthcare costs and high cost of living. We will bring this back to the committee at the same time we discuss the AMI cap.

We also wanted to share that Early Childhood Options who are in charge of the Right Start funds are considering raising the CCCAP eligibility level from 175% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 190% FPL. This would have a positive impact to our program potentially impacting 8-10 families who are currently in our Tuition Assistance Program. With this expansion these families would be eligible for CCCAP and in partnership with the county save our program money by wrapping these families in both programs to cover their full cost of care.

- **Outreach Update – State of Child Care Report**

Jennifer has been working on consolidating the data from Fluid Review and the Annual School updates to gather the data for the metrics the committee identified last month. Many of the data points that were requested are now available and Jennifer has put together a short presentation to share that. This information will be rolled into our report and presented as part of our State of Child Care report that we intend to deliver to council in November. We are also interested in creating a presentation to accompany our report to help tell site visitors our story.

The data presentation generated a great discussion with the committee. Three big take a ways were, care is really really expensive, there is urgency to find a solution for an affordable wellness/healthcare benefit to the teachers and we need to do more work on recruitment and retention strategies to help ensure schools are able to hire qualified teachers as the economy continues to heat up and gets more competitive for employees.

- **Child Care Needs Assessment**

We completed the Child Care needs Assessment and will be posting it on the new town website after it goes live. It will also be delivered to council with this meeting report. It is interesting to note that there is not an urgent need to build a new center. The report indicates that we will need to 40 – 60 new slots by 2025. Fortunately the town has land set aside and by using the recommendations in the report we can help track what is happening in the community and at our local centers in order to give ourselves ample time to plan and build a new center.

- **Goals and Vision for the Program**

We are interested in creating a unified vision and set of work goals for the program and Jennifer. To kick off this process we would like committee members to share their goals and motivation for joining the committee. In the interest of time Jennifer will consolidate the thoughts below and bring them back next month so we can define a common vision and set of goals for the group.

The committee members shared the following thoughts:

- Identify underserved families and meet their needs.
- Identify unmet needs of teachers and work to find solutions for these issues.
- I have always worked with children and wanted to learn more about the schools and this program. Once I have the information I can act as an advocate/spokesperson for the program to help people in the community understand the nature of this challenge for our local families?
- I want to keep Breckenridge real and make sure families and teachers can stay here.
- Child Care and all that is positive with this program speak to the future and I want to be able to impact that.
- I see shared services, tuition assistance and schools as essential infrastructure of a community.
- Workforce retention for both schools and the community at large is essential and this program makes a difference in helping families to stay in the community.
- When you build workforce housing you change the dynamics of child care in the community we want to make sure those needs continue to be met.
- I have been fortunate to work on this program to preserve our community.
- It is compelling to be a part of the community that values local working families and wanted to give back to help maintain this important program.
- Keep workforce, have sustainable centers, help people make ECE a career if that is what they want to do.
- Initially was concerned regarding the loss of the ballot initiative and how it would impact centers and even my child. In the long run I want to see shared services become a reality, provide benefits for the teachers, create and maintain strong boards with financially sustainable schools where long term capital needs are met.
- My long, long term goal is to have a community where my daughter can grow up and move back and send her own children to have the same wonderful preschool experience she did.

- **Next steps on benefits and salaries**

Greta Shackelford, Dan Gibbs and Jennifer have joined forces with Catherine Schaaf at Early Childhood Options and continue to work on potential solutions to deliver healthcare benefits to the teachers of our local early childhood schools.

They are set to meet with Trinet a benefits administration company. They will also pursue Kaiser Permanente and ADP to see what have to offer. In looking at non-traditional solutions we have reached out to the Care Clinic to see if there is a potential for some type of partnership and will also investigate if it would be feasible to partner with the town or county under their self insured plans.

- **Board Training**

Unfortunately Gini Bradley is currently busy with other projects and is not available. We have another set of recommendations and continue to pursue this effort so we can deliver this in late September or early October.

In addition to our work the Summit Foundation has a new program called NRG (Non-profit Resources for Grantees) where part of their mission is to pair high level volunteers with special expertise with non-profit grantees for short term projects and advice. We will be looking more deeply into how we can leverage these resources for our partner schools.

Meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

**Next meeting: October 5th at 3:00**