



Memo

To: Breckenridge Town Council Members
From: Corrie Burr
Date: February 9, 2021
Subject: December 2, 2020 Child Care Advisory Meeting Report

The Child Care Advisory Committee held a regular meeting on December 2, 2020. Committee members present via GoToMeeting: Greta Shackelford, Laura Amedro, Joyce Ruderman, Johanna Gibbs, Jay Homola, Scott Perlow, Leslie Davis and Austyn Dineen. Town Council representative Kelly Owens was unable to attend. Staff from the Town of Breckenridge included Julia Puester, Laurie Best and Corrie Burr.

Center Update

Greta shared with the committee that things have remained the same at least for Little Red Schoolhouse. Child Care went to less restrictive rules even though the County changed the dial backwards to be more restrictive. The School District going to all online did not have huge changes for the Centers except for staff that have district kids. Parents are overwhelmingly happy that the Centers are open. The Centers are all supporting each other so well as they seem to shift around who has cases and how they are affected. It has been a struggle with staff being quarantined and some issues with contact tracing. The Committee showed exceptional support for the Center representatives attending the meeting and shared how their families are coping and what a great job the teams at the Centers are doing to keep the children's lives as normal as possible.

Covid Relief Fund for Child Care

Town Council approved a new child care emergency fund (\$25,000) and Center relief to continue to pay staff through Covid quarantines / closures (\$50,000). Town Council is willing to increase this fund if needed, but wanted to wait for the State program that was just announced for all licensed Child Care Centers in Colorado. The timeline has not been set. The emergency fund is for families that experience a financial burden during Center closures or quarantines. The family can apply for additional funds to assist with their child care payments.

The Centers shared how grateful they are to have an option for families since it supports the family on a needs-based system. It keeps the Center's whole, financially, but provides financial support for those that need it the most. The Centers will continue to send families to Corrie to assist with added tuition assistance or the emergency dollars for a short term need.

The Committee agreed the application needs to ask the family what their need is for financial support along with the dates of quarantine / closure, so it can be verified. There are so many possibilities of quarantine, isolations, testing to relieve quarantine etc. This has happened with families more than once and has caused hardship. This program is very timely.

A committee member shared their personal story of long term quarantine along with loss of income and the need for this program. Even with savings, preparation and more options than some others may have, the financial loss is real and creates a quick, but severe financial burden. Thank you to Town Council for the continued support to help local families adjust to Covid restrictions, and the lifestyle changes it has created.

Open Committee Position

We will be posting for the open position(s) for this committee in January, 2021. The ad will run in Spanish as well. The committee would like to see diversity with our group. Also possibly a person that works in Breckenridge, but does not live in Breckenridge; diversity in perspectives and backgrounds is preferable.

Next meeting is on February 3rd at 10am (note new time)

Adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Staff will be available at the Town Council meeting for questions.