



Memo

To: Breckenridge Town Council Members
From: Corrie Burr
Date: August 24, 2021
Subject: August 4, 2021 Child Care Advisory Meeting Report

The Child Care Advisory Committee held a regular meeting on August 4, 2021. Committee members present via GoToMeeting and in person: Greta Shackelford, Laura Amedro, Johanna Gibbs, Scott Perlow and Austyn Dineen. Leslie Davis and Jay Homola were unable to attend. Joyce Ruderman has resigned from the committee. Staff from the Town of Breckenridge included Laurie Best and Corrie Burr.

Center Update

Greta let the group know that the centers are all doing well. Staffing is going up and down as it has been. No recent Covid closures for child care in Summit. All centers are starting to add more children as slots open up and kids move up to Kindergarten. Laura A. shared that Breckenridge Montessori is at reduced staff with 2 people leaving and has extended their summer closure until September 1.

Updates to Housing & Child Care Department

Laurie Best shared the upcoming staffing changes to the Housing & Child Care department with Corrie moving into a Housing Program Manager position and hiring a new Housing & Child Care Administrator along with a Compliance Administrator. The committee was supportive of the upcoming changes and the additional support.

McCain / Alta Verde

Laurie Best led the discussion with the committee about the potential for a child care center on the McCain / Alta Verde site, especially with the building of the non-profit campus. DOLA has funds available for expansion and development of child care facilities. We reviewed the current plan for the campus and the committee agreed on the potential location is optimal with it being further north to allow for usage from other parts of the County along with servicing the more than 400 potential new homes on the McCain property. Johanna Gibbs also shared that there are funds available through CDE, GoCo and Dola for outdoor classroom options. We will start to look into this option for Breckenridge.

In-Home Center Support

The committee briefly discussed the addition of tuition support for the 2 in-home centers in Breckenridge. The committee would like to discuss in more detail at the September meeting when more of the group is available, but asked for more information from the Denver Preschool Program and SPK for how they handle in-home centers. The committee asked how they handle the max daily rate of the center as the in-home programs could exceed the daily rate of our centers.

Open Arms Letter to the Committee

Open Arms Child Care & Preschool sent a letter to the Committee asking to be considered for support from the Town of Breckenridge child care tuition assistance program. In the past, the tuition assistance program policy has had a stipulation to not include faith-based centers with the thought that there is financial support provided by the faith affiliation. In the case of Open Arms, they explained that they are housed in a local church, but admission is open to all families and the curriculum is not dictated by the church doctrine. They serve toddler through PreK similarly to Breckenridge Montessori. The committee is interested in pursuing this addition to tuition assistance, but have a few questions which have been directed back to the center board.

1. How many children / families are served with the program
2. What are the daily fees and the schedule
3. How are building and maintenance fees handled for the center
4. Would they be willing to potentially raise rates to cover expenses if needed
5. Colorado Shines rating (letter stated a hope of level 3)
6. What do they currently do to support teacher training and retention

Next meeting is on September 1, at 10:30 am (in person and GoToMeeting option)

Adjourned at 11:25 am.

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