



Memo

To: Breckenridge Town Council Members
From: Corrie Burr
Date: May 11, 2021
Subject: May 5, 2021 Child Care Advisory Meeting Report

The Child Care Advisory Committee held a regular meeting on May 5, 2021. Committee members present via GoToMeeting: Greta Shackelford, Laura Amedro, Johanna Gibbs, Scott Perlow, Leslie Davis, Jay Homola, Joyce Ruderman and Austyn Dineen. Town Council representative Kelly Owens was also in attendance. Staff from the Town of Breckenridge included Mark Truckey, Julia Puester, Laurie Best and Corrie Burr.

Center Update

Still have quarantine situations and one closure of a classroom since the last meeting. Two centers in Breckenridge each lost two staff members last week, which puts them at 4 open positions each. Staffing is the major issue right now. The departures were related to job changes and / or personal reasons. Not necessarily related to job retention issues.

Laura Amedro offered personal vaccine discussions with child care workers that have not been vaccinated. The meetings were very well received and can be offered in the future if there is interest.

In Home Center Discussion

The tuition assistance program was originally established to support non-profit, licensed, quality child care programs, but with Covid and the lack of spots available in the area for child care, the committee discussed the option of considering some kind of support for families utilizing in-home care. The committee discussed the components of the program that we could not compromise on which are licensed programs, quality rating through Colorado Shines, signing the established provider agreement and supplying the necessary documents to support the agreement. The committee is willing to consider a system to support families attending an in-home center in the future, but would like to understand how willing the in-home facilities are to accepting tuition assistance as well. Corrie will reach out to the two in-home centers to evaluate partnership opportunities before the committee continues the conversation.

Similar programs in Colorado do provide support to families attending in-home facilities as long as they are licensed and have a quality rated program; this includes Pitkin County, Eagle County, San Miguel County, Summit PreK and the Denver Preschool Program.

Asset Cap Extension or Elimination

The asset cap was established several years ago at \$225,000. This includes cash, stocks, bonds, 2nd home or vacation homes, RVs, campers, bikes, but does not include equity in their primary residence, retirement funds and college funds. The committee agreed this probably needs to be reviewed, but does not feel it should be done this year. This will be moved to discuss at the end of 2021 to prepare for 2022 application time.

Remote Worker Discussion

The centers are receiving calls every day from families moving to the area or already here that work remotely for organizations outside of Summit County. They are not familiar with our lack of child care spots and the year+ long waitlist. The centers are concerned about this trend and how it affects their future waitlist as they prefer to help families working to support the County.

The committee recommends updating the eligibility of the tuition assistance program to include criteria for local workforce. The recommendation is to add a question for those that select “live in Breckenridge”, to add another line of eligibility that asks, “does one person in your household earn a living from a business operating in and serving Summit County.” If they answer no, they would not be able to go any further. This matches our deed restriction language.

Block 11 Apartment Update

Laurie shared with the committee that the third building on Block 11 has been decided to be prioritized for child care staff. A meeting with the directors will happen soon to discuss parameters, needs, leases etc.

Communications Plan for the Program

Austyn Dineen is working on a communications plan for the program to assist with talking points and general public awareness of the program. We will review this at our June meeting, but Austyn is working on a few key points to add to the application announcements.

Application for 2021-2022

The new application for the tuition assistance year starting September 2021 will open on May 15th. Communication will go out through the centers first, but we will have some public announcements as well. General updates to the application are currently underway, but no major changes to the application are needed this year.

Next meeting is on June 2 at 10am.

Adjourned at 11:25 am.

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