



# Memo

**To:** Breckenridge Town Council Members  
**From:** Austyn Dineen  
**Date:** April 12, 2022  
**Subject:** April 6, 2022 Child Care Advisory Meeting Report/Minutes

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The Child Care Advisory Committee held a regular meeting on April 6, 2022. Committee members present via Zoom: Greta Shackelford, Laura Amedro, Scott Perlow, Leslie Davis, Jay Homola, Britton Fossett, Diana Morain, Johanna Gibbs, and Kelly Owens. Staff from the Town of Breckenridge included Austyn Dineen, Mark Truckey, Laurie Best, and Corrie Burr.

## Center Update

Childcare Centers are still experiencing staffing shortages (3-5 positions needed) and are having operational challenges with many non-COVID related illnesses spreading throughout students and teachers. The Committee continued the conversation about possible recruiting pipelines for potential staff.

## Update on Countywide Tuition Assistance, SPK and TOF IGA

The Countywide Tuition Assistance Workgroup met on Friday, April 1, and discussed the proposed program's potential values (work vs. live vs. both) and funding options. There was a recommendation to align child care tuition assistance with existing county-wide housing programs for funding. The current target for countywide tuition assistance is January 2023 when budget cycles reset.

On March 30, the Early Childhood Options (ECO) Board and the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) approved expanding SPK funding, currently supporting four-year olds the year before they enter kindergarten, to add three-year olds starting fall 2022. This will reduce the Town's spend for tuition assistance in the next cycle starting in September by approximately 30%. Currently, only three-year olds whose household is at or under 150% AMI will qualify for assistance. ECO has confirmed that they will adjust to 180% AMI (from 150% AMI) if the Town of Breckenridge and Town of Frisco adopt new tuition assistance program recommendations.

The Town of Frisco childcare tuition assistance application closed on Sunday, April 3, at midnight. There were 26 total completed applications submitted and 17 that can potentially receive funding from the

Town of Frisco. Town of Frisco has confirmed that they can meet their approved budget with the proposed 22/23 expanded sliding scale recommendation and will match if the Town of Breckenridge recommendations are approved for the 2022/2023 Child Care Tuition Assistance Program.

### **2022/2023 Tuition Assistance Program – Committee Program Recommendations**

Staff presented a few changes/recommendations to the Child Care Tuition Assistance Program parameters for 2022/2023 cycle to the Committee. This Program was initially implemented in 2007 and there have not been significant changes to the parameters since it was launched. Staff felt it was appropriate now to consider a revised and expanded sliding scale for assistance, an increase to the AMI cap from 150% AMI to 180% AMI, and clarification around the household employment requirement. Staff and the Child Care Committee recommends that the Town Council approve the proposed program changes.

During the discussion, long time BCCAC member, Jay Homola, said, “I’m fully supportive of the broadening the base of people because it gives us more advocates in the community. We touch more people, we help more families, and there are more people in the community supporting what we are trying to do.” Breckenridge Childcare Program background and program goals are listed [here](#).

Please see 2022/2023 Tuition Assistance Program-Committee Program Recommendations Memo for full details.

In addition to these recommendations, the committee was very committed to increasing teacher starting salary to \$50,000 through tuition rate increase, which would ultimately increase tuition assistance. Staff will continue to work with centers on a phased-plan to increase teacher wages as soon as possible and tuition rates overtime.

### **Discounts and Tuition Assistance Families (Stabilization Grants)**

Tabled to the May 4, 2022, BCCAC meeting.

### **EUA Capacity Study vetted by Breckenridge Child Care Directors**

Tabled to the May 4, 2022, BCCAC meeting.

### **New potential childcare center at Alta Verde**

Tabled to the May 4, 2022, BCCAC meeting.

Next meeting is on Wednesday, May 4, at 10:30 am via Zoom.

Adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

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