

Minutes of the Acadia Road Combined Daycare Communicare Society

March 16, 2010 in the Administration Building

In Attendance (in bold; absent members are not in bold)

Infant Centres:			
Little Goslings		Coho	
Toddler Centres:		3-5 Centres:	
Sitka	Christina Hendricks (VP Advocacy, Faculty)	Acadia	Allen Lehman
Huckleberry	Denise Pritchard	Little Raven	Victoria Yang Shelly Gershuni Csilla Tamás
Canada Goose		Pacific Spirit	Jim Johnson (Web Master) Elpi Schober
Discovery	Marcus Hallensleben Anna Cohen	Tillicum	Elinor Delgatty
Lilliput	Julie Stitt Karen Bakker	Lluvia	
Chuva	Jessica Irwin Maged Senbel	Barish	Sabrina Chen-See (Fundraising Chair) Doug Carlow
		Summer of '73	Lisa Sundstrom (President) Todd Handy (Treasurer)
18 months – 5 years Centres:			
Salal	Eileen Hallam (secretary)	Kittiwake	Musarrat Nahid
Auklet			
Out-of-School Care (ages 5-12):			
Kids Club	Kristin Loheyde (VP Advocacy, Staff)		
Staff:	Etovre Vese (Tillicum) Susan Jones (Sandpiper)	Others:	Tim Chu (VP external, AMS) Brad Morrison, Childcare Commissioner, AMS External Office Jamie Paris (AMS/GSS)
Directors:	Darcelle Cottons Bev Christian		

Please ask your council rep or senior staff members for contact information if you have any questions.

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1. Introductions

See attendance of council members in bold on first page.

2. Minutes

Todd moved, Julie seconded accepting the minutes from our last meeting with no corrections. The minutes from the **February 2010** meeting have been approved.

3. Administrators' Report (Bev)

Bev- UBC experiences a seasonal enrollment. Between now and September there is an increase in phone calls from parents on the wait list. Please pass on to parents who have kids in the centres that are age five that are going to be leaving by Aug. 31 to try to give more than 1 months notice before leaving. This would greatly assist parents that are offered spots since many of them need to provide at least 1 month's notice to their current daycare. Many other daycare programs require 6 weeks to 8 weeks notice before departure so it is not typical that UBC daycare requires 1 month's notice. It is not known if this will change in the future.

In regards to kindergarten applications, 74 application forms were returned for the September start date. They were able to get through all the 2004-2005 applications so all were offered care. 2006 applications were being contacted today. As of today, 3-4 spots for kindergarten were still available. 40% of the 74 applications received were from students but a lot of the applicants said no to the offered spots. Cost may be a factor since all day kindergarten will soon be implemented. Also, students may be cycling out of the system so a parent could lose their daycare space since parents are offered spots based on their status for September.

The daycare expansion project is moving along. UBC will be meeting with the licensing officer and architect on Thursday. Right now they are emptying the barn in order get ready for the move.

In regards to current programs, the program evaluation committee has been resurrected so we may soon see another UBC childcare provider in our centre doing evaluations. Each programmer will have a mentor. This is done in order to meet with licensing requirements in order to evaluate the new model of group care.

4. Update on sponsored ECEBC leadership grant application (Lisa)

Lisa- The grant submitted by Etovre (Tillicum) to the leadership initiative program within the Early Childhood Educators of BC association was not accepted. The funding agency is a professional association that request leadership proposals once a year.

5. Review of application received for council grant (Todd)

Todd- Little Raven has sent in a request to apply for a laptop computer for \$650 for keeping track of the daycare pictures. Is there a limit for the budget? We have 21 centres plus 4 more coming so it is possible that we may need to provide a maximum allowance on project grants per centre. Julie- should UBC childcare be providing laptops? Bev- none of the senior staff have the time to be on the computer on a regular basis so it is not considered a core piece of equipment. A few centres currently have computers, which they have fundraised for or were donated. It is still unknown if the daycare centres will be able to access the wireless Internet in the future. Currently there is no Internet available to the centres except at the administration building. Todd- moves to fund Little Raven's proposal up to \$650 and he will let them know that it is approved.

6. Guest speaker event—(Julie)

Julie – not too much to update. The guest speaker event is scheduled to happen the second week of May and the focus of the topic will be on the subject of food and picky eaters. She has sent out emails to potential speakers but she has not heard back from them yet. It is still not known where this event will be held. The Life Sciences Centre or U Hill are two options that were discussed that may be a good place to hold the event. Lisa- some community centres sponsor event lectures on topics such as those focused on children and food. Julie- will look into the Mount Pleasant Community Centre and False Creek Community Centre bulletins to obtain more information.

7. Improving communication with centres (Lisa)

Bev – It may be possible to bank administrative hours for senior supervisors if they come to the administration building to use the computers. This issue regarding why information from the daycare council to parents is not being conveyed through the centres will be raised at the Thursday staff meeting. Bev may help by emailing a link to the UBC daycare website minutes to the global parent email group on a monthly basis.

8. Advocacy – (Lisa)

Lisa- there is going to be a webcast on April 7, 2010 from 9-10:30am that will be hosted by two UBC scholars from the UBC Early Learning program that will discuss the topic of why early learning is an important investment to childcare. The public could post questions to the program in advance by email. She would like to submit several questions such as what actions they think our UBC daycare council should take in order to advocate early learning.

Jaime- is the lobbying coordinator for AMS/GSS at UBC and also a parent. He was surprised that not much was known about childcare when he joined AMS. On May 21-22 there will be a National childcare conference that will be held at UBC that would provide information and exposure of current issues surrounding childcare within our province as well as across Canada. He is encouraging all members of the UBC daycare council to attend and inviting all that are interested to register for this event. Also he is requesting if the UBC daycare council would assist in organizing a session of the conference. During this session he envisions a panel discussion of about 3 people where parents could share their experiences with childcare to the rest of the audience. Since the majority of the audience will be made up of a lot of students that have no real idea of what it may be like to go through the childcare process, panel speakers with a variety of different backgrounds and experiences would likely be very informative for them. Each speaker would share his or her experiences for a total of 20 minutes. He is willing to work with us with what we would like to offer. Doug- what should the priorities be for the speakers? Jaime- we are interested in hearing about personal experiences with childcare, what were the obstacles and barriers that were faced, and what would have helped.

Lisa- have you gotten in touch with the UBC steering committee? Jaime- AMS has gotten in touch with the committee but somewhat felt that they were being a bit marginalized by it. In addition, AMS wants to focus on the childcare issue at a national level. He is looking for additional presenters for the conference but AMS does have on its roster several BC childcare advocates speakers as well as speakers from Montreal. A major issue that he would like to have addressed at this conference is the shift in demographics within our environment that would impact childcare priorities. Julie- the parent info night was structured similarly to what is being considered for the UBC daycare session at the AMS conference. There was a panel of 4-5 parents that talked for 10 min each. Each person talked about their own personal experiences with childcare and there was a question and answer period at the end of the evening. For the AMS conference, it would be important to find a diverse group of speakers in order to contribute to the audience. Julie- how about having a moderator to chair the panel? The UBC daycare session panel would best be held Friday morning at 10am as a nice opening to the conference.

Website: <http://childcareconference.wordpress.com>; It Takes a University: Child Care and Post Secondary Institutions

Lisa – will be able to send out the flier to through the email system about the AMS conference. She will be in charge of gathering a panel of parents to speak at the conference.

9. Misc.

Julie - motioned for a cheque to renew our membership to the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC. All accepted.

10. Confirm Next Meeting

Next meeting: **April 20, 2009 at 7-9 pm.**