

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY EDUCATION
NORTH CAROLINA CHILD CARE COMMISSION
2011-12 SECOND QUARTER MEETING MINUTES

December 1, 2011

Division of Child Development & Early Education

319 Chapanoke Road, Suite, 120

Raleigh, NC

Conference Room 300

Commission Members Present

Margaret Anne Biddle

Maureen Hardin

Norma Honeycutt

Lorrie Looper

Michael Smith

Claire Tate

Sue Creech

Connie Harland

Julia Baker-Jones (by phone)

Janice Price

Lois Stephenson

Glenda Weinert

Commission Members with an Excused Absence

Julie Cardwell, Linda Knight, Laurie Morin, Deanne Smith

Division of Child Development & Early Education Staff Present

Marcia Humphrey, Licensing Consultant

Amy Simms, Regulatory Services

Sarah Buckner, Regulatory Services

Nicole Wilson, Licensing Enforcement

Deb Cassidy, Division Director

Amy Zimmerman, Regulatory Services

Lori Pugh, Regulatory Services

Mary Lee Porterfield, Director's Office

Anna Carter, Division Deputy Director

Lisa Lyons, Licensing Enforcement

Melissa Stevenson, Regulatory Services

Linda Smith, Regulatory Services

Jani Kozlowski, Director's Office

Cecilia Ellerbe, Licensing Consultant

Ron Byrd, Subsidy Services

Melodie Ford, Regulatory Services

Kay Lowrance, Regulatory Services

Janet McGinnis, Director's Office

Andrea Lewis, Regulatory Services

Laura Hewitt, Regulatory Services

Marsha Humphrey, Consultant

Kamiran McKoy, Director's Office

Cecilia Ellerbe, Regulatory Services

Leisa Benson, Licensing Consultant

Karen Ferguson, Director's Office

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Claire Tate welcomed the committee and acknowledged the newest member, Dr. Michael Smith. Role call was taken by Kamiran McKoy. Ms. Tate determined that the quorum had been met and informed the Commission about Public Comment scheduled from 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. If there is an action being requested during that time, it must be presented in writing for review. She reviewed the agenda for the day and the materials in the folders provided to each Commission member. The Commission was instructed to verify all of their demographic information. If any information was incorrect, changes should be submitted to Kamiran McKoy.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Tate welcomed a motion for the approval of the September 27, 2011 minutes.

Commission Action: Sue Creech moved that the meeting minutes be approved as presented. Maureen Harden seconded. As discussion for the motion, page two, line four should be \$671 million instead of billion. On page 6 in the first complete paragraph, line one is not clear. It should read “DCDEE staff stated that the Commission should discuss whether on the lead teacher’s day off...” On page 7, the acronym DOD is not frequently used and needs to be spelled out as the United States Department of Defense and also added to the DCDEE listing of frequently used acronyms. On page 11, line 18, Sue Creech was misquoted. It should read “...and Ms. Creech reminded members that within the first six months, Child Care Commission members should take an ethics course.” Dedra Alston mentioned that on page 7 an additional R is needed in the acronym NACCRA. It should read NACCRRRA. Sue Creech moved to approve minutes as corrected. Lois Stephenson seconded. Ms. Tate called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Tate instructed the Commission members to introduce themselves to their newest member, Dr. Michael Smith, and if there was additional information that needed to be added to the agenda the Commissioners could make that request during their introductions.

GROUP DISCUSSION: Roles of the Entire Commission and of Individual Commissioners

Lois Stephenson represents for-profit child care providers in the state. She is an owner and operator of 4 and 5 Star child care centers in Johnston County. The well being of children has been very important to her. She stated that it is important to provide a safe environment for the children.

Maureen Hardin formerly spent fourteen years as an early childhood teacher. She stated that being on the Commission allows her to stay in touch with the preschool world.

Connie Harland started as a Parent member of the Commission as her children were in child care. She presently teaches Kindergarten. Her personal experience and time on the Commission have allowed her to see where children are coming from as they enter elementary school.

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Margaret Anne Biddle comes from a background working in the church and nonprofits. She was the director of Christian Education in a Methodist church for many years. She has a real yearning for the church to support everyone else who is working in early childhood. She was chosen to be a child care consultant in the Methodist Conference. Her concern is that 1, 2 and 3 Star centers receive adequate information about what they need to do to provide and maintain quality care, and adequate assistance from people who are able to support them in “growing” in their education and the ability to create better learning environments for their children.

Sue Creech stated that she was hired to start the early childhood curriculum program at Pitt Community College in Greenville, North Carolina. In the ‘70s she realized that the majority of teachers in child care were uneducated and poorly paid. Correcting this became her passion. She collaborated with Peggy Ball and Janet Nickerson in the early ‘80s and outlined the Early Childhood Credential. They wanted everyone to be able to afford it. Eventually it was offered in all 58 community colleges, originally taught through CEUs as well as credit-bearing courses. NC was the first state to do this. Early childhood teachers should have a career path to follow and a certification system. Her passion is the pay and benefits for child care teachers and the vision of an educational continuum from early childhood to public elementary school. She would like these subjects added to the agenda for today’s discussion.

Ms. Tate asked the Commissioners if it would be okay to add to the agenda certification, payments to teachers and benefits for child care teachers after Dr. Deb Cassidy’s presentation. The Commission agreed.

Dr. Michael Smith’s employment as a pediatrician brings the health perspective to the child care discussion. His goal is to encourage kids to be healthy so that they can reach their potential. As a pediatrician he sees them from birth to graduating college. What excites him is how they discover their talents and what they can do well. He tries to encourage parents, kids and schools to explore their talents in a variety of settings. Whether kicking a ball, putting Legos together, etc., he is an advocate for kids having a broad experience in early childhood with ways they can interact with the world. He sees a critical role for early care and education to support and not discourage development.

Glenda Weinert joined the Commission as a for-profit provider. She was a child care director for 15 years. She hopes to bring to the table balance between a healthy business perspective and quality child care. She thinks there is a tremendous opportunity for the Commission to be good stewards of federal and state dollars, addressing good business sense and sustainability. She would also like to hear from providers as resources are continually squeezed. She feels that the Commission has a tendency to implement changes, then reverse or redirect the change, costing programs unnecessarily. She wanted to discuss the SEEK program and the cost to providers.

Dr. Cassidy stated as a response that the Commission does not have rulemaking authority for the SEEK program.

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Janice Price is the director of First Methodist Child Development Center in Mecklenburg County and represents nonprofits. She also sees herself as providing balance for the committee. She feels that more time is needed to meet and process what the group has to do, without the pressure of being surrounded by people. Having sessions one and a half to two days long would be beneficial. She thinks the Commission needs more intimate time together like having a dinner, meeting beforehand, etc. in order to meet their significant responsibilities.

Ms. Tate reiterated that the Commission needed to think about their time and commitment when they agreed to join the Commission. The sessions are open to the public and having private sessions is not an option. Commission attorney Alexi Gruber agreed to research the rules and gather further details regarding the Commission having private sessions. Ms. Creech wondered if they might have training sessions for the Commission on specific topics, open to the public. Julia Baker Jones facilitates “getting acquainted” opportunities for other groups and will work on ideas. Ms. Weinert said that training on various topics would inform decisions by Commissioners. Mrs. Tate believes that it is beneficial for the Commission to listen to the expertise not only around the table but the DCDEE staff experts who implement what the Commission determines for rules. Ms. Tate stated that as a member of the Commission, you represent yourself and should never feel forced to vote for something with which you do not agree.

Norma Honeycutt is the director of a nonprofit center. She is passionate about education. She works with children with special needs and is concerned for equity in screenings and services. She knows that many child care teachers do not have knowledge or skill in special needs and many children have not been referred. Children who should be served are being kicked out of facilities because of their behavior. She wants to see more focus on special needs in orientation and in training on social-emotional development. She is also concerned about communication with their constituents. Everyone deserves a response and the Commissioners don’t adequately communicate with one another about how they respond to emails and letters. She is seeing serious problems with SEEK across North Carolina and is concerned that people think it is the Commission’s responsibility.

Lorrie Looper has spent 30 years in early childhood. She was a teacher in a two-year old class, and then became director of a non profit at a church and later of a for-profit center. She now works in Resource and Referral and does training and technical assistance for child care providers. Her ultimate goal is quality care for children, but it starts with the teachers. Staff need education, good benefits, supports and positive work environments. Lorrie said the rule-making process can be hard to understand and needs clarification so Commissioners can do their best. Ms. Tate asked Dedra Alston to prepare a one page chart for clarification of the process.

Julia Baker Jones was raised in a child development environment due to her mother’s work. Julia is a Parent representative on the Commission. Through her children, she has had a variety of experiences with child care. Child care is different in North Carolina from her experience in California, where her children attended NAEYC-accredited centers. She has an MBA that helps her address questions about child care operations,

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and is currently the director of the Chidsey Center for Leadership Development for creative leadership at Davidson College. Her passion is about quality of care, especially for people who are less likely to have a voice and those with special needs. Ms. Jones wants to hear from providers and parents when they have objections, and is concerned that the Commission may not always have enough information to make sound decisions.

Ms. Tate stated that she has been in the child care world for most of her life. She does not have a center provider background, but has started three part-day preschools, including a free drop-in child care center in a courthouse. She is the executive director of a non-profit focused on school-age care, to ensure that school age children have an opportunity to continue learning and building skills after school and during the summer. The top of her wish list for the Commission is that they be really clear with their language about Early Childhood and School Age Children; she prefers the terminology Birth to Five and School-Age. She believes the Stars tend to represent the bottom, not the top quality of care that children need. This prompted a general discussion of the terminology used to refer to child care.

Ms. Tate stated that all of the issues and concerns raised today by Commission members will be added to future agendas. She reminded the Commission of travel reimbursement forms and lunch provided by the state of North Carolina.

DIVISION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – DEB CASSIDY, Division Director

North Carolina is one of 35 states to have applied for the Race To The Top – Early Learning Challenge project (RTTT) funding. The grant proposal for \$70 million was coordinated by the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) and submitted on October 19, 2011. This amount could make a tremendous difference in the quality of early education in North Carolina. Twenty-eight million dollars of this would go through DCDEE. The application was very focused on improving NC's 5 Star QRIS system, a high priority in D.C. Results will be released in mid-December. This fund is to take resources presently used in states and move them to the next level. Dr. Cassidy believed North Carolina to be considered one of the top tier programs. On December 6, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 643 of the Legislative Office Building, Anne Bryan will present the details of the RTTT proposals. This is a four year grant and the legislature is concerned about sustaining initiatives. Ms. Tate wanted clarification on what services are addressed in this grant; Dr. Cassidy said this does not pertain to school age children, but from birth to age five. The proposal is online as a PDF document for the Commission to review.

A TIME magazine reporter visited two NC Pre-K classrooms in Wake County. In the October 10, 2011 edition of TIME magazine, an article mentioned the benefits of early care and education. North Carolina was highlighted due to the Judge Manning order and the changes to the NC Pre-K Program.

Dr. Cassidy clarified for Ms. Honeycutt that mentoring and an evaluation system for teachers would be expanded beyond the NC Pre-K program in the Race To The Top

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proposal. She thinks all early childhood teachers should have this mentoring, support and evaluation.

Several phases will be implemented in accordance with the Compliance Plan with Executive Order 100. In order to serve all children who are currently defined as “at risk”, the goal of Phase One is to add 6,300 children to NC Pre-K by January 2012. Currently, DCDEE has contracts to serve 25,680 children. Recently, contractors have determined that there are 12,750 children on a waiting list in NC Pre-K. Phase Two includes an increase by 9,000 children for four subsequent school years for a total of 67,057 children served by the 2015-2016 school year. We are collaborating with the department of Public Instruction to maintain standards by a diverse delivery system that leverages local funding and reduces barriers to participation.

The allocations to the counties were based on the same rates as last year without cutting slots. The NC Pre-K eligibility categories include 95% of NC Pre-K children qualifying mainly based on the family median income, 7 % based on Individualized Education Programs, 22% based on limited English proficiency, 7% based on chronic health condition, 25% based on developmental/educational needs and 7% based on military families. Some children may be in more than one of these categories. We are no longer paying subsidy dollars to non-licensed programs effective August 1, 2011. In addition, effective November 14, 2011, 1 and 2 Star programs will no longer be able to receive subsidy funds. 1 and 2 Star programs must submit their applications to become 3 to 5 Stars by January 15, 2012. The TEACH program is also targeting teachers in 1 and 2 Star programs for scholarship opportunities.

A change in the law that removed Early Educator Certification as a requirement as well as a decrease in staff at DCDEE to conduct the educational evaluations has led to longer education evaluation timeframes.

Currently all 100 counties are using the SEEK system for attendance capture and reporting. The SEEK payment component will begin with a pilot in March 2012 and full implementation (attendance reporting and payment systems) will be in place for all counties by July 1, 2012. There are issues with the swipe card that need to be addressed. If every child had a swipe card, all children would get swiped for attendance and for subsidy children it would also capture information for payment, removing the stigma that is perceived now. Currently the subsidy system serves 75,405 children, with 50,641 on the waiting list.

The QRIS Advisory Committee is meeting December 12 and 13, 2011. Their final recommendations will be submitted by August of 2012.

The NC Pre-K Advisory Committee met for the first time on November 30, 2011. The Committee determined issues to address and formed into work groups for future tasks.

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The Professional Development Advisory Committee met on October 26, 2011. The regional teams of this group may be granted a small amount of funding to continue planning efforts.

RULEMAKING UPDATE/ACTION AND DISCUSSION

The rulemaking petition from Ashe Developmental Day School has been withdrawn. The group would like to take additional time to work on the wording of their petition.

Ms. Tate added to the agenda Early Educator Certification (EEC) and what is going on with rulemaking. Attorney Alexi Gruber and DCDEE Rules Coordinator Dedra Alston explained what will happen statutorily after objection letters were received regarding the rules. According to Jani Kozlowski, rules were approved in September for the EEC equivalency. Once the rules have been adopted, they are submitted to the Rules Review Commission for approval. The administrative procedures act (G.S. 150B-21.3 allows the public to send 10 or more letters of objection to the Rules Review Commission requesting legislative review of the rule. In this case, they did receive the 10 letters of objection which delays the rulemaking process and requires the rules to be considered by the General Assembly. The legislature may introduce a bill to disapprove the rule during the first 30 legislative days. If a bill is filed and passes, the pre-existing rule remains in effect. If a bill is not filed to disapprove the rule, then the proposed rule becomes effective on the 31st legislative day, the day of adjournment, or whichever is sooner.

The Commission discussed the letters of objection and how to address the misinformation contained in them. Most individual signers did not provide easy contact information, making it difficult to respond. Consideration was given to calling or writing letters as a Commission. Ms. Tate stated that the misinformation is hurting 20,000 of their colleagues. She then asked if it was the pleasure of the Commission to create a letter they would send to the people who sent letters of misinformation. Some reservations were expressed because of the legislative rules process. According to Attorney Gruber, this letter will not affect the legislative rule process. It was the pleasure of the Commission to send a letter to the sender clarifying the misinformation and thanking them for expressing their opinions and concerns. Ms. Baker-Jones stated that she does not want the Commission's response letters to come across in such a way that would deter the public from writing letters in the future. Ms. Tate proposed two different letters-one to the legislature and one to the community.

The Commission took a break for lunch at 12:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Tate began the second part of the Child Care Commission session with Public Comment, explaining that any recommendations or requests for action must be in writing to the Commission.

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Bill Mitchell of Primrose School at Eastfield Village spoke on curriculum issues. He stated that he does not personally object to raising the bar, but is concerned that schools will have to change immediately when the rule changes. This is disruptive to schools and families. If the rule is submitted as written, this would change the structure, materials, and curriculum currently being used in his school. He asks the Commission to “do the right thing for kids and parents” and provide an additional review process so that their curriculum may be considered.

Annette Newkirk of the North Carolina Child Care Coalition represents statewide organizations, providers, centers, parents, and teachers. Her organization promotes high quality, accessible, affordable, early childhood services in North Carolina. Her organization agrees with the Commission’s support of the EEC as an equivalency option. She stated that EEC provides discounts of goods and services for their members, it provides documentation for employment which saves employers time, money and energy in tracking educational requirements. It recognizes investments made by the workforce. As a Coalition they will make sure that their members will receive accurate information regarding EEC.

Tori Scuderi is the owner of Primrose School of West Cary. She spoke on behalf of the Primrose School curriculum. Her school is licensed for 156 children, 30 staff members and is a 5 Star school. She reiterated what Mr. Bill Mitchell said earlier. The financial cost due to the change of the curriculum will affect their system in retraining teachers and informing parents. The children at Primrose are pre-tested before Kindergarten and they score very well. Primrose did not submit their curriculum for review because they have 5 stars and did not need to use a curriculum to obtain a quality point. This new rule regarding approved curricula is the first time there has been a need for their curriculum to be reviewed.

Dr. Lauryn Starnes, from Chesterbrook Academy objected to the proposed curriculum rules for 4 and 5 Star schools. Chesterbrook has a proprietary curriculum that was developed carefully, reassessed and revised. Their curriculum has not been reviewed in North Carolina, but was reviewed and approved and accepted in California and Florida. Her request is to have their curriculum reviewed.

Debra Torrence, director of the North Carolina Institute for Child Development Professionals stated that there is now a National Professional Development and Workforce Initiative Center. There is a link to it on the Institute’s website. They are connected to the National Registry Alliance. The college education section on the Institute’s website has greatly expanded. They have a large list of scholarships from foundations and TEACH and professional organizations. They are completing a survey of community college level Early Childhood departments. CEUs continue to expand. Webinars are being offered on CEU development. The number of adult educator endorsements is currently at 209. The discounts have been expanded and in January / February they will be rolling out a password protected website. Individuals and counties

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will have access to information regarding free or reduced Tb testing, physicals, prescriptions, internet access and banking resources.

Angela Wilson-Newsom is owner and operator of Ark of Safety Preschool in High Point, North Carolina, which was the first 5 Star center in High Point, NC. They are celebrating 13 years but she is concerned that the NC Pre-K program is threatening their survival. She wants reconsideration of the rule that prohibits administrators from serving as lead teachers. This rule makes it financially impossible for them to have the NC Pre-K program. Ark of Safety Preschool wanted to increase the quality of life for students and families, so they voluntarily dropped their capacity to 18, but they can't hire another teacher.

Linda Piper, executive director of the NC Licensed Child Care Association stated that her organization is not against education and is not driven by money. She is very encouraged that the Commission members want more input from the field; they can find excellent models in the QRIS and NC Pre-K Advisory committees. She stated that there is not a community college course on how to do the Environment Rating Scales, but that is a huge need. There is also too much expected of administrators; it requires a different skill set than a teacher's child development training. She wants her organization to have a dialogue with the Commission to understand her organization better.

RULEMAKING UPDATE/ACTION AND DISCUSSION, cont.

Jani Kozlowski stated that the Commission needs to review and approve the fiscal note that accompanies the proposed NC Pre-K and curriculum rules. This fiscal note needs to be approved by the Department and OSBM before it is given to the Child Care Commission. There are a few issues to resolve with the Pre-K rules. This could be handled via conference call no later than January 10, 2012, if the public hearing for these rules is to be held in February. Dedra Alston suggested that this discussion could be postponed until the February meeting. It was decided by the Commission to table a decision on this rule until February.

Ms. Tate stated that there are issues being mentioned about the curriculum approval process. Ms. Honeycutt asked if the Commission has the right to dictate policy. Ms. Tate asked that the DCDEE Curriculum Logistical Team come back in February with a draft policy for accepting currently used proprietary curricula until they can go through the curriculum review process. This would be open to all curriculum publishers.

A draft protocol was distributed to the Commission regarding how to handle public emails and letters. Emails to the Child Care Commission initially go to Kamiran and she forwards them to all Child Care Commission members. If a Child Care Commission member receives an email directly from someone, or an inquiry through the postal system, it should be sent to DCDEE and Commission members via email so that all are aware of mail being received. Commissioners each need to set up a group email address including all Commissioners and key DCDEE staff (Jani, Dedra, Kamiran, Karen). They can use this to cc the others or to forward the response sent to a public inquiry. Connie

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Harland asked how the Commission will know if everyone else received the public inquiry (if it did not come through Kamiran). The solution is that they all will assume that they were the only Commission member to receive the public inquiry. The timeframe for a response should be within two days. It is requested that the response is “reply all” so other Commissioners are aware that the public inquiry was responded to.

Overview of how rulemaking occurs – Dedra Alston.

Rulemaking can start by staff or Commission members bringing up the topic of a rule whether it is to amend an existing rule or to adopt a new rule. The Commission will discuss the text of the rule and vote to send the rule to publish in the NC Register for a public hearing. After the text is decided upon, the Division determines if there is a fiscal impact to state, local or private industry. Once this has been established, the rules and fiscal note must be sent to the Department for approval and to the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) for their approval before the rules are published in the register. This takes about four or five weeks. It may take a little longer now because of OSBM having to review all fiscal notes. Once OSBM approves the fiscal note the rules are published in the Register. Dedra looks at the filing schedule to schedule the public hearing during the Commission meeting. The rules are submitted to the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) for publication. Comments are accepted for 60 days. At the next Commission meeting, comments are considered and the rules may be adopted. Changes can be made as long as the rule is not changed substantially. If it is, the rulemaking process starts over and the rule is republished in the Register. Once the rules are adopted they are filed with the Rules Review Commission (RRC) which reviews them at their next meeting. RRC meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month. RRC staff review the rules and send technical change requests or proposed objections to Dedra. The technical changes are resubmitted to the RRC for consideration for approval at their meeting. If there is a proposed objection to the rule, the RRC formally objects to the rules. The rules come back to the Child Care Commission to satisfy the objection and the rules are resubmitted to the RRC for their next months’ meeting. Once RRC has approved the rule, it becomes effective the first day of the following month. Once the rule has been codified it is given to the Child Care Commission to be entered into their rule books. OAH and APA (Administrative Procedures Act) will be added to the frequently used acronyms listing.

RULEMAKING UPDATE/ACTION AND DISCUSSION, cont.

Commission Action: Ms. Creech moved to publish text for public hearing for Rule .0102 Definitions as written. Ms. Looper seconded. With no further discussion, Ms. Tate called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Commission Action: Ms. Looper moved to repeal rules in Section .1500 Temporary Care Requirements. Ms. Harland seconded. There being no further discussion, Ms. Tate called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

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Written public comments on Rules .0604, .1719, .1725 and .2904 received after the September 27th public hearing were passed out to Commission members. Discussion followed regarding the comments on safety requirements, liability insurance and program requirements on inclusion.

In response to objections to restricting pets in family child care homes, the Commissioners agreed that there should be a process for notification of an animal on the premises and the potential of harm to a child, possibly in the parent handbook. Dr. Smith will research the issues related to the dangers of having pets in child care. Written permission via a signed statement of acknowledgment from the parents should be obtained when an animal is on the premises during child care. It was decided by the Commission to table a decision on this rule until February.

Public comment and concern about Rule .1725 was discussed.

Commission Action: Ms. Honeycutt moved to adopt Rule .1725 amended with the following language: “Upon enrollment, the legal operator shall provide to parents written notification if the facility does not carry accident or liability insurance.” Ms. Looper seconded. After some discussion it was determined to drop the phrase “Upon enrollment”. Ms. Tate called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Commission Action: Ms. Looper moved to approve and publish Rule .0202 with the following language: “The legal operator shall provide to parents written notification if the facility does not carry accident or liability insurance.” Ms. Honeycutt seconded. There being no further discussion Ms. Tate called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Commission Action: Ms. Harland moved to adopt Rule .0604 as written. Ms. Honeycutt seconded. Per discussion of the motion, section (e) line 15 was amended to add “-age” after “preschool” (preschool-age children). There being no further discussion, Ms. Tate called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

The goal of Paragraph (c) in Rule .2904 is to have an inclusive classroom with typically developing children as well as children who have special needs. Ms. Tate asked the Commission members to make a motion for this rule.

Commission Action: Ms. Honeycutt and Ms. Baker-Jones disagreed with the new language in Rule .2904. After some discussion, the Commission determined that the rule does not ensure adequate inclusion. The center should maximize the opportunity for children with special needs to interact with typically developing children. Many of the Developmental Day

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programs do not have typically developing children. After some discussion without consensus, consideration of this rule will continue at the February meeting. Ms. Creech recommended asking for advice on wording from Dr. Nancy Brown. DCDEE Staff and Ms. Baker-Jones will work on this.

Before dismissing, Ms. Creech mentioned hearing Linda Piper present to the House Select Committee on Early Childhood and recommended inviting representatives of a variety of early childhood groups to present to the Commission. In addition to the NC Licensed Child Care Association she named the North Carolina Early Childhood Association, North Carolina Child Care Coalition, NCaeyc, NC After School Coalition, and the NC Institute for Child Development Professionals. Commissioners would benefit from knowing what these organizations are, what they do, etc. Ms. Baker-Jones added that she would like to hear more information regarding the DCDEE Regulatory consultants' processes.

Ms. Tate asked the Commission if they would be interested in being involved in sub-committees, forming small groups to discuss family child care homes and school age care. One task would be to work on a school-age handbook (Ms. Baker-Jones, Ms. Tate and Ms. Weinert volunteered).

Ms. Weinert stated that it would be more convenient to have Child Care Commission meetings at least once a year outside of Raleigh. Other members concurred. Ms. Creech pointed out that it is cost-prohibitive for DCDEE staff to travel. Ms. Baker-Jones's suggestion was to allow sub-committees to have meetings in other parts of North Carolina and have the Raleigh staff call in, or even have a virtual meeting where everyone can see each other.

Ms. Baker-Jones and Ms. Tate agreed to set a meeting in early January to talk about school-age care. One may join in person or connect electronically. Ms. Looper and Ms. Morin will get together to form a family child care homes subcommittee.

Ms. Tate and Dr. Smith will talk about healthy development to ensure that the Child Care Commission is paying attention to that as a whole (all domains).

Ms. Stephenson and Ms. Weinert will meet to discuss the basic administration of child care for programs to be sustainable. They will also discuss what are best practices in the business of child care and how the Child Care Commission might encourage these best practices.

The Commission has interest in going paperless by using electronic tablets. They felt that this would be more cost efficient than printing the notebooks, handouts, etc. Conference Room 300 would have to be sufficiently wired.

Ms. Tate asked if there was any further information or discussion.

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Commission Action: Ms. Harland moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Stephenson seconded. There being no further discussion, Ms. Tate called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

The next meeting of the North Carolina Child Care Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28, 2012