



## Family Child Care Task Force Meeting 9 Minutes<sup>1</sup>

**Tuesday, August 18, 2020**

**6:00pm to 9:00pm (CST)**

**Online meeting (WebEx)<sup>2</sup>**

**Task Force Members Present:** Ariane Bromberg, Cyndi Cunningham, Representative Lisa Demuth, Erin Echternach, Heidi Hagel Braid, Elizabeth Harris, Stephanie Hogenson, Senator Mary Kiffmeyer, Kim Leipold, Scott Marquardt, Kelly Martini, Ann McCully, Lanay Miller, Hollee Saville, Lauryn Schothorst, Julie Seydel, JoAnn Smith, Representative Ami Wazlawik, Senator Melissa Wiklund, Reggie Wagner (DHS)

**Task Force Members Absent:** Samantha Chukuske, Dan Dorman, Erin Johnson-Balstad, Marit Woods

**Presenters:** Barb Wagner, Manager, Family Child Care Licensing; Heidi Hagel-Braid, Chief Program Officer, First Children's Finance; Cindi Yang, Director, DHS-Child Care Services; Deb Swenson-Klatt, Manager, DHS-Child Development Services; Hollee Saville, task force member, provider, presenting for Duty 8 Work Group

**Task Force Consultants Present:** Judy Plante, Lanterna Consulting; Charlie Sellew, Management Analysis and Development (MAD)

Each Task Force member received the following:

- Meeting 9 agenda
- Draft July 21 Task Force meeting minutes (pending Task Force approval)
- Task Force meeting and work group timeline
- Alternative Child Care Delivery Systems presentation
- Parent Aware presentation
- Status of Child Care in Minnesota (2019 legislative report)
- Provider Perceptions of Parent Aware report
- Link to a brief explanation video on the [Parent Aware "house" framework](#)
- Duty #8 Work Group presentation

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<sup>1</sup> The August meeting minutes will be presented for approval by the Task Force at the September meeting on Tuesday, September 22.

<sup>2</sup> Appendix A contains the transcript from the Webex chat window.

## Welcome, call to order, and opening remarks

Senator Kiffmeyer called the task force meeting to order shortly after 6:00 pm.

## Task force business announcements

The task force approved the July meeting minutes via voice vote with no opposition. Reggie Wagner and Cindi Yang, both from DHS, introduced DHS staff from their respective divisions who were present for the meeting.

## Discussion #1: Alternative child care delivery systems

Barb Wagner (Manager, DHS Family Child Care Licensing Unit) and Heidi Hagel-Braid (Chief Program Officer, First Children's Finance and task force member) presented on alternative child care delivery systems. Task force members asked questions and provided comments after the presentation.

The presentation topics included:

- A summary of the traditional family child care model, as well as other family child care models allowed in Minnesota
- The economic challenges of the traditional model
- Factors which make business models sustainable
- Business models which are available in Minnesota and in other states

## Discussion #2: Parent Aware

Cindi Yang (Director, DHS Child Care Services) and Deb Swenson-Klatt (Manager, DHS Child Development Services) presented on Parent Aware, Minnesota's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). Task force members asked questions and provided comments after the presentation.

The presentation topics included:

- Earning star ratings,
- Eligible programs,
- Supporting child care programs
- Continuous improvement process
- Growth in ratings and children in rated programs
- Provider feedback survey results

## Discussion #3: Work Group Duty #8

Duty 8: Consider methods to improve access to and understanding of the rules and statutes governing family child care providers

Hollie Saville (task force member) reported out on the work of the Duty 8 Work Group, including:

- Observations on how family child care information is provided, how the information is formatted, language barriers, and communicating changes to state rules and statutes
- The potential for an ombudsperson role

Task force members asked questions and provided comments after the presentation.

## **Closing announcements**

Senator Kiffmeyer closed the meeting at 8:59pm and thanked members for their participation.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 22.

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# Appendix A: Transcript from Webex chat window

**Kim Leipold:** 6:39 PM Hi Ann. Either one of those work for me. Please let me know you get this, as I am in a state park and have spotty WIFI...

**Kelly Martini:** 6:51 PM Julie just made another point, we have not only "family" we have animals.

**Kelly Martini:** 6:54 PM i lost sound again

**Kim Leipold:** 6:54 PM Providers can currently operate out of a business, church, etc.

**JoAnn Smith:** 6:54 PM I am leading a group that is using that model and currently has 2 locations in International Falls as part of helping the child care shortage in our area

**Ann McCully:** 6:54 PM Just a quick question- (and not meant to be political, truly wondering), can FCC providers who take a large number of CCAP or scholarship kids and still make enough money given the small numbers and ratios? that is one concern I have if we are trying to ensure access to more low income families.

**Ann McCully:** 6:55 PM Would some of these costs savings of pooled resources/shared services help to make that more feasible?

**Kim Leipold:** 6:55 PM I agree that people who are interested in opening a family child care should receive resources about small business operations. I attended a training from WomenVenture. Heidi, do you work/talk with them?

**Kim Leipold:** 6:56 PM How many special family child cares are there?

**Cyndi C:** 6:56 PM Kim I love working with WomenVenture!

**Heidi Hagel Braid:** 6:57 PM Kim, yes - they serve women who start all kinds of businesses, including child care. First Children's Finance also works specifically on child care business consultation and training, too.

**Kim Leipold:** 6:57 PM I would like to see business training as part of the orientation to become a provider.

**JoAnn Smith:** 6:57 PM I am currently working with Patricia Welsch from First Children's Finance and the Rural Child Care Innovation Program

**Cyndi C:** 6:58 PM I would like to 'economy of scale' be addressing supports for providers so we don't have as many business challenges as we do!

**Cyndi C:** 6:58 PM like bookkeeping, workers comp, health insurance, etc. etc.

**Kim Leipold:** 6:58 PM Yes, Cyndi.

**Ann McCully:** 6:59 PM I think business supports and TA is one of our other duties, correct?

**Kim Leipold:** 7:00 PM What statutes are holding it up?

**Barbara Wagner:** 7:00 PM The statute Reggie mentioned is 245A.14 subp 4 (g)

**Erin Echternach:** 7:01 PM Thank you, Barb

**Kim Leipold:** 7:01 PM thanks Barb

**Kim Leipold:** 7:31 PM how are the other counties represented?

**Kim Leipold:** 7:32 PM 54 were mentioned in the statistics regarding percentages of star rated programs/

**Kim Leipold:** 7:32 PM And compare those results to non parent aware programs?

**Cyndi C:** 7:33 PM kim totally the unknown is where kids came from and what's the result

**Cyndi C:** 7:36 PM the unknown statistic is who is ready for kindergarten and where did they come from

**Cyndi C:** 7:37 PM Accredited isn't much of an easy pathway nor is it fully supported by the state

**Cyndi C:** 7:37 PM or others

**Cyndi C:** 7:43 PM this is working better!

**Stephanie Hogenson:** 7:44 PM It is working better tonight and I like how I can see everyone Hollywood Squares style

**JoAnn Smith:** 8:09 PM Great job Hollee!

**Cyndi C:** 8:10 PM thanks hollee

**Lisa Demuth:** 8:10 PM Nice job Hollee!

**Hollee Saville:** 8:12 PM Thanks, JoAnn, Cyndi, and Rep. Demuth!

**Lanay Miller:** 8:20 PM I think a lot of licensors will refer applicants/providers to Tom Copeland and his website for information regarding business/taxes/assumed names etc.

**Kelly Martini:** 8:20 PM I've heard of neighborhoods don't allow daycare's to be allowed in their homes in their neighborhood

**Kelly Martini:** 8:21 PM and yes, our county has something in their ordinance

**Cyndi C:** 8:22 PM I agree about the tom comment, not always correct

**Cyndi C:** 8:24 PM workers comp is actually complicated and may or may not be fully required for LFCC's as our subs are not always imperative to our business stability

**Cyndi C:** 8:27 PM Reggie...good question/point!

**Ann McCully:** 8:30 PM I had a similar question about how we are to structure our reports (which is why I asked about scope). I know there may be a range of reports depending on the duty, but some parameters would be helpful.

**Ann McCully:** 8:33 PM For instance, some of these could lead to legislation, others may be guidance/input for DHS for future administrative work. I assume we may have a similar mix of results in other work groups.

**Cyndi C:** 8:33 PM Ann agreed

**Heidi Hagel Braid:** 8:34 PM Agreed.

**Stephanie Hogenson:** 8:34 PM I just wanted to say the idea of a navigator or support to navigate the licensure process, as well as the interactions with other requirements (fire marshal, food, health, etc) is an idea that has been presented through some of the Children's Cabinet work to support child care providers, maintain/increase supply

**Lanay Miller:** 8:34 PM It's unfortunate providers can't trust and find support in their licensor. I agree with the need for an Ombudsperson but there should also be trust and support between licensor and provider

**Hollee Saville:** 8:35 PM The need for one doesn't have to do with trust between licensors and providers. That never came up in our discussions.

**Stephanie Hogenson:** 8:35 PM To be clear, I don't think ombudsperson and "navigator" would be exclusive of each other

**Hollee Saville:** 8:36 PM But providers and licensors won't always agree on everything and providers and DHS won't always agree. In those cases, it's good to have an independent person to approach with questions.

**Cyndi C:** 8:36 PM Stephanie....agreed

**Lanay Miller:** 8:37 PM I agree with Sen. Kiffmeyer about this.

**Hollee Saville:** 8:37 PM A perfect example is the insistence of several licensors in a few counties who told providers for years that they had to follow licensing rules 24/7, regardless if they were closed at that time.

**Hollee Saville:** 8:40 PM Or the pet water bowls being "hazardous" and licensors in some counties insisting they couldn't be anywhere near children. It obviously contradicted the rules and statutes; it was a made-up interpretation. Those providers didn't know where to turn when they disagreed, even after sharing the rules and statutes.

**Lanay Miller:** 8:41 PM Thank you Reggie! This has already been addressed legislatively with regard to the correction orders.

**Hollee Saville:** 8:41 PM I want all providers to have open and honest communication and positive relationships with their licensors.

**Cyndi C:** 8:42 PM Reggie...agreed!

**Lanay Miller:** 8:42 PM I do too Hollee. I am not sure an Ombudsperson is the answer to that.

**Cyndi C:** 8:43 PM Reggie thank you for the work we have all done together

**Hollee Saville:** 8:44 PM Many providers are worried about contacting DHS.

**Stephanie Hogenson:** 8:47 PM Remembering now that the chat is not compliant with open meeting law, so we should be speaking out loud.

**Cyndi C:** 8:58 PM Judy, can Jacob send out the reimbursement form again after each meeting?

**Cyndi C:** 8:59 PM good night

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