

# SOLUTIONS FOR INFANT CARE AVAILABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2018 at 6:00 pm  
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas  
8751 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Nancy McGreevy, Child Care Apprenticeship Coordinator & Distance Learning Instructor, PTC; Sonia Meier, Early Childhood Education Services Director, R' Club Child Care; Amber Britner, Home Child Care provider; Maria Piatt, Home Child Care provider; Karen Gardner, Director, Skycrest Christian Preschool; Twana Monroe, Center Owner/Director; Cynthia Sumter, Home Child Care provider; Cheryl Miller, Senior Program Consultant, Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB); Maria Villarreal, Licensing Specialist, CCLP; Michelle Leland, Licensing Specialist, CCLP

**Public Comment Volunteer:** Kathi Merino, Licensing Specialist, CCLP

**Official Note Taker:** Lisa Zacharia, Administrative Secretary, CCLP

**Committee Members Absent:** Ray Hensley, Maternal & Child Health, DOH

**Also Present:** Colleen Flynn, PCLB Attorney

## Call to Order

The fourth and final Solutions for Infant Care Availability Committee meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm. Nancy McGreevy welcomed everyone to the final committee meeting and said our purpose is to explore options for more infant care and that quality staff, training and funding are great for quality care, but they don't open infant spots. Nancy McGreevy asked the committee to trust the process.

Nancy McGreevy asked the Committee to review the minutes from the meeting of September 12, 2018. Cheryl Miller motioned to approve the minutes. Michelle Leland seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Nancy McGreevy said the meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup> was very interesting and the committee spoke about a training track with step-by-step process to open a family child care home. Amber Britner brought up the idea of not narrowing who we target in our advertising campaign because people other than young mothers may want to open a family child care home. For example, retirees that have the space in their homes. Nancy McGreevy said that marketing and advertising are not what we have to concerns ourselves with, rather we will make recommendations at the December 12<sup>th</sup> PCLB Board meeting. ELC funds are available to help centers with infant rooms and that an awareness campaign to preschools would be useful. Colleen Flynn asked if the Licensing Board should work with ELC on that. Sonia Meier said she has closed infant care rooms due to lack of sustainability but Licensing Specialists know what is feasible. ELC money won't keep paying salaries but Licensing knows where there are good programs and where not. Maria Villarreal said they are already making recommendations and need to make people aware of ELC. Sonia Meier again brought up sustainability. She said they already serve school readiness and low income. Cheryl Miller said ELC and

Licensing should discuss this topic. Sonia added that ELC sends email blasts but directors don't always see them due to how busy they are. Nancy McGreevy commented that some centers have room but directors look at their budgets and what is the best option for their centers. Discussion ensued about making a flier with recommended providers. Cheryl Miller with JWB suggested adding an agenda item to the monthly JWB/CCLP meetings to discuss infant care solutions. The tiered system for home providers came up for discussion again and the concept of the state ratio of 4:1 for providers that meet the criteria. Colleen Flynn said this would be a legal issue and it would have to be recommended to the Board. It would mean significant changes to regulations and the details would have to be worked out. Amber Britner said that would add one child slot to each home and if we campaign, we may get 40 new homes. We should recommend to PCLB options that would be most beneficial to obtain more infant slots. Nancy McGreevy talked about looking at the tiered system and what would happen if the provider gets a non-compliance; would the children have to be moved immediately? Maria Villarreal explained they would be put on a provisional license and would be checked on every month.

### **Public Comment:**

**Ann Brooks** talked about having a maximum of 10 children ages 2 and over. She said we need to stop making regulations that make exceptions to laws. This was with regard to having household members leave but that still doesn't allow you to increase capacity even though the provider has been proven capable.

**Lynn Gibson** gave out a document she prepared entitled State vs. Pinellas County Regulations in Family Day Care Homes. She said a finding of necessity is why regulations are changed and at the last Board meeting, we had ELC, Eckerd and R' Club representatives discuss an exception to open six slots for children in foster care. These Infants are being transported to Pasco County because we don't have enough infant slots. She brought up a proposed ratio variance pilot program. Colleen Flynn stated that the provided materials would be kept with the minutes part of Ms. Gibson's public comment.

### **End of Public Comment**

Nancy McGreevy asked Committee if there was any more open discussion and there was none.

Nancy McGreevy asked the Committee what recommendations should the committee make to the Board at the December Board meeting for the Board to explore further. Responses follow:

#### **1. Recruitment & Training: New Home Providers**

- Recruitment via community awareness campaign
  - Job Fairs
  - Advertising
  - Email blasts
  - Fliers
- Target groups such as moms and retirees
- Market concept as home-based business
- Training track for new providers covering how to get started, equipment, business management

- Orientation for centers
- What can PCLB do to work with partners?

## 2. Awareness of Funding

- Work with ELC to get information to centers about available funding
- Licensing Specialists speak with providers about funding availability during inspections
- Add to agenda & discuss funding during monthly meetings with ELC & JWB
- Add infant care/advertising scholarship
- Meet & discuss flier and target providers

## 3. Tiered System

- Proven Track Record Enables Tiered System
- Look at tiered system for providers caring for children 12-18 months
- Look at lowering ratio if requirements are met

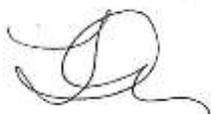
Sonia Meier said that training should only be for people already in the recruitment process that have met the minimum requirements and passed the background check and people can be disqualified from receiving training. Karen Gardner said that first we need to get people interested. Colleen Flynn said that a tiered system would require a change to many parts of the regulations.

**Action Items:** Nancy McGreevy asked for a motion to approve the recommendations to PCLB. Amber Britner made the motion. Karen Gardner seconded it and the motion carried.

These above recommendations will be made to the Board at the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Nancy McGreevy adjourned the meeting at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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Lisa Zacharia