

UW-Madison
The University Child Care Committee (UCCC)
April 19, 2016
1:30pm to 2:30pm
67 Bascom Hall

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Phillip Braithwaite; Cidgem Unal; Christopher Bruhn;
Roseanne Clark; Carol Noreen; Darrin Smith; Cara Streekstra; teri engelke;
Stephanie Shedrow; Marcia Castro; Lindsey Stoddard Cameron;
Amy Welk; Kathy Schmitt Kline; Joan Ershler

- Welcome, introductions & approval of February minutes – Phillip
- Bernie's Place annual report – Amy Welk, Kathy Schmitt Kline

Amy Welk spoke about the history and evolution of Bernie's as a non-profit child care center, how they started in 1972 in the center of campus and what led to their present location in University Heights. She highlighted their addition of infants to their program, their overall growth and their meal program, which is vegetarian and mostly organic. She also spoke about the challenges the move presented with University Housing under construction and being off the bus line, combined with meeting the University's Gapp 38 policy. She expressed her gratitude for the support of OCCFR, City of Madison Licensing, UCCC and the University community and feels they are stronger now in year 4 at University Houses. Phillip asked if Bernie's had any current building needs and how 4-K has impacted Bernie's. Amy said the building is overall in good condition; things come up – but nothing major at this time. 4-K is an extension of the preschool and going well, she said that the main thing is to educate parents that the practice doesn't change just because the children turn 4. Bernie's is well supported and governed by a parent-led Board of Directors. Kathy Schmitt Kline also presented on behalf of Bernie's as the current Board chair of Bernie's. She spoke on the strength of the family involvement and sense of community Bernie's has created with ice cream socials, potlucks and family-friendly events. Kathy also spoke on the financial challenges faced with staff salaries and the loss of \$20,000 financial support from OCCFR in the next fiscal year; but was grateful that there will be opportunities to gain more financial support through teacher/director grants through OCCFR. Both Kathy and Cara Streekstra had high praises for Amy as the Director and value her relationship with the children and families. And both echoed their appreciation for the meal program. Attached to the email sent to UCCC with the minutes are more complete notes from both Amy and the Board of Directors of Bernie's Place.

- Waisman Early Childhood Program annual report – Joan Ershler

Joan also outlined the history of Waisman Early Childhood Program and how it began in 1979 through a Kennedy Center grant for research on children with developmental disabilities. It naturally evolved and developed into a program for children with special needs. Currently they enroll 80 children; 25-33% of their classroom spots are filled with special needs students. WECP uses a play-based curriculum. They piloted the "Kindness Curriculum" developed by Richard Davis, and found that children were more likely to share and use their voices (instead of their hands) to resolve conflict at the end of the 8-week study. They currently have two research projects, 25 teachers, 2 therapists and 25 student employees. Each

person shares the responsibilities of one-on-one time with students with special needs. Darrin asked about cross training with other departments and WECP currently is working with a former research student who is being funded to provide an autism treatment program, which will begin in June. It is based on the Denver Early Start Model and will study the two programs working together.

WECP has a fabulous outdoor play space they named "The Discovery Garden", sponsored by The Friends of Waisman. They are currently working with a specialist who is helping design the outdoor space specifically for children with disabilities. Attached to the email to UCC are Joan's notes with more complete program information.

- **UW-Madison Committee on Women in the University – University Childcare Committee Work Group on Early Childhood Care & Education Proposal, Draft for Discussion - Lindsey**

Lindsey wanted to point out that this is a "0 draft to 1st draft" of the proposal, emphasizing that it is a starting point to a much bigger conversation. Due to time constraints of the meeting, she briefly addressed the current state of campus child care and how the University can commit to meet the current and future needs. The committee on women has started consulting with people across campus to assemble a high level planning committee to explore opportunities on how to move it forward. The draft of this discussion is included in the email sent to UCCC with the minutes.

- **CCAMPIS program success – Cigdem**

CCAMPIS (Child Care Access Means Parents in School). Again, due to time constraints of the meeting Cigdem briefly touched on the successes of CCAMPIS/AIM on the UW campus. OCCFR had a visit from Dr. Minor from the Department of Education in Washington, DC and talked about our high success rate of student-parent graduates on the UW campus, mainly due to the AIM/CCAMPIS support for child care.

We thank you for your time, talent, input, ideas and expertise!

Our next meeting will be scheduled in the fall semester, so we will be in contact over the summer to schedule dates -- hope to see all of you back on the committee next fall!