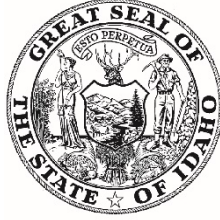


BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

Wendi Secrist
Executive Director



Deni Hoehne
Chair

John Young
Vice Chair

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

514 W Jefferson St, Ste 131, Boise, ID 83702

Child Care Expansion Grant Review Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, September 23, 2022

Time: 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Committee Members: Sarah Griffin, Emily Allen, ~~Beth Oppenheimer~~, Erika Rupp, ~~Anna Almerico~~, ~~Ben Davidson~~, Caroline Merritt, Martin Balben (proxy for Beth Oppenheimer) Renee Bade

Staff: Wendi Secrist, Amanda Ames, Cassie Mansour, Rebecca Watson

Guests: Tana Storybook, Jennifer Stoneman

Called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Welcome

Roll Call – Quorum Met

Review Agenda – No changes to the agenda, but the Committee would like to talk about rescheduling some meeting dates at the end of today's meeting.

Review September 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Ms. Rupp to approve the September 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented. Second by Ms. Merritt. Motion carried.

***Child Care Expansion Grant Applications**

- **Tiny Tots Daycare & Preschool**

Discussion:

Childcare needs/barriers are explained and documented?

- It looks like the committee is split on the Needs/Barriers question on the rubric.
- Tiny Tots is the only childcare provider in the area. Due to the profound childcare desert in the region, this might be the only needed qualification for an exemplary score.

Are we asking each applicant to show unique data to demonstrate the most sought-after services in their community?

- Most applicants have not done a survey themselves but could use their wait-list data or other sources to reflect on the most sought-after services in their community.

The Committee reflected on the question of high-quality care. Will the staff work with applicants in the future in an attempt to encourage them towards a higher pay rate, and try to encourage lower turn over?

- This committee might be able to work in that direction, but the truth is that we can only score the applications we receive right now.
- Pay and benefits are minimal other than free childcare for the employee which, the Committee agrees, is beneficial.

Regarding the applicant organization's capacity to complete the project, the Committee was split. A lot of childcare businesses prior to the pandemic would not have thought to include information about capability to administer funds. This will have to be scored on a case by case basis, with the recognition that it is a little subjective.

- **Valley Learning Center**

Discussion:

Employer partnership has different levels, and this application shows intentional conversations about dedication of childcare slots for first responders (the Eagle Fire and Police Departments). This MOU with the fire department does bring up some questions about how this partnership will play out. Are they contributing financial backing?

- No, this partnership is reflective of reserved spots and a commitment to advertise to department employees about the childcare slots.

Did the applicant do due diligence in accessing the needs in the community? Are they working to serve those identified needs?

- The applicant referenced wait lists, and, in the application, they refer to their discussions with both police and fire departments to show need.
- The Committee is aware that even though Star, Ada County is in the fourth quartile of Idaho's childcare desert, that does not mean they are not meeting a deeply felt need for childcare.

Staff recruitment and retention had a little bit of discussion.

- The Committee feels that the benefits this applicant is offering are exemplary. PTO is not standard in the childcare field. The Committee agrees this should be standard but since it is not, it qualifies this applicant for high scores.

- **Storybook Adventure**

Discussion:

Ms. Ames reviewed correspondence from this applicant which gave additional insight into this application.

This application had great documentation and the Committee agreed with the scoring almost across the board.

- **Mayra's Spanish Preschool & Daycare**

Discussion:

The Committee was split in their scoring for high quality care in Idaho, as well as employer partnerships.

- The Committee expressed acknowledgement of the realistic expectation that in-home providers, and their applications, will look different.
- Ms. Secrist reminded the Committee that \$4 million of this grant will be set aside for small providers and they will be compared to one another after the first round of scoring.

The Committee had great dialog about the quality of this application especially from an English-as-a-second-language applicant.

- This applicant is a Spanish language daycare provider, and that culturally sensitive care is a specific type of quality-of-care provider that the Committee acknowledges as highly valuable.
- The application states that they serve STARS children but makes no mention of whether they are seeking STARS accreditation.

The Committee notes that checking “NO” on any question at the outset of the proposal rubric doesn’t disqualify this application but will instead provide context for the remainder of the scores. The question about the project meeting the needs most sought in applicant’s community gives the Committee the opportunity to reflect needed cultural diversity even if the applicant doesn’t serve infants or meet other recognized needs.

This applicant has strong financial plans and reserves and is already in the process of rezoning with Planning and Zoning.

- The Committee acknowledges that this applicant’s rezoning application could be denied which would nullify this CCEG application.

Scheduled Committee Meeting Changes

Staff presented the conflicts for November and possibly December’s meetings.

The Committee feels that they are starting to develop a groove and would like to change future meeting length from 1.5 to 2 hours for the remainder of the year.

The solution presented for the holiday season schedule conflicts was to reschedule the meetings to the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month. The Committee was agreeable to this shift.

In October the Committee will meet 3 times instead of only 2 to try to get through as many of the first round of applications as possible before staff has the second round of applications scored. The Committee will meet October 7th, 14th and 21st.

Motion made by Ms. Bade to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.