

**LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON ACCESS TO
AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE**

STATE OF MINNESOTA
THIRD MEETING: OCTOBER 17, 2016

MINUTES

Senator Wiklund, Co-Chair of the Legislative Task Force on Access to Affordable Child Care, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. on Monday, October 17, 2016, at the Minnesota Senate Building, Room 1200, in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Legislative Assistant Nathan Coulter noted the roll.

Task Force Members present:

WIKLUND, Melissa, Co-Chair
FRANSON, Mary, Co-Chair
JOHNSON, Alice
ALBRIGHT, Tony

Task Force Members excused: Senator Carla Nelson, Senator David Senjem, Representative Peggy Flanagan, and Representative John Persell.

A quorum was not present.

Members briefly reviewed an updated task force work plan that shows meeting-by-meeting progress to meet statutory charges and tasks.

Marnie Werner, Research Director, Center for Rural Policy and Development, gave a presentation on “A quiet crisis: Minnesota’s child care shortage”.

Cisa Keller, Director of Early Childhood Quality Development, Think Small, testified about access to culturally appropriate child care.

Members of the Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators (MACSSA), Ramsey County Commissioner Toni Carter and Liz Dodge, Chisago County Social Services Director, testified about the option of counties providing exit interviews with providers who leave the child care field or choose not to be re-licensed. Reggie Wagner, Deputy Inspector General, Licensing Division, Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), added to the discussion, in addition to that of uniform training options for county licensors.

Deb Swenson-Klatt, Manager, Child Development Services, DHS, presented on career pathways and workforce development for child care providers. Mary Kelsey, Licensing Section Manager, DHS, answered questions from members.

Toni Carter and Liz Dodge testified again about two task force tasks: first, the creation of a board of child care to be responsible for all matters related to licensing of child care providers, both in-home and center-based; and second, to consider uniform training requirements for county employees and their supervisors who perform duties related to licensing.

The following testifiers discussed models for child care training delivery:

Dr. Karen Cadigan, Early Childhood Specialist, Bloomington-Richfield Public Schools;
Joan Bulfer, Health Promotion Specialist, Bloomington Public Schools;
Sandra Simar, Education Director, Families First; and
Wendy Walburg, Director of Child Care Aware, Pine Technical and Community College.

Senator Wiklund opened the meeting to public testimony.

Karlene Dunaisky, The Backyard Playschool;
Clare Sanford, Director of Government and Community Relations, New Horizon Academy;
Alli Zomer, Director of Operations, Especially for Children;
Jennifer Bestgen, Family Child Care, Inc., Olmsted County;

Lisa Thompson, Thompson Family Child Care;
Jennifer Parrish, Minnesota Association of Child Care Professionals; and
Amy O'Brien, Child Care Provider.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Senator Melissa Wklund, Co-Chair

Nathan Coulter, Legislative Assistant