

Early Childhood Policy and Budget Division
February 3, 2005
3:00 p.m. Room 123
Chair, Senator John C. Hottinger

Present:

Hottinger, Chair
Bob Kierlin
Gary Kubly
Sean Nienow
Linda Scheid
Dan Sparks
Betsy Wergin

Absent:

Sandy Pappas

Senator Hottinger called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

A quorum was present.

AGENDA ITEM #1: Basic Sliding Fee

- Commissioner Kevin Goodno, Department of Human Services and Chuck Johnson, Assistant Commissioner for Children and Family Services, Department of Human Services
 - Both Commissioner Goodno and Assistant Commissioner Johnson gave an overview of the governor's budget recommendations. Those recommendations include extending the freeze on maximum rates paid for childcare assistance through June 30, 2007. Those rates will then be restricted to a general inflation rate beginning July 1, 2007.
- Ann Sessoms, Director of Transition to Economic Stability and Cherie Kotilnek, Supervisor of Childcare Assistance Programs
 - Ms. Sessoms gave an overview of Minnesota's Childcare Assistance Program
 - Ms. Kotilnek gave an overview of the Childcare Assistance Family Program
- Ann Kaner-Roth, Executive Director of Childcare WORKS
 - Ms. Kaner-Roth gave an overview on issues of childcare. She talked about childcare as "school readiness" and as work support. Ms. Kaner-Roth urged the committee to oppose the governor's proposals.
- Tarryl Clark, Executive Director, Minnesota Community Action Association, and Joe Peterson, Executive Director of Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership
 - They gave an overview of childcare in Northwest Minnesota. They highlighted recent cuts and childcare center closings, while emphasizing the program "Right from the Start." Ms. Clark mentioned that childcare is a place where kids get their preschooling.
- Chad Dunkley, Minnesota Childcare Association and Executive Director of New Horizon Childcare Centers
 - Mr. Dunkley gave an overview of the Legislative Auditor's childcare reimbursement rates and Department of Human Services' Report on Cost of Children. He emphasized his opposition to cuts because families and centers are struggling to pay the bills.
- Jim Koppel, Director of Minnesota Children's Defense Fund, a non-profit children's advocacy group
 - Mr. Koppel said that health care and childcare are key to successful families. He

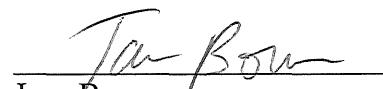
said that 6,300 MFIP families quit using childcare assistance programs, and we have no idea where those children are going. Mr. Koppel posed the question: Are we really saving money when families are losing their health insurance and their childcare assistance?

- Todd Otis, President of Ready 4 K.
 - Mr. Otis urged the committee to change the nomenclature from “childcare” to “early child care and education/learning.”
- Lois Engstrom, Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education (MNAFEE), a 501(c)3 organization
 - Her goal is to make quality family/early education available to all those in Minnesota. Ms. Engstrom emphasized that childcare is early education.

Senator Hottinger adjourned the meeting at 5:05

Respectfully submitted:


Senator John C. Hottinger
Division Chair


Jane Bowman
Division Secretary

01:56:50

Early Childhood Policy and Budget Division

Sen. John Hottinger, Chair

Thursday, February 3, 2005

3 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Room 123 State Capitol

Agenda

Governor's budget recommendation & program overview for Basic Sliding Fee

1. Department of Human Services
 - Kevin Goodno, Commissioner
 - Chuck Johnson, Assistant Commissioner for Children and Family Services
 - Ann Sessoms, Director of Transitions to Economic Stability Division
 - Cherie Kotilnek, Supervisor of the Child Care Assistant Program

Other testimony

1. Ann Kaner-Roth, Executive Director, Child Care WORKS
2. Tarryl Clark, Executive Director, Minnesota Community Action Association
Joe Henderson, Executive Director, Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership
3. Chad Dunkley, CEO, New Horizon Child Care
4. Jim Koppel, Director, Minnesota Children's Defense Fund
5. Todd Otis, Executive Director, 4 K Ready
6. Lois Engstrom, Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education (MNAFEE)

Senate Committee Meeting Log

Committee Name: ~~EARLY CHILDHOOD~~ EARLY CHILDHOOD POLICY & BUDGET

Date: February 3rd, 2005 Day: Thursday Start Time: 3:09 pm

Agenda Governor's Budget recommendation & program overview for Basic sliding fee

Bill # (or Topic)	ξ other testimony
Author	
Short Descriptor	(See Attached agenda for more info.)
Action(s)	Pen committee page
Bill # (or Topic)	
Author	
Short Descriptor	
Action(s)	
Bill # (or Topic)	
Author	
Short Descriptor	
Action(s)	
Bill # (or Topic)	
Author	
Short Descriptor	
Action(s)	

Bill # (or Topic)	
Author	
Short Descriptor	
Action(s)	
Bill # (or Topic)	
Author	
Short Descriptor	
Action(s)	
Bill # (or Topic)	
Author	
Short Descriptor	
Action(s)	
Bill # (or Topic)	
Author	
Short Descriptor	
Action(s)	

Adjournment Time: _____

Recorded by: _____ Date: _____

Received by: _____ Date: _____

Reformatted by: _____ Date: _____

Returned on (date): _____ Received by: _____

Early Childhood Policy and Budget Division

Sen. John Hottinger, Chair

Thursday, February 3, 2005

3 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Room 123 State Capitol

Agenda

Governor's budget recommendation & program overview for Basic Sliding Fee

1. Department of Human Services
 - Kevin Goodno, Commissioner
 - Chuck Johnson, Assistant Commissioner for Children and Family Services
 - Ann Sessoms, Director of Transitions to Economic Stability Division
 - Cherie Kotilnek, Supervisor of the Child Care Assistant Program

Other testimony

1. Ann Kaner-Roth, Executive Director, Child Care WORKS
2. Tarryl Clark, Executive Director, Minnesota Community Action Association
Joe Henderson, Executive Director, Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership
Peterson
3. Chad Dunkley, CEO, New Horizon Child Care
4. Jim Koppel, Director, Minnesota Children's Defense Fund
5. Todd Otis, Executive Director, 4 K Ready
6. Lois Engstrom, Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education (MNAFEE)