

PINELLAS COUNTY LICENSE BOARD FOR CHILDREN'S CENTERS
AND FAMILY DAY CARE HOMES
Minutes for the Public Hearing
February 4, 2009

APPROVED MINUTES

The Public Hearing of the Pinellas County License Board for Children's Centers and Family Day Care Homes was scheduled and properly noticed for Wednesday, February 4, 2009, at 4175 East Bay Drive, Suite 350, Clearwater, to begin at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Commissioner Bostock, Judi Vitucci, Acting Chairman; Donna Huard; Barbra Mastrota; Elise Minkoff, Donna Rippley

Board Members Absent: Lourdes Benedict

Ex Officio Member Present: Charles Minor

Advisory Members Present: Heidi Buck, Lynn Bittner, Terri Hajian,

Advisory Members Absent: Sharon Carder, Ann Hofmeister

County Attorney Present: Colleen Flynn

Staff Members Present: Carla Doenges, Executive Director; Kathy Krause, Supervisor Family Day Care Homes; Dana Stajkowski, Recording Secretary; and other Health Department staff

Call to order: The hearing was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Public Comment: No public comment was received during the meeting. Written public comment was distributed at the meeting and attached to these minutes.

Motion to Adjourn: A motion was made by Donna Rippley and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

Judi Vitucci, Secretary

Public Comment

Stajkowski, Dana M

From: ssnbuffalo@aim.com
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 11:53 AM
To: Stajkowski, Dana M
Subject: Public Hearing on Wed.,Feb 4th

Dear Dana,

Greetings from Gulfport! I would like to share my experience and voice my opinion on the subject of increasing minimum standards for family day care homes.

We began in Feb. last year to seek the advise and support to license our home for childcare. It was a long and arduous process. I have worked with young children in Pinellas County for the last 12 years and feel I have a strong understanding of the rules and regulations ,mods,and the health and safety for a group of children. Working diligently,it took eight months for my husband and I to finally be rewarded the license this October. (Incidentally, I suggest advising newcomers that there are many CPR and First Aid classes offered and to get through background checks first. We are due to expire next month since we took the courses last February.

I feel the minimum standards to become a licensed family day care home are high in Pinellas County and the process still did not prepare us for the real WORK of offering childcare from our home.

We all have our own standards and level of commitment. Becoming licensed is not a true guarantee that the highest quality and standards are going to be met. It is a challenge I personally meet every day- to create a safe,clean and stimulating environment for the children in my care. I strive to met minimum standards but to also excel at my own expectations and go above what is mandated.

If you are revisiting laws and regulations governing Family Home Day Care, I would much rather see higher standards and support for those of us who are already licensed and directly involved with children ie: more licensing specialist visits and evaluations. I personally do not see the benefit of creating more hurdles and bureaucracy for those beginning and already strict process.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to do this great work from my home and to voice my opinion on the rules governing it.

Sincerely,

Susan Cooley

#:52-51-04343

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