**Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Child Care**

**Minutes**

**Friday, July 12, 2013**

**Millberry Union – Golden Gate Room**

Parnassus Campus

Attending: Paul Green, Abbey Alkon, Deborah Avakian, Sandra Beck, Pat Burns, Randy Daron, Laura Trame Hagler, Karen Hamblett, Angela Hawkins, Suzie Kirrane, Deanna Kroetz, Diane Ngo, Sharon Priest, Jennifer Perlman Thomas,

**Welcome/Introductions**

Paul Green encouraged members to e-mail him with suggestions about expanding the committee’s scope. He has a few possibilities in mind but would welcome as many ideas as possible from everyone.

**Mission Bay Child Care/Block 18 Surcharging** (Sandra Beck, UCSF Capital Programs)

Attendees received a fact sheet on this topic.

Sandra Beck provided background information on development and surcharging at Mission Bay. UCSF has a policy to surcharge open-space areas on the Mission Bay Campus. Surcharging is an engineered process that causes soil settlement to occur within a concentrated period instead of occurring naturally over a period of many years. The Mission Bay redevelopment area is naturally settling at a gradual rate since the underlying clay material is gradually being dewatered and compressed. Natural settlement, without surcharging, can cause damage to utility lines, sidewalks, and roadways when they crack and separate. The engineered settlement process allows for up to 3 to 4 feet of settlement to occur within 10 to 12 months, which significantly reduces or eliminates the cracking and failure of the utilities and pavement. The surcharging process involves installing drainage wicks into the underlying clay soils and then placing 10 to 12 feet of soil on the wicks. This causes water that is trapped within the underlying clay to be squeezed out, which results in soil settlement.

During the Mission Bay child care center’s annual August closure, surcharging will begin on a lot adjacent to the center. Parents are worried the surcharge pile may contain toxic elements that will migrate to the child care center. Sandra explained that the pile consists of soil native to the campus (collected when digging the foundations for the campus) and clean fill that was brought in in 2008. Over the last several years, the soil has been tested for chemical compounds according to the Mission Bay RMP (Risk Management Plan). Capital Programs has shared the Mission Bay RMP (Risk Management Plan) with Mission Bay center parents.

The parents were invited to a June Town Hall meeting to discuss their concerns. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday evening (July 16). Documents related to the surcharge project are available at the Child Care Services website (<http://campuslifeservices.ucsf.edu/childcare/35/ucsf_mission_bay_child_care_center_block_18_surcharge_project>).

Sandra Beck stressed that the university is not operating in a vacuum. Checks and balances do exist; various local agencies, such as the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, have oversight. Sandra outlined the surcharging process for the lot near the child care center. First, during off hours, workers will prepare the land by spraying it with a dust suppressant and putting in storm drainage. Next, during the actual center closure week, the pile of soil will be moved to the lot and covered with a tarp; all uncovered sections must have vegetation. Afterwards, more storm drainage will be installed. Storm water monitoring will take place after every storm. An eight-foot fence will screen the project from the center.

Abbey Alkon suggested that Capital Programs monitor the center’s sandbox area on a regular basis. Sandra noted that she did recently hear about a construction project that will be across the street from and upwind of the center. Abbey recommended asking the environmental consultant what safety measures are needed. Sandra assured the committee that those managing the project across the street will do dust monitoring of their own as they will as they will also need to meet requirements stated in the Mission Bay RMP and UCSF can ask them to post the results.

Paul Green said Mission Bay center parents are worried, some more than others. One family even disenrolled from the facility because of the surcharging. He emphasized that the parents’ concerns must be taken seriously; we should do everything we can to allay their fears and ensure the safety and well-being of the children. A more proactive approach may be necessary. Paul proposed doing weekly dust monitoring and publicizing the results, thereby providing greater transparency. While he did acknowledge that there are budgetary constraints and Capital Programs has proceeded correctly and has been accommodating, he also noted that the parents have a different perspective. Furthermore, cost issues must be weighed against potential liability.

According to Angela Hawkins, the standards for the project are based not on criteria for adults but on “use-residential” criteria. Sandra Beck invited CACCC members to the July 16 Town Hall meeting; they are also welcome contact to her if they have additional questions. Pat Burns said Bright Horizons will have a dedicated person for handling surcharge project inquiries; more details will be available by the July 16 meeting.

**Student Survey Results and Student Scholarship Program Proposal Update** (Paul Green, Karen Hamblett, Suzie Kirrane)

Attendees received a draft of the proposal, which includes an overview of survey results.

Karen Hamblett presented an overview of the proposal and discussed some of the survey data. Last year, the Chancellor announced a four-year $100 million fundraising initiative designed to offset diminished state funding and support new scholarships and fellowships to assist students with their educational expenses. The Student Scholarship Program Proposal urges the Chancellor to consider child care expenses “along with other educational expenses when planning how the proceeds from this fundraising initiative will directly benefit individual students.”

The Student Survey was conducted during May 7-17, 2013. There were 89 respondents, 49 of whom have primary custody of one or more children. 40% of respondents reported that child care costs comprise 21%-40% of their monthly household gross income. 10% responded 50% or greater

Paul Green asked that those with suggestions for the proposal contact him, Karen or Suzie within the next week. Deanna Kroetz pointed out that the document is unclear as to whether the child care funding would be available to graduate students. Karen Hamblett said (and Paul Green confirmed) that the scholarship proposal is intended to help all UCSF students.

**Committee Scope and Parent Education**

Paul Green reiterated the CACCC’s desire to not only offer more parent education events but to cover topics beyond those that are primarily relevant to families with young children. Paul suggested the following topics: family stress reduction, parenting special needs children, infant CPR and being a single parent. Others added healthy eating, environmental exposures in children, the sandwich generation and healthcare management for seniors. Jennifer Perlman Thomas proposed forming a parent education subcommittee.

The CACCC debated how often the parent education events should take place. Some felt two major talks per year would be workable while others believed four per year would be optimal. Committee members also considered possibly videotaping talks to accommodate those unable to attend the events; we would, of course, need to obtain the speaker’s permission, a process that can be involved and/or expensive with outside speakers. Perhaps someone at UCSF would like to give a talk and would allow her/his presentation to be videotaped. Live podcasting is another option.

Suzie Kirrane noted that the parent education talks with the most returns are those paired with a major campus event such as the annual Wellness Expo. We can consider partnering with the Living Green events. Deanna Kroetz suggested integrating the talks with the Living Well series while Abbey Alkon proposed co-sponsoring an event with the Committee on Faculty Life, although publicity would focus solely on faculty. Abbey recommended that we find people who are already doing work in our preferred subject areas and have them tailor their presentation to our target audience.

Angela Hawkins reminded the group that, during the March CACCC meeting, we discussed expanding the committee’s scope – we need to revise the committee’s charge and also select a new name that reflects our broader scope. One suggestion was the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Family Services, which communicates a more global concept of the family. All attendees agreed to adopt this name. Randy Daron cautioned us to be on the lookout for overlap with CACSW’s mission as we redefine our mission statement.

Laura Trame Hagler announced that because access to child care is always an issue for postdocs, the Postdocs Union is exploring the possibility of creating a child care cooperatives with dedicated space on campus. Paul Green said liability is always an issue with university-affiliated co-ops but he would welcome more information from the Postdocs Union.

**Family Services Update** (Suzie Kirrane)

This month, we entered the third year of a three-year Back-Up Care Program contract with Bright Horizons. The program is at capacity. Sixty-nine enrollees from last year re-enrolled this year. Current enrollees consist of 100 faculty and 30 residents/clinical fellows. Suzie will work with Gary Forman and Angela Hawkins to try and secure future funding outside of Campus Life Services for the program; a resolution is needed by November.

Laura Eisenberg, the UCSF Camps Supervisor for the last seven years, is transitioning to a Campus Life Services Housing position; Laura will continue with Family Services until the end of this summer. In August, Suzie will reassess the needs of the camps program.

Family Services recently partnered with Arts & Events to offer a discounted screening of *Despicable Me 2* exclusively for UCSF Families. This July 11 event was sold out.

**This is the last meeting of the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Child Care. We will reconvene on September 27 as the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Family Services.**