**Committee on Family Services**

**Minutes**

**Friday, September 27, 2013**

**Millberry Union – Golden Gate Room**

Parnassus Campus

Attending: Paul Green, Abbey Alkon, Paul Axelrod, Janhavi Bonville, Pat Burns, Randy Daron, Gary Forman, Laura Trame Hagler, Karen Hamblett, Kishore Hari, Angela Hawkins, Suzie Kirrane, Marilyn Reed Lucia, Ari Molofsky, Diane Ngo, Sharon Priest, Carrie Steere-Salazar, Diane Wara

**Welcome**

Paul Green introduced new members Carrie Steere-Salazar (Director, Student Financial Aid) and Sharon Priest (Facility Space Analyst Planner, Campus Planning).

Our official name is now the UCSF Committee on Family Services. The Child Care Advisory Committee was originally set up to ensure adequate child care slots on campus. Since we are now at capacity for campus child care, we will switch our focus to a broader range of family services. Last month, Angela Hawkins, Suzie Kirrane and Paul met to discuss the Committee’s future. Paul Green will remain on the Committee but, following this meeting, he will step down as chair after holding the position for three years. Paul thanked Abbey Alkon for agreeing to be the new chair; Deanna Kroetz will be the co-chair.

**Bay Area Science Festival/Science & Health Education Partnership** (Kishore Hari, Science Festival Coordinator)

The Science & Health Education Partnership (SEP), located in the Woods Building, is a 25 year-old division within the Department of Biochemistry & Biophysics. SEP’s mission is to ensure quality science instruction in San Francisco and also the Bay Area at large. SEP supports science education in the San Francisco Unified School District through partnerships between SFUSD educators and UCSF volunteers; K-12 teachers are paired with the volunteers to co-plan and co-teach a series of science or health lessons in their classrooms. SEP’s other programs include the following.

High School Intern Program: SFUSD high school students spend the summer conducting biomedical research at UCSF under the guidance of a scientist mentor.

Daly Ralston Resource Center: the center, the most underutilized of SEP’s services, is a free lending library of hands-on science materials. This library is available to all UCSF faculty and staff and students.

One of SEP’s newer initiatives is the Bay Area Science Festival, which is in its third year. Over the course of ten days, the festival provides exciting science and technology activities at various Bay Area locations and culminates in an AT&T Park science extravaganza featuring interactive exhibits, experiments, games and shows. The 2013 festival runs from October 24 to November 2. Kishore is hoping for more usage from the UCSF community; this year, UCSF families and other festival partners will be granted early entry (10:30am) to the Nov. 2 AT&T Park event for which the regular hours are 11am-4pm.

Kishore would like to augment and enhance the Committee on Family Services’ initiatives through SEP’s library, festival and suite of other services. Paul Green suggested raising SEP’s profile by staging mini science festivals/having interactive science displays on campus for UCSF families. Paul noted that SEP does not serve independent schools; perhaps SEP can offer fee-based services to those schools and use the proceeds to support its SFUSD programs. Kishore said this idea is under consideration. Laura Trame Hagler offered to spread the word about the lending library to postdoc parents.

According to Kishore, SEP has a relationship with the California Academy of Sciences on multiple levels and is associated with the Exploratorium, many afterschool programs and a number of other Bay Area organizations. He provided the Committee with handouts on SEP and the Science Festival.

**13/14 Committee Planning** (Paul Green, Suzie Kirrane)

Paul Green explained that during his August planning meeting with Angela Hawkins and Suzie Kirrane, they decided that, starting in January 2014, Committee appointments will run for two years instead of being open-ended; members are, of course, more than welcome to serve beyond two years. Time-limited appointments will provide opportunities for all Family Services stakeholders, such as campus child care center parents, to participate in the Committee and bring fresh ideas and perspectives.

Suzie Kirrane said there is already a procedure in place for recruiting center parents. Paul would like to get one to two more people from the Mission Bay campus and from SFGH (there is one SFGH member now). He also recommended holding one meeting per year at the Mission Bay campus for the convenience of some of our members.

When Paul Axelrod asked if there is a mission statement to guide our new Committee, Paul Green stressed that we definitely need to look into this matter. He would appreciate input from everyone as to what our group should provide. Suzie has compiled a list of proposed parent education topics. Copies of the list were available at the meeting but Suzie will also e-mail the document to all Committee members. Paul asked that we review the list and come up with specific plans.

**Mission Bay Child Care/Block 18 Surcharging Update** (Suzie Kirrane)

The transfer of the surcharge pile to Block 18 was successfully completed during the annual Mission Bay child care center closure in late August. Family Services extended the closure for an additional two days to honor the parents’ request that the work be done only when the children were not on the premises. Mission Bay center families needing care on the two days were relocated to the Kirkham center.

Prior to the start of the project, all outdoor toys were removed from the center’s yard, cleaned and stored indoors. After the surcharge pile was deposited on Block 18 and covered, the sand in the sandbox was replaced. Suzie reported that, so far, she has not received any complaints from families and neither has Bright Horizons. The project’s next phase - removing the surcharge pile - will occur during the center’s 2014 full-week closure in August 2014. Project-related documents, such as air sampling reports and the Risk Management Plan, are available at <http://campuslifeservices.ucsf.edu/childcare/35/ucsf_mission_bay_child_care_center_block_18_surcharge_project>. Diane Wara asked that the webpage include the minutes from Committee meetings during which the project was discussed.

Diane Ngo mentioned that some of her colleagues had transferred their children to the Laurel Heights center because of surcharging concerns. Suzie confirmed that four families did leave the Mission Bay child care center between the time the project was announced and when it started; furthermore, a few prospective families declined spots upon hearing about the surcharging.

Construction of a new Kaiser building across the street from the center is slated to begin in February 2014. This project will adhere to the same Risk Management Plan, with the same checks and balances. Suzie is working to ensure communication among all parties proceeds smoothly.

**Student Scholarship Proposal Update** (Paul Green)

One of the committee’s ongoing interests is helping UCSF families with child care costs. Eric Koenig initiated the student scholarship proposal. The final draft will be submitted to the Chancellor next month.

**Back-Up Care Update** (Suzie Kirrane)

Suzie reported that, in August, UC Berkeley expanded its back-up care program and became the first public university to offer back-up care to students, both graduate students and undergrads. UCB figures that it can serve up to 1,500 of its 30,000 students who, as parents, are eligible for services. Money from the Student Services Fee and the Chancellor’s Fund, in addition to a sizable grant, enabled UCB to expand back-up care to students. UC Berkeley’s original program designed to serve faculty and lecturers SOE served as a model - albeit with some modifications - for UCSF’s back-up care program.

Suzie remarked that she’d be interested in seeing UCB’s utilization numbers after six months. This past spring, she proposed to the UCSF Student Services Fee (SSF) Committee to redirect its funding from the student child care center scholarships to Select Plus Sittercity memberships so its contribution would benefit more students. The SSF Committee declined the request for this year because of a lack of supporting data; the child care survey from this past spring indicated that 49 respondents who have full-time custody of at least one child would use Sittercity. Suzie hopes UCB’s data will serve as leverage when she meets with the SSF Committee next year about funding Sittercity or similar services.

UCSF’s Back-Up Care Advantage Program (BUCA) is in its third year. If BUCA is to continue, we must secure $40K to address a funding gap for 14/15. The Chancellor has contributed to BUCA but the amount was designed to diminish each year, going from 60K to 40K, with an ongoing commitment of 20K. We need to ensure adequate funding for this valuable program. Suzie has heard from parents who rely on BUCA including one who told her, “This program saved my life!”

Diane Wara advised giving the Chancellor BUCA usage data for various groups. She feels we might be able to persuade the Medical Center to contribute funds. Providing the Medical Center with utilization figures among junior faculty in the clinical series would bolster our argument that BUCA is a much-needed service. Diane emphasized, however, that in order to gain the Med Center’s support, we would need to make BUCA available to Med Center staff such as the nurses. At this time, only GME residents and clinical fellows and certain categories of faculty are eligible for the program.

Janhavi Bonville asked why the Chancellor’s funding is in diminishing amounts. Angela Hawkins explained that, at the time we received the funding, “we were optimistic about getting a grant but it didn’t go through.” She said the School of Medicine was presented with utilization numbers but declined to support BUCA.

Marilyn Reed Lucia said perhaps we can ask for donations from those who have used UCSF child care services in the past. Suzie explained that as children grow, their parents’ fundraising commitments move from kindergarten to middle school and so on. Paul Green questioned how amenable parents would be to helping a program they used years ago, given their other commitments. Diane Wara noted, however, that if families had an incredible experience with a child care program, they might be receptive to fundraising requests even if the experience took place many years ago. She also pointed out that because fundraising for Mission Bay has been ramping down, other programs might now have more opportunities to raise money.

Paul Green encouraged us to revisit selling naming rights to the child care centers as a means of funding BUCA and child care scholarships; this topic is on the agenda for the coming year. Karen Hamblett suggested working through University Development & Alumni Relations (UDAR) instead of approaching parents directly but Paul Green reminded the Committee that UDAR’s Gary Bernard had told us we must raise at least 50K before we can even start thinking about establishing a child care endowment. Perhaps we should invite Gary to speak with us again.

Diane Wara suggested asking Gary Bernard to identify donors who might want to support child care services. During the course of her Postdoc Union research into child care funding, Laura Trame Hagler learned the Haas family is especially dedicated to child care. Paul Axelrod said the UC Office of the President (UCOP) might have a broader perspective in terms of family/child care needs and could be another resource for BUCA.

**Parent Education**

Family Services and Living Well are presenting a family-focused nutrition talk on **National Food Day: Real Food Challenge and Cooking Demo. The talk takes place at the Mission Bay campus on October 24. More details will be available in the next Family Services e-newsletter.**

***The November Committee on Family Services meeting will be rescheduled.***