



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**Child Care Advisory Council  
Minutes  
November 13, 2015**

**Council Members Present**

Whitney Herring, MD  
Tumutual Norton  
Deloris Suel  
Cora Rogers  
JoAnn Kelly  
Shea South

**MSDH Staff Present**

Vickey Berryman  
Ellen O'Neal, SAAG  
Teselyn Funches, SAAG  
Mary Armstrong, MD  
Gay Logan  
Chiquita Nichols  
Festus Simkins  
Sharon Vance  
Jemeria Davis  
Tonya Broger

**Public Present**

Colleen Smith  
Norma Mack  
Jerome Kolbo  
Olivia Ismail  
Nichole Werle  
Eulonda Garry

**Welcome/Opening Statements**

Vickey Berryman called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. A quorum was established.

**Approval of Minutes**

Shea South requested a motion to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2015, meeting. Ms. JoAnn Kelly made the motion. Ms. Cora Rogers seconded the motion. The Council unanimously voted approval.

**New Business**

- Ms. Vickey Berryman made introductions of the new Child Care Advisory Council Members. New Child Care Advisory Council Members were given time to formally introduce themselves. Visitors in attendance were given the opportunity to introduce themselves. Ms. Berryman made all aware that the council meets four (4) times a year.
- Ms. Shea South opened the floor for nominations for a vice-chairperson and secretary. Nominations were suggested and put to a vote. Ms. Cora Rogers was elected as vice-chairperson; Dr. Whitney Herring was elected as secretary.

**Old Business**

Ms. Suel had a concern that her statement regarding the Montessori beds was not in the last minutes. Ms. Berryman gave some clarification. Dr. Herring stated babies should be sleeping on a firm mattress.

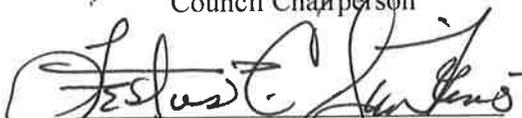
**Public Comments**

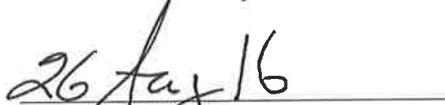
- A guest speaker addressed the council – Dr. Jerome Kolbo from the University of Southern Mississippi regarding a study on obesity in preschool children. Dr. Kolbo is interested in collecting data on 3, 4, & 5-year-old children in daycare settings. The funding source is the Center of MS Health Policy. A packet of information was given to all in attendance with supporting data on obesity studies in Mississippi. Dr. Kolbo felt if given the approval from the Child Care Advisory Council the data from the study could influence policies within the state.
- Key points were highlighted in a PowerPoint presentation. Dr. Jerome explained the process of how the data would be collected and opened the floor up for further discussion.

**Other Business**

- Ms. Ellen O’Neal discussed that the Council’s primary role was to assist in developing regulations.
  - An example was given of an unlicensed facility that the licensing official has tried to work with the provider on several occasions. A complaint has been filed to close the center.
  - Another example was given of a facility having trouble being in compliance. Currently, they are operating two centers and they want to open a third.
  - Mr. Festus Simkins gave clarification on the response time once a complaint has been received in the office. The licensing official’s response time is 3-10 days depending on the seriousness of the complaint. Dr. Mary Armstrong is the hearing officer. There are two levels of hearings – District and State. Mr. Simkins explained the process for both hearings.
1. The next Child Care Advisory council meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2016, at 1:00 p.m.
  2. The meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

  
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Council Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MSDH Representative

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date