August 19, 2025, Committee on Childcare in Minot

Committee on Childcare in Minot – August 19, 2025, AT 1:00 P.M.

Members Present:

Heather Cymbaluk, Lisa Olson, Stacey Boyko, Scott Burlingame, Rianne Kuhn, Becca Oswill, Kelli Rosselli-Sullivan,

Members Absent:

Amy Jenkins, CJ Becker, Scott Samuelson, Terry Schumalz

Also Present:

Doug Diedrichsen, Mikayla McWilliams, Tom Joyce

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Lisa Olson at 1:00 pm. The committee started the meeting with introductions.

At 1:02 pm, committee member Amy Jenkins joined the meeting. At 1:04 pm, committee member Terry Schumalz joined the meeting.

GNDC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

A GNDC Legislative update was provided. Ward County was not included in some of the childcare grants, which totaled about $3 million. There is still an Employer Match Program available, but there is a low participation rate. The handout is attached with the minutes.

UPDATE ON PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION AUDIT - CITY ASSESSOR, RYAN KAMROWSKI

Ryan Kamrowski, City Assessor, provided the committee with an update on the Property Tax Exemption Audit. There were 11 properties identified, with no exemption changes. The resolution did not pass at the City Council.

UPDATE FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REGARDING CHILDCARE

Alderman Blessum provided the committee with an update from the Economic Development Committee regarding childcare. There is an understanding of the childcare challenge, but unsure if there is a role for government. One of the main challenges is workforce, which is economy wide. Alderman Pitner stated he would like to see ideas come to City Council, such as if there is a grant funded incentive for daycare. He stressed how important it is to have a discussion at a council level on the ideas of the committee.

Amy Jenkins spoke about how preschools are starting to get funding, how finding space is also a major issue, and how there is a space for government. Heather Cymbaluk asked the council members questions about the budget process and budget amendments. Becca Oswill mentioned how some buildings also have plumbing issues due to bathroom requirements for daycares. Scott Burlingame would like to see the process easier for providers and would like to see if City of Minot Ordinances are an issue for entry. Stacey Boyko discussed how residential homes are not an option for childcare unless the provider lives in the home. Doug Diedrichsen mentioned how issues with that are traffic, parking, and available affordable housing. He will create a draft text amendment to bring to the committee in January or February.

UPDATE ON CHILDCARE AVAILABILITY

There are many parents who are paying for a spot prior to the birth of their child. It is considered a holding fee, which can range from a partial to full rate payment. Waiting lists are always changing, but there are always infant waitlists.

Stacey Boyko discussed the idea of having a database for substitute childcare provider helpers. It would allow providers to share the workforce and allow for more reliable daycare. Early Childhood Development students at MSU might be a good option or Minot Public School substitute teachers. Alderwoman Olson will reach out to MSU for a potential meeting on this idea.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NEXT STEPS

The next meeting will be in October or November.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:33 pm.

Greater North Dakota Chamber

Investing in Childcare to Strengthen North Dakota's Workforce

The Greater North Dakota Chamber (GNDC) worked with legislators to support effective childcare solutions that address workforce needs and make our state more attractive for families and businesses.

SB 2282 establishes a 50% income tax credit for North Dakota businesses that provide childcare contributions to their employees. The credit is capped at $500 per employee per year.

HB 1012, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) appropriations bill, builds on prior work with $23.2 million for childcare. Here are some of the components that were funded.

- Infant & Toddler Childcare Credit – $11M
  Supports providers caring for children aged 0–3, where staffing needs are greater.
  - Up to $200/month for each child aged 0–17 months
  - Up to $115/month for each child aged 18–36 months

- Waterford Program – $1.5M
  Early learning tool for preschoolers focused on reading, math, and science.

- Best in Class – $4M
  Pre-K program for children aged four and up. Funding was reduced this session to prioritize younger age groups.

- Employer Match Program – $2.2M
  Supports businesses helping employees access childcare.

- Childcare Grants – $3M
  For facility upgrades, quality improvements, inclusion efforts, and other needs.

- Quality Rated Bonus – $1.5M
  Additional funding for providers that have increased quality-rated programs.

HB 1119 outlines a study of childcare provider licensing and evaluation of childcare programs, which will be done over the interim. Additionally, it establishes a childcare services advisory committee. In coordination with the committee, DHHS will facilitate a series of regional meetings and topical focus groups with childcare providers from around the state to discuss childcare licensing challenges and review proposed revisions to the administrative rules.