

January 6, 2026, Committee on Childcare in Minot

Committee on Childcare in Minot – January 6, 2026, AT 2:00 P.M.

Members Present:

Stacey Boyko, Scott Burlingame, Heather Cymbaluk, Amy Jenkins, Lisa Olson, Becca Oswill, Keli Rosselli-Sullivan, Scott Samuelson

Members Absent:

CJ Becker, Rianne Kuhn, Terry Schumalz

Also Present:

Doug Diedrichsen, Mikayla McWilliams, Tom Joyce

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Lisa Olson at 2:00 pm.

REVIEW COMMUNITY SURVEY FOR CHILDCARE RESULTS

First Children's Finance was the group who provided the survey. They did a survey for the Minot Community and a survey for the employees of Trinity Health.

At 2:01 pm, Heather Cymbaluk joined the meeting.

The survey results included:

- Provided community insights and basic community and survey information.
- Highlighted survey quotes related to childcare shortages in Minot Area. Keli brought up the state employer/employee program cost match.
- Showed the results of the types of providers in the area and their availability. Stacey Boyko was thinking about inquiring if Minot/Ward County was now designated a childcare desert.
- Discussed the alternative options parents have done to make up for the lack of availability in the area. First Children's Finance used an 85% capacity at a full-time licensed facility with 10 hours of availability on a base for the availability chart.
- Provided results of the idea of quality childcare with the Bright and Early Program results.

At 2:22 pm, Amy Jenkins joined the meeting.

Stacey believes the results show nontraditional daycare hours are necessary. She stressed the idea of recruiting and retaining quality employees. Keli provided a childcare profile for the state of North Dakota. Amy feels the information should be provided to the state for funding purposes. It might assist the state in including Ward County in the grant programs. It shows that Ward County does have a need for support for childcare programs.

Tom Joyce mentioned sharing with local and state legislatures. The data is helpful and supports the knowledge of the need for childcare. He discussed how the problem starts with staffing, because the more staff you can recruit/retain the more childcare spots are available to the residents.

UPDATE ON CHILDCARE AVAILABILITY – UPDATE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Becca felt this time of year there is a shorter waitlist needed due to the holiday season just passing. Infants are consistently on the waitlist. Stacey agreed with Becca on that assessment.

Chairwoman Olson asked the committee what they felt they could focus on moving forward. Please consider emailing Chairwoman Olson if you have ideas for next steps for discussion at the next quarterly meeting. This might be a discussion item on next quarter's agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ryan Kamrowski provided a year end update on the properties, which will remain exempt for the next year. He also talked about a DoW grant program available.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:43 pm.