Clark County Family Childcare Association Newsletter

Printed October 2011

Meeting Times

Association meetings are held on the First Tuesday of each month
Social time is 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.
STARS classes begin at 8 p.m.
Meetings are held at Pied Piper Pizza
12300 N.E. Fourth Plain Blvd. Vancouver 98682

Upcoming Events

October 8th	Fall Tour of Homes
October 14th	BiZi Farm Field Trip
October 18th	Board Meeting/Piel
October 31st	Halloween Field Trip
November 1st	CCFCCA Meeting w/STARS training "Non-Expiring License-questions answered" with DEL Supervisor, Darcy Taylor

Letter from the President

Dear Provider Friends,

The trees are losing their leaves, the mornings are dark, damp and foggy, and so it seems that fall is truly here. The lovely autumn season brings scrumptious flavors and scents, and fun celebrations. Truly, the thought of fall gets me in the mood for some delightfully spiced apple cider stirred with cinnamon sticks, a little pumpkin pie, or some ginger snap cookies.

With the summer months now behind us, Mother Nature takes her turn changing our outdoor décor. I'm looking to carve out a little chunk of time to change some of our playroom decorations and add some hands-on activities to bring nature and some seasonal color indoors for the kids. I have latched onto a homeschool creative idea called "sensory tubs" that will bring a little of the autumn ambiance indoors.

I have made a couple of these sensory tubs to enhance our preschool themes and they have been such a hit. So far, I have only made an alphabet tub and an ocean-themed tub. They are so fun and inexpensive to make because most of the items can be picked up at a dollar store or a thrift store.

Along with supplying your day care children with a tub of beans, rice, or pasta to manipulate and pour, you can take it a step further to foster literacy, language, and imagination. You work around a theme to add a base material, toys, natural objects, small containers, craft supplies, and scoops or tongs.

Here are a few links that have inspired me.
http://pre-schoolplay.blogspot.com/2011/09/autumn-sensory-play.html

https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.113252922063589.26479.113247502064131

http://ourworldwideclassroom.blogspot.com/search/label/Sensory%20Tubs%20Idea%20List

Of course adult supervision is required and small parts are a choking hazard, especially for children under three years old. On that note, here is an important link you should all read, although I hope you never need to use it. It is an informative yet comical tutorial on how to remove a bead from a child's nose.
http://mostdaysiwin.blogspot.com/2011/06/nose-bead-removal-tutorial.html All in all, I guess I'm just happy because autumn means that the pumpkin latte is back at Starbucks. Wendy Patterson

5 Little Pumpkins sitting on the gate
The first one says, Oh my it's getting late
The second one says, there are witches in the air.
The third one says, I don't care
The fourth one says, let's run and run and run
The fifth one says, it's all Halloween fun
OOOOOOOO went the wind
And out went the lights
And five little pumpkins rolled out of sight.

October Meeting Report

It was raining on the outside, but warm and cozy on the inside as we met at Pied Piper Restaurant for our monthly member meeting. The room was beautifully decorated in fall décor with some tasty candy at every table. Our business meeting was full of good information. We welcomed new member Beth Brothers-Melhorn, who was recently licensed. President Wendy Patterson announced that after getting many requests to join our association, we have extended our membership to include center providers. October is membership renewal month. One year membership with CCFCCA is still an affordable $45 per year for providers and $35 for associate members. CCFCCA continues to offer a variety of benefits for being a member.

Our members have a wonderful Professional Lending Library with a great variety of materials to check out. We are building our own Discovery kits with Kasey Tanner volunteering to oversee this project. We have a new CCFCCA website with each member having her own page to help market her daycare. We continue to offer wonderful social events several times a year.

President Wendy reminded members about our October 8th Tour of Homes at the *Evergreen Early Learning Center*. The center director, Gaelynn Mills, will be offering an exceptional Training on: "How Changes in Family Structure Affect Children."

October 14th will be a field trip to Bi-Zi Farms. Providers and their daycare children are invited to join us either 10:00 or 10:45 a.m.

On October 31st there will be a Trick-or-Treat field trip at Orchards Village.

Due to our shortened business meeting many of the reports were referred to articles that appear in this newsletter. Check out the articles and pictures of our End-of-Summer Picnic, our Second Mamas team in the Race for the Cure, and some very important news from our union, SEIU 925.

CCFCCA will continue with our Scrip fundraiser. You can contact Terri Lehman with your gift card orders. Members were reminded by Nancy that these gift cards make wonderful gifts with the holidays coming up and it helps us raise money for our treasury. Our Coat Drive will continue until our November 1st member meeting when Vicky from Open House Ministries will be presented with all of our donated coats, sweaters, hats, and gloves. This is a great community service and an opportunity to let our daycare children and families feel the spirit of giving by helping to keep others warm during this winter season.

Members always look forward to our 50/50 raffle and other raffle drawings. Wendy won the 50/50 raffle and took home $26.50. Other raffle winners were Terri Bruhn, Judy Peters, Melba Halgren, Nancy Dickinson and Wendy Patterson. Bi Zi Farms

donated 3 beautiful, big pumpkins that were used as part of the meeting room decorations and then raffled off. The pumpkin winners were: Melba Halgren, Lari Piel, and Carol Chandler. We had no October birthdays to celebrate this month.

Our STARS trainers were Teresa Ryan and Mary Lavasseur who taught a very informative class on "Embedding Language & Speech into the Curriculum." Everyone who stayed for the training got a great CD full of teaching aids to help in their curriculums.

October will be a busy month but don't forget to take time out to focus on your own needs at least once a day.

Tour of Homes

When: Saturday, October 8th from 9:30AM to 12:30PM
Where: Evergreen Early Childhood Center 14405 NE 28th Street Vancouver, WA 98682
Click on this link for a map.

http://maps.google.com/maps?f=d&hl=en&geocode=&saddr=&daddr=14405%20NE%2028th%20St.%20%2098682

Title of the STARS training: "How Changes in Family Structure Affect Children"

Trainer: Gaelynn Mills. Gaelynn is the coordinator of the Early Childhood Program at Evergreen Public Schools and the Director of the Childcare Center.

After we tour the center we will have our STARS training followed by a lunch of: soups, salads, bread and desserts. During lunch guests can ask questions and share what they have learned. You won't want to miss this very special Tour of Homes.
To register, call Wendy Patterson
At (360) 904-3184 or wpatter320@hotmail.com
The tour and training are worth 3 STARS hours.

BiZi Farm Field Trip

Reservations have been made for a large group field trip to BiZi Farm Pumpkin Patch. The BiZi Farm Field Trip date has been set for Friday, October 14th, at 10:30am.

There is no school in the Evergreen School District on that day. Cost per child is $4.00. Providers wanting to go along on this field trip should call Wendy@ 904-3184

Anyone wanting to reserve your own time for the BiZi farm field trip should do it ASAP because the time slots are very quickly filling up. The BiZi phone # is 574-9119.

Trick or Treat……..

The name of the place has changed but the yearly Halloween field trip is still the same. On Monday, October 31st (Halloween Day) providers are invited to bring their preschool chilren to the "Merrill Gardens at Orchards Village." (same place but new name)

As in past years, we will gather at 9:30am to "Trick or treat" the senior citizens that live in this beautiful hotel-like living center. This is a special opportunity for the children to trick or treat without being in the dark or cold or wet. It is also a special treat to the seniors that enjoy seeing the children in costume and handing out the treats.
To add to the fun, Providers and their assistants are encouraged to join in the fun and also dress up.

If you would like to join us this year, please RSVP Judy @ 692-5245 with the approximate number that will be in your group.

Merrill Gardens at Orchards Village is at 10011 NE 118th Ave. Vancouver, WA 98682-2784

The Wizard of Oz

Provider and Welcome Committee member, Carol Chandler was thrilled when her daycare children told her that they wanted to do a performance of The Wizard of Oz. Carol is very proud of how the children worked together to build a script and assigned parts. She said, "I can hardly believe that they did it all by themselves, they did such a great job." The children used daycare dress-up cloths to make their costumes.

For lack of enough children old enough to act, two parents were asked to pitch in by playing the parts of the good witch and the wizard. Carol said that the show was phenomenal! The children did a fantastic job from concept to delivery of their play. Carol and the parents were extremely impressed with the children for the imagination, hard work and dedication to their Wizard performance.

Membership Renewal

Wow, I love all of the opportunities our organization has. We are able to get together to learn, socialize, and give back to our community. Recently, we had a chance to enjoy a great meal and visit with each other at our Annual End of Summer Picnic. Many of us helped raise awareness and funds by walking in the 20th Annual Komen Race for the Cure. Besides our regular monthly meetings we are proud to be hosting our October Tour of Homes at Evergreen Early Childhood Center, organizing field trips to Bi-Zi Farms Pumpkin Patch and Trick or Treating at Orchards Village Senior Living Center.

The 2011/2012 Clark County Family Child Care Association fiscal year begins this month. We believe that our members, as small business owners, work hard for their income and appreciate that you have chosen to align yourselves with our Association. Isn't it wonderful to know that all of the annual dues stay right here in Clark County for your needs? We don't have to have tiered status membership or send more than half of your dues to a parent State Association.

Being an independent Association allows us to offer social/networking events in addition to monthly meetings with free STARS classes, website listings, mentoring, and the best monthly day care newsletter. Our events are extremely beneficial for our members who work long hours & often feel isolated in their homes, to join together with peers to laugh, empathize, and feel connected. Choosing to be a CCFCCA member links you to a professional organization and helps the community know that you are not a so-called babysitter. You are a business owner, childcare provider, and early childhood educator.

I am thrilled that those who hold decision-making positions with CCFCCA are not limited to just a few ladies. There are almost a dozen committee and board members who work as a team for our organization. There are also many members with initiative who support our group by taking on essential and beneficial projects. These dedicated volunteers contribute to the constantly expanding list of programs and activities that our association offers to our members.

The board and committees of CCFCCA have many more visions and dreams in store for you. Grow with us by renewing your membership for the 2011/2012 year. By Wendy Patterson

Clark County Family Child Care Association

Our New Website

We have made a lot of changes on our web site in order that our members can more easily access business information and resources. This new site will be faster and easier to open and read our monthly newsletter. It will make it easier for our members to be found by parents looking for care.

On this new site, each CCFCCA member will have her own page. You can do it yourself or pay our web designer $25.00 to help you design your page as you like and personalize it to reflect your daycare business.

Our word search feature will make it simple for parents to find you when searching for: infant care, a particular elementary school or neighborhood or specialty care such as: overnight care, weekend care or early or late hour care.

We also have a "Members Only" page that can be accessed by a password only available to our members. This page will offer even more resources to use in your daycare business.

For now, each current member is listed on the new site with the basic information that was on the old CCFCCA site in the "Membership Directory." Once your new page is built and loaded onto our site, you will be able to access it to update your information at any time.

We welcome your comments and suggestions on our new web site.

Disclaimer:

Any views or opinions presented in articles are solely those of the author of that article and do not necessarily represent those of CCFCCA

End of Summer Picnic

Those of us that were able to attend the "End of Summer Picnic" missed those of you that were not able to join us.

Everyone pitched in to set up the covered picnic area making it ready in no time at all. (Art and Cindy Perez)

Despite the threat of rain, it turned out to be a warm and dry evening. The wide varieties of pot luck foods were all delicious. Our barbeque chef this year was Lari's husband, Scott Piel

The younger picnic goers took advantage of the playground equipment and sidewalks surrounding the picnic area to play while the grownups visited.

(Brandon VanBuskirk)

Kasey and Chris Tanner brought boxes of select toys and books that we left over from the fundraiser yard sale, making them available to anyone that wanted to take them.

Providers had a chance to relax and visit with friends and get acquainted or re-acquainted with the families of other providers. (Tina & Brandon VanBuskirk)

Nancy and Julie Lycklama

Melba & Laura Halgren with friend PJ Crum

Terri Lehman w/Mom

Helene & Gordon Padget

Emily Piel with friends Emily and Anna

"Healthy Cleaning Alternatives"

By Cindy Perez

The average American uses about 40 pounds of toxic household cleaning products each year. These cleaning products contain dangerous ingredients, including neurotoxins, carcinogens, allergens, central nervous system depressants, heavy metals, and other agents that cause or contribute to cancer, respiratory problems, reproductive abnormalities, allergic reactions, and behavioral problems, among other issues.

Ingredients from household cleaning products make their way into the environment through various routes: they are flushed down toilets, poured down sinks, sprayed into the air, thrown into the trash, and dumped onto the ground. In fact, many hazardous cleaning products are land filled or incinerated, upon which they release their toxins into the environment and contribute to depletion of the ozone layer, pollute groundwater, contaminate the soil, and harm plant and animal life.

However, we all can do our part to help by making our own. Although the WAC has certain requirements for disinfecting and I can't see any way around using bleach, there are opportunities when using an alternative is appropriate.

- **Baking soda; neutralizes acid, softens fabrics, as well as deodorizes, cleans and polishes metals and plastics.**
- **Borax; deodorizes, prevents mold and mildew, and removes stains.**
- **Cornstarch; cleans windows and carpets, and polishes furniture.**
- **Lemon juice; deodorizes, cleans glass, and removes stains.**
- **Mineral oil; polishes furniture.**
- **Vinegar; removes mildew, grease, wax deodorizes, disinfects, and cleans windows, brick, and stone.**
- **Washing soda; removes grease, and cleans laundry.**

Here's my recipe for an all-purpose cleaner:

Mix 2 tbsp. of vinegar with 1 tsp. borax. Fill the rest of the bottle with very hot water. Shake until the borax is dissolved. Add 1/4 cup of Castile liquid soap.

I also make my own laundry soap using:

1/2 cup Washing Soda, 1/2 cup Borax, 1/3 bar Soap (grated) In a large pot, heat 6 cups of water. Add the grated bar soap and stir until melted. Then add the washing soda and borax. Stir until powder is dissolved, then remove from heat. In a 2 gallon clean pail, mix the heated soap mixture with gallon and a half cold water and stir well. Let sit for 24 hours, it will gel but it's a bit soupy). **Use 1/2 cup per load. (Note: This is low suds soap)**

Not only is this easy on the environment it's also easy on the pocketbook. The laundry soap comes out to cost roughly 1 cent per load!

Instructions on how to make other natural cleaning products can be found online.

Just type in:

"How to make your own natural cleaning products."

Coat Drive

We only have one more month to collect winter wear for those in need. It would be very nice if we could bring a lot more unused coats out of the closets and make them available to people that need them.

We are collecting all sizes of: coats, sweat shirts, gloves, scarves, warm hats and new socks. All items need to be clean and in good repair. We will turn everything over to an Open House Ministries representative at our November meeting. They will see to it that our donations will be distributed to members of our community that are in need.

Please call any board or committee member (listed in this newsletter) for a pickup if you have collected items and cannot make it to the November meeting to deliver them.

It feels good to share.

Judy

Happy Birthday to You….

October Birthdays:

If I missed your birthday, please let me know. Judy

November Birthdays:

Cindy Perez	**11/2**
Cindy Cooper	**11/6**
Krista Newton	**11/15**
Kesha Fisher	**11/25**
Sheri Wiley	**11/29**

Five Ways to Bite Back at Bed Bugs

Bed bugs? **We didn't even know they were real! It turns out that they are and they're back with a vengeance. The nasty critters are small, brown, flattened insects measuring 1/5 of an inch long, and they are visible to the naked eye. They seldom come out when the lights are on. True to their name, they live in or near beds. And true to the bedtime rhyme, they bite. Bed bugs are mini-vampires--they live on human blood. When the lights are off, they scuttle out to find their prey.**

Most people assume that bed bugs will only crop up in places of filth, but unfortunately that is not the case. Since the main thing they need to live is blood, they can survive just fine in clean areas as long as there are human hosts to provide their meals. However, keeping your environment clean and free of clutter can help avoid bed bugs, as there will be fewer areas for them to hide.

Bed bugs have generally been under control in the U.S. since World War II, thanks to heavy-duty pesticides used to eliminate them. But in many other countries throughout Asia, Africa, South America, and Europe, bed bugs are still prevalent. Most bed bug outbreaks can be traced to hotspots of international travel like New York, Los Angeles, and Atlanta. Once these bed bug epidemics were put down with pesticides containing DDT – but now these potentially dangerous chemicals are no longer approved for use. The bed bugs have come back in greater and greater numbers, culminating in several recent outbreaks in New York City. (And we're hearing more and more stories about bed bug infestations here in Atlanta!)

The symptoms of a bed bug bite can include an itchy welt and localized swelling. Fortunately, bed bugs generally do not spread diseases.

Some tip-offs to the presence of bed bugs include reddish spots of blood dried on the sheets, dark fecal matter stains in hiding areas close to the bed, and particulates and refuse from their eggs and molted skins.

Getting rid of bed bugs can be tricky. If your bed is already infested, it's best to hire a professional pest control firm, because it can be tough to get rid of the bugs without pesticides. However, you can improve your defense against bed bugs in these ways:

- **Keep your house clean and clutter-free. Any nook or cranny is another place for bed bugs to hide.**
- **Vacuum frequently with a HEPA vacuum cleaner, paying extra-special attention to the crevices and corners in and around the mattress – seams, edges, between mattresses and box springs, corners.**
- **Experts advise that you encase the mattress and box spring in zippered bed bug covers. Our Allergy Armor Bed Bug mattress covers will protect your bed from dust mites and bed bugs. Any bugs trapped inside will die. Vacuum your mattress before placing the encasing on it, and wash your regular bedding often in hot water to kill any bugs.**
- **Firmly scrub infested surfaces with a stiff brush to dislodge eggs and then vacuum some more!**
- **Make sure that in your search to destroy all bed bugs, you move the furniture around. This means dismantling bed frames, taking drawers out of dressers, and doing whatever it takes to reveal all possible hiding spots.**

Even if you don't travel much, your daycare home receives visitors every day and you don't know where they have been or if they have bed bugs in their home. There are a few things that you can do to reduce the risk of having bed bugs hitch hike on visitors and enter your home.

1) Keep all clothing that comes in with the children near the front door and off of your furniture. If a child insists on bringing in a special blanket or other cloth article, put it into the dryer on hot for 5 minutes before returning it to the child each morning.

2) Be diligent in your quest to keep clutter to a minimum. That may seem hard because you have a daycare but "more" does not necessarily translate into "better" even in a daycare home. Look around and see if there are things that are not used often. If so, you can always pack up some boxes of daycare items and store them away for a few months and then bring them back, trading them for other things that can be stored. The children will appreciate the toys more if there are less of them and the turnaround makes old things seem special and new again.

This article was not intended to creep you out but to arm you with information that might well save you from getting these nasty creatures. I wish you a happy, bug free life. Judy

"Komen Race for the Cure"

On Sunday, September 18th, about 40 thousand men, woman and children filled the streets of Portland near Waterfront Park. Mixes into this awesome crowd were the 35 members of the "Second Mamas" team and many more of our child care provider friends and their families.

The weather man forecasted rain but to our delight, it turned out to be a beautiful, dry, day. At the end of our 5K walk some of us stopped under a bridge to gather our group, use the bathroom and plan where we would go to lunch. During that short 15 minutes under the bridge, we saw some sprinkles of rain coming down but we were under cover and dry. By the time we were ready to go have lunch, the sprinkles had stopped.

The goal of this event is to raise as much money as possible. The money raised is used for:

- **Cancer research**
- **Offering cancer screening free to underinsured and uninsured woman.**
- **Helping cancer patients get treatment, temporary housing near treatment when needed, and transportation to and from treatment and much more.**

This year our team raised $690.00 for the Komen foundation. The team member that raised the most money for the second year in a row is my niece, Karen Sampson. Karen and her husband Bob raised $510.00 this year. You can make a donation on behalf of our team until 10/30/11

http://race.komenoregon.org/site/TR/Race/PortlandRacefortheCure/459672243?pg=team&fr_id=1150&team_id=56456

The Two Rules of Love & Logic

Rule #1: Adults set limits without anger, lectures, threats or repeated warnings.

> **When we describe what <u>we</u> will do or allow, that's setting a limit. When we tell a child what he/she should or shouldn't do, that's a possible fight.**

Rule #2: When children cause problems, adults hand these problems back in loving ways.

> **We hand the problems back by replacing anger and lectures with a strong dose of empathy followed by the logical consequence.**

National Fire Prevention Week (October 9-15, 2011)

During National Fire Prevention Week, October 9 - 15, 2011 attention is focused on promoting fire safety and prevention; however we should practice fire safety all year long. Many potential fire hazards go undetected because people simply do not take steps to fireproof their home.

Many bedroom fires are caused by misuse or poor maintenance of electrical devices, careless use of candles, smoking in bed, and children playing with matches and lighters. Most potential hazards can be addressed with a little common sense. For example, be sure to keep flammable items like bedding, clothes and curtains at least three feet away from portable heaters or lit candles, and never smoke in bed. Also, items like appliances or electric blankets should not be operated if they have frayed power cords, and electrical outlets should never be overloaded.

Fire Safety Checklist:

- **Install and maintain a working smoke alarm inside every sleep area and remember to change the battery at least once a year.**
- **Designate two escape routes from each bedroom and practice them regularly.**
- **Teach everyone the "Stop, Drop, and Roll" technique in case clothing catches on fire.**
- **Avoid storing old mattresses in the home or garage.**
- **Teach kids that matches, lighters and candles are tools, not toys. If you suspect that a child is playing with fire, check under beds and in closets for telltale signs like burned matches. Matches and lighters should be stored in a secure drawer or cabinet.**

To find free fire safety educational games and interactive resources on fire prevention, visit the Sleep Products Safety Council website.

NFPA has teamed up with Scholastic to create Fire Prevention Week classroom kits for preschool through grade 5 teachers and students.

Sparky enters the world of fairy tales in these whiteboard-ready lesson plans, activities, printables and on-line games for you to reach classrooms in your community. Scholastic is a great tool for not only teachers but parents and fire safety educators also.

http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=2017&URL=Safety%20Information/Fire%20Prevention%20Week%202010

SCRIP!!!!

By Terri Lehman

Order a gift card to a participating company for the denomination posted and a % will go to CCFCCA!! If you shop at a particular place or someone you know does, just order a gift card. It's just prepaying for a place you frequent. Check it out and I guarantee you will find "something" that you can use. When you go online at www.shopwithscrip.com you will find the list of companies and the denominations that are available with the % that goes to CCFCCA.

You will need to; set up an account, find what you want, print it out, send it with a check made out to CCFCCA. Once I have placed the order and I have all of the money, it should take less than a week to receive your SCRIP cards. In order that CCFCCA get the %, you will need to use this code: LFBF445424118. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me @ 260-9884. Make checks payable to: CCFCCA. Papa Murphy's is now available for scrip. **Please mail to: Terri Lehman 13203 NE 91st St. Vancouver, WA 98682**

SEIU 925 NEWS

POLITICAL ACTION: On Wednesday September 21st, a group of SEIU members and concerned citizens demonstrated in front of Chase Bank in downtown Vancouver. Chase Bank is presently in litigation over the .85 cents per transaction they charge families when they use their EBT cards to buy food. Chase Bank was already paid millions of dollars by the state to set up this system and yet they charge the fee on top of that. Chase took in $8 million dollars last year by charging this extra fee. Chase Bank has also had issues working with families on the foreclosures of their homes. Many homeowners have complained that Chase has not been willing to work with them on loan modifications. More demonstrations are in the planning for Chase Bank and Bank of America. Future dates and times will be posted.

BEWARE: A TRACKING SYSTEM MAY BE COMING: An attendance "tracking" system legislation, ESSB 5921, has already been passed. This was tucked into another senate bill as an amendment. It involves tracking the attendance of state subsidized children with the goal of cutting down on abuse, fraud and waste. SEIU lobbied against this legislation, but it passed anyway. Now the state has to provide a report to legislators by December 31st of this year. If this is implemented, it will be in place by January of 2013. Two focus groups have already met, one in Yakima on September 24th and one in Tumwater on September 27th. At the latter meeting representatives from ESD-112, three center workers, Sherry Scheulfer, Kelly Kelly, Mary Jane Shearer and two other providers were in attendance. The provider community was well represented. All areas of concern for providers were clearly addressed. Pages and pages of suggestions were submitted to the state. One provider who attended this focus group told me that "Every bloody thing that was not working in the provider community was addressed." Some of the concerns about this tracking system include:

*** The intrusion on providers. It would involve using the provider's own computer and electricity. Not all providers have computers. One provider at the meeting suggested that providers could just mail in a copy of their monthly time sheets (with parents' signatures) instead of using such a costly tracking system.**

*** Using a new computer program to work with the state's old program may mean compatibility problems. It was suggested that the state use the money to fix their old system first.**

*** The cost is HUGE. A similar program in another state cost between $4 million to $8 million to set up and $800,000 to $900,000 a year to maintain. Where is this money coming from and can the state really AFFORD to do this?**

*** The state can only estimate the amount of fraud they think is happening. Their figures could be way off. There should be proof that this is really warranted.**

*** The article in The Columbian Newspaper about fraud and abuse used statistics from 2009 to 2010 when there were 60,000 families on state assistance. Now that has been *cut in half*. So the amount of fraud, today, may not warrant having such a tracking system.**

The union was promised a draft of the report that the state will be submitting to the legislators by December 31st. We will keep you abreast of this situation.

PARENT SUBSIDY LINE: DEL was told about the long wait (up to 45 minutes) that parents face when they try to call to get renewals on their subsidized childcare. DEL was also told about how parents' calls are cut off, redirected, or they have to leave a message. We found out that everyone who had been on the waiting list has been dealt with or eliminated (and it is down to zero). Parents will now have to submit a *new* application.

VERBAGE CHANGED ON THE "WITHIN SIGHT AND SOUND" IN THE NEW WACS:

The new WACS will now say "within sight OR sound." SEIU leaders meet monthly with Betty Hyde. President Karen Hart and Kursten Holabird got an answer from Betty Hyde that this language would change immediately. There had been an outcry by providers on how impossible this situation was to have to be in the same room with an infant at all times while the infant was sleeping.

PROVIDERS BEWARE: What you post on Face book, Twitter or a support line may be read by *anyone*. SEIU attorneys have cautioned members to be careful when they refer to individuals by name if you post something defamatory. It could be used against you. Any information that is posted on the Internet is considered public information.

Continued on the next page……

CCFCCA Board and Committees:

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***Welcome Committee:**
Sandi Brinley & Carol Chandler
***Historian/Scrapbook Committee:**
Tina VanBuskirk & Peggy Corcoran
***SEIU Representative: Melba Halgren**
***CCFCCA Consultant: Deborah Rosser**
***Newsletter Editor: Judy Peters**

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SEIU report, continued……

We have already seen how messages intended only for support-line members have been copied and sent to licensors, providers not on the line, and to SEIU leadership. The Internet is not protected, so be aware of what you post.
NEXT UNION MEETING: On October 13th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. union members will meet at the Round Table Pizza on Thurston Way by the mall for an important meeting. Copies of the new contract will be available for anyone attending. We will go over the issues about non-expiring licenses. Pizza and pop will be provided. Come and join us.
--Melba Halgren, Lead Activist for SW Washington

Food Handlers Card

CCFCCA has helped our provider members get their food handlers card for the past several years. There has not been a requirement for daycare providers to have a food handler's card but we have always believed that knowing more about the safe handling of food is a good idea for everyone.
I am told that the new WACs will require all providers to have a current food handler's card. It is now very easy to get or renew your food handler's card.
Clark County residents can learn the information, take the test and purchase your card from their home computer. Just go to http://www.foodworkercard.wa.gov
The fee is $10.00. Important note: If your food handlers card has not expired make sure that you check the box that you are "renewing" your card. First time cards are good for two years while renewals are good for three years.

Welcome Center Providers

For the nearly 40 years that the Clark County Family Child Care Association has been in existence, it has served only Licensed Family Home Child Care Providers. As of our October 4th meeting, the executive board of CCFCCA has opened up the membership availability to now include Center Providers.
President Wendy said, "We have had several requests from center providers to join CCFCCA, primarily to take advantage of our high quality STARS trainings."
The board feels that opening up to Center Providers is another way for CCFCCA to grow and serve.
Those present at the meeting voiced their approval of the board's decision.

CCFCCA member Jessica Aguilar and her daughter Willow were able to attend our October meeting. It was good to see how big baby Willow has grown. Willow was born on March 19th of this year. She is a beauty.

Community Event Calendar

WORKSHOPS

Conserving Native Pollinators: "Mason Bee House" Workshop Thursday, October 6th, 6:30 - 8:00pm at Columbia Springs, 12208 SE Evergreen Highway. Learn how you can attract and support our beneficial garden friends, the native orchard bees. These small gentle bees are among the most efficient pollinators of native plants and will also help pollinate fruit and berry crops. You'll make your own mason bee house in this fun workshop led by local bee expert Sheridan Wright. Materials fee $10 per person. For more information go to www.columbiasprings.org , call 360-882-0936 ext. 225 or email kobrien@columbiasprings.org . Online registration: https://columbiasprings.wufoo.com/forms/conserving-native-pollinators-mason-bee-workshop/

Backyard Composting- Saturday, October 8th, 10am - noon at Columbia Springs, 12208 SE Evergreen Hwy. Want to learn how to cook compost right in your very own backyard? Attend this free workshop to get answers all of your composing questions! The workshop will include an intro in the classroom and an opportunity to see different styles of compost bins. For more information, contact mcr@columbiasprings.org , call 360-882-0936 ext. 224 or register online at: https://columbiasprings.wufoo.com/forms/fall-2011-master-composter-recycler-workshops/

"Family Worm Shop" Saturday, October 15th, 10am to noon at Columbia Springs, 12208 SE Evergreen Highway. Bring the family and build a worm bin to feed all your fruit and veggie scraps to. Learn the ins-and-outs of vermicomposting. $35 per family material fee. For more information, contact mcr@columbiasprings.org , call 360-882-0936 ext. 224 or register online at: https://columbiasprings.wufoo.com/forms/fall-2011-master-composter-recycler-workshops/

"Creatures of the Night Family" Workshop. Wednesday, October 19th, 6:30 to 8:30pm at the Water Resource Education Center, 4600 SE Columbia Way. Participants will learn about bats, owls and other nocturnal creatures and how these animals interact with us and their environment. Includes a short, easy walk to locate bats. For more information call 360-882-0936 x223. Register online at https://columbiasprings.wufoo.com/forms/x7w9z5

Fall Rain Barrel Classes Saturday, October 22nd, 9am - 11am at the Clark County Heritage Farm, 1919 NE 78th Street. Join the Watershed Stewards in making your own rain barrel. Learn how to use and construct a rain barrel then make your own in class and take it home. $35.00 fee for materials. Questions can be sent to jenifer.naas@clark.wa.gov or call 360-397-6060 ext. 5712. Register online at Brown Paper Tickets www.brownpapertickets.com/event/193024

EVENTS

Second Saturday at the Water Center: Gardens in the Fall Saturday, October 8th, 1pm - 3pm, Water Center, 4600 SE Columbia Way. Do you like the fall season? Colorful leaves, yummy fruits and vegetables. Join us for fun, hands-on activities with leaves, fruits, vegetables and much more. Learn all about gardens in the fall. For information call 360-487-7111.

"Bird fest and Bluegrass." October 8th, & 9th, Ridgefield. Get outside and play before winter sets in. You will find many choices of tours, presentations, walks and activities for the whole family! Make your reservations SOON for limited space on Sandhill Crane and other Tours. For an informative, fun-filled, enjoyable weekend learning about the NATURE and culture of our Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, see: **http://www.ridgefieldfriends.org/birdfestandbluegrass.php** For more fun events, check out **Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.** http://www.fortvan.org/ , **Urban Abundance** http://www.myurbanabundance.org/ or **Friends of the Columbia Gorge** http://gorgefriends.org/event_calendar.php?event_type=hikes&brochure=true