Family Life Balance Sub-Committee

October 12, 2011

Present: Carolyn Fallahi, Jacqueline Cobbina-Boivin, Leah Glaser, Fiona Pearson

Excused: Sally Lesik, Kathy Hermes, Karen Ritzenhoff

The committee talked about their journey to get the CCSU babysitting co-op up and running. Leah and Fiona were part of the Child Care Task Force and helped in connect both faculty, staff, and students. After completing their assessment, they concluded that what CCSU really needs is a Family Resource Center. Currently we have the early learning program that is available at CCSU. This really isn’t a babysitting program, but a preschool program for children ages 3 to 5. CCSU provides free rent. A Family Resource Center would allow both drop in babysitting, but also possibly parenting programs, social services, etc. to help meet the needs of the CCSU community.

One of the issues involves physical space for a Family Resource Center on campus. Some possible locations include the library as well as one of the new buildings on the east campus. This would facilitate students in helping with childcare when they are in school or attending meetings on campus. Fiona and Leah have an upcoming meeting with the President to speak with him about this idea. They will coordinate an informal meeting with the committee to come up with a list of ideas before the meeting with the President.

One of the recommendations from the Child Task Force Report was that CCSU needed more lactation areas (and better areas). Richard Bachoo has assured the committee that the new buildings will have lactation areas. In the meantime, there are many people who are not aware of the current lactation centers. Carolyn will contact Derek Pierce and see if he can get a summary of lactation centers onto the A to Z index.

The Committee is sponsoring a table at the upcoming Health Fair on November 1st from 10:00-3:00. The committee brainstormed about what to have at the table. They decided to include the following: CCW banner, squeezy stress balls, pamphlet, computer where they can sign up as babysitters on site. The sign up sheet will include: name, whether or not they are students/faculty/staff, interested in babysitting or daycare.

We hope to link the CCW site to the WLB site. Carolyn is looking into this. Leah will also set up a facebook page for the WLB and we can link it to both websites. This would allow us to advertise babysitting and other WLB information and announcements.

Leah Glaser and Fiona Pearson have agreed to chair this committee. We all thought that Dr. Jason Sikorski would be a nice addition. Carolyn will ask him to join.