

Child Care Planning Council Policy Committee Recommendations to Scotts Valley Planning Commission

Re: New Family Child Care Ordinances

Date: March 12, 2007

1. The Policy Committee recommends that small FCC homes be allowed by right because SV needs to come into compliance with state law.
2. The Policy Committee recommends that large FCC homes be allowed by administrative permit only for the following reasons:
 - a. Consistency of process (i.e. not based on the whims of current Council Members)
 - b. Cost reduction and staff-time reduction in Planning Department to process permits
 - c. De-Politicization of process (keeps the Council out of the line of fire)
 - d. To bring currently operating large FCC providers into compliance
 - e. To recognize and encourage the role child care plays in city's economy
3. The Policy Committee recommends communicating with your local Fire Department, which has been granting clearances already, to ensure inter-agency consistency.
4. The Policy Committee recommends grandfathering in all existing large family child care homes (you don't want to make them go "underground" by imposing a stringent and costly process upon them).
5. Make sure the draft ordinances include accurate definitions of small and large FCC homes and child care centers (according to state licensing definitions).
6. Refer to statute for Council's right to mitigate establishment of large Family Child Care Homes in Scotts Valley.
7. Purchase Kristen Anderson's book: Planning For Child Care (Solano Press) for more info on the few areas that the Council can set criteria on and for language that could be used in new ordinance.
8. As we mentioned, the Policy Committee would be happy to review/comment on a draft ordinance prior to presenting it to the Planning Commission and the City Council. We do intend to send representatives to both the April 12th and April 18th meetings, where we will be happy to speak to the need for child care friendly ordinances. For future reference, we would also be happy to help publicize the changes to the local ordinances (should they be in alignment with our priorities) once they are published to get some positive press for Scotts Valley.