

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 23-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA,
FORMALLY ESTABLISHING THE VALDEZ CHILD CARE CRISIS TASKFORCE

WHEREAS, the lack of affordability, adequacy, and availability of child care or early childhood education options is an immense problem both in Valdez and throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Valdez's only licensed childcare facility closed unexpectedly in 2022, leaving many working parents unable to find safe and reliable care for their children; and

WHEREAS, the City of Valdez contracted with the Stellar Group in 2022 to conduct an Early Childhood Needs Assessment with the goal of better understanding the effects of Valdez's child care crisis on families, businesses, and the community more broadly; and

WHEREAS, the needs assessment identified Valdez as a "childcare desert" noting that sixty percent of survey respondents were "looking for any, more, or different child care," four in ten respondents had considered moving away from Valdez due to a lack of child care and eighty-six percent of respondents identified safety as their top consideration when selecting a child care provider; and

WHEREAS, section XIII.D of Council Policies and Procedures, specifically outlines the procedures for establishment of temporary citizen advisory groups (task forces); and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that no existing city board or commission has the capacity or expertise to engage on this issue and that a need exists for a dedicated group to actively address the lack of child care in the community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Valdez recognizes the necessity for collaboration between varied local stakeholder groups in addressing the ongoing child care crisis and acknowledges the value of considering the widest variety of outlooks and leveraging existing community resources wisely.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, that:

Section 1: The Child Care Crisis Task Force is hereby established on a temporary, short-term basis and shall meet at least twice monthly.

Section 2: The scope of the Child Care Crisis Task Force will consist of the following task:

1. With the assistance of the Stellar Group, create and submit to City Council for approval a strategic plan outlining short, middle and long-term actions recommended to address the child care crisis and other recommendations to strengthen Valdez's early childhood system. The strategic plan shall include recommendations to City Council on each of the following factors relating to the logistics of establishing an initial licensed child care facility:
 - a. Analysis of existing buildings in the community capable of serving as a physical location for a child care facility, including a summary of renovations or adjustments that would be needed prior to use.

- b. Desirable management structures and licensing avenues for establishment of initial child care facility.
- c. Potential funding mechanisms to create and sustain a licensed child care facility in Valdez.
- d. Methods for attracting, retaining and training of a high-quality child care workforce.

Section 3. The Child Care Crisis Task Force will be comprised of nine members total representing each of the following groups. Members will be selected by the City Manager in consultation with each group.

- 1. One Member representing the Valdez Zero to Three with Families Alliance.
- 2. One Member representing the Early Childhood Workforce Profession.
- 3. One Member representing the City of Valdez.
- 4. One Member representing Valdez City Schools.
- 5. One Member representing Providence Valdez Medical Center.
- 6. One Member representing Prince William Sound College.
- 7. One Member representing Alyeska Pipeline Service Company.
- 8. One Member representing the United States Coast Guard.
- 9. One Member representing the Valdez Native Tribe.

Section 4. Terms of the members shall expire in September 30, 2023 or until the Child Care Task Force completes the tasks outlined in Section 2, whichever occurs first. Resignations, vacancies, and new member appointment processes shall be handled using the same methods as standing citizen advisory groups.

Section 5. All City Council Members shall serve as ex-officio members of the Child Care Crisis Task Force.

Section 6. The City Clerk's Office shall be designated to provide staff and administrative support to the Child Care Crisis Task Force.

Section 7. City task forces are intended to be temporary in time and scope.

No additional tasks may be added to the scope of the Child Care Crisis Task Force without documented, formal agreeance of the City Council.

Section 8. The Child Care Crisis Task Force is directed to complete the task outlined in Section 2 of this resolution by September 30, 2023. City Council may extend the sunset date of the Child Care Task.

Once the Child Care Crisis Task Force has completed the task outlined in Section 2 of this resolution, they shall forward a final report to City Council prior to dissolution of the task force.

Section 9. In accordance with XIII.D. of the City Council Policies and Procedures, the Child Care Task Force shall be subject to the same standard policies and procedures established for other citizen advisory groups.

These standard policies and procedures include election of a chair and chair pro tempore during the first task force meeting following establishment; adherence to attendance, quorum, and remote participation policies; proper meeting noticing and adherence to the Alaska Open Meetings Act; use of proper parliamentary procedure and meeting decorum; recording of meeting minutes; and use of the full city legislative management software system.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, this 21st day of February, 2023.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

Sharon Scheidt, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheri Pierce, MMC, City Clerk