



Worksite Child Care Centers: Highlights and Concerns

February 2013 – June 2013

A. Worksite Centers Successes and Concerns

The Children's Center at Farmingdale State University is holding their own. They are still in debt to the SUNY Farmingdale Research Foundation, the broker for the staff benefit package, but have paid all other bills up to date. Their new building is coming along and is expected to open this fall. The board and director completed a strategic plan with NYCON and are now starting their marketing strategies. They met with FBP field staff to create a detailed marketing plan and are taking steps to institute the plan. They have a small number of children enrolled in the summer camp program and their year-round care enrollment remains low. Their goal is to increase enrollment as they move into the new building.

Tendercare Tot Center at Adirondack Correctional Facility is continuing to keep their head above water. Income is covering expenses and all bills are up to date except for the money owed to the school district. They have a very small reserve in the bank to cover bills if needed. Any small drop in enrollment could put them back in financial trouble. The center is currently full and projects being full until August.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Children's Center (ECS) at Willard Drug Treatment Campus continues to operate on the edge. Enrollment is good, but seems to change on a weekly basis. Enrollment is strong for their ten-week summer camp. The center was notified by the United Way that they will not receive funding from them during 2013-2014, which is a loss of \$7,000 to the center. The director is applying for new grant funding to help replace the loss of the United Way grant. For the past several years, ECS has sponsored a very successful fundraising event which was just held on May 18. The center is located on the grounds of a former psychiatric facility which has numerous closed building, not being used by the Willard Drug Treatment Campus. In cooperation with the local Historical Society, the child care center offers tours of the old buildings and made a profit of over \$2,500 from the event.

Care 4 Me at Beacon Correctional Facility is facing some difficulties, due to the upcoming closing of Beacon CF in September 2013. The Care 4 Me center will lose all power, sewage, water, and heat when Beacon CF closes. The DOCCS facilities staff is looking into options to resolve the situation so the center remains open and functioning.

Summer Day Camp for school-age children will be provided at 18 of the worksite child care centers. A memo with this information was sent from the GOER Director to Directors of Human Resources and is also included in the news on the Work-Life Services homepage and the NYS-Balance website.

B. Family Benefits Program Grants

In March 2013, we received Attachment A approval to award child care center grants in 2013-14. Given the limited funding available, training and health and safety grants have been reduced.

- **Audit Grant** award letters were sent to all centers in May specifying that expenses for their 2012-13 year-end financial audit would be reimbursed up to \$5,000. Centers must send FBP staff a copy of their audit and other required documentation before the grant is processed.
- **Training Grant** applications were also sent to every center in May. Each center is entitled to a training grant up to \$1,000, for staff and/or board training. Training grant applications will be accepted until November 30, 2013.
- **Health and Safety Grant** applications were sent to the centers in May with a due date of November 30, 2013. All centers may apply for up to \$3,000 for the purchase of approved health and safety items.

C. Personnel Changes at Centers

On June 21, we will wish a happy retirement to two of our long-serving child care center directors, Judy Metzger from the **Campus and Community Children's Center at SUNY Fredonia**, and Johanna Hartnett from **SUNY Cortland Child Care Center**. Both centers have named new directors who will begin in mid- June. Additionally, the director from **Brockport Child Development Center** resigned in May. An interim director was named while the board of directors conducts a search for a new director.

D. Child Care Leadership Conference

Plans are underway for a day and a half statewide Leadership Conference in Saratoga Springs for October 2013. The conference will begin with a meet and greet reception, the evening before the full-day session. The full-day training will focus on fostering professional development including coaching staff, leadership in the classroom, team dynamics, and relationship building. The half day of training will focus on managing social media in the workplace including developing a policy to address the use of social media by center staff. These topics were selected for the worksite center directors and assistant directors to address specific training needs identified through a survey and FBP staff observations. Attendance at this conference will assist all center staff in meeting the fifteen hours of training required annually as per NYS licensing regulations.