



Worksite Child Care Centers: Highlights and Concerns

January 2014 – June 2014

A. Worksite Centers Successes and Concerns

Congratulations to director, Lori Tantakis and the staff of **The Children's Place at the Plaza** in Albany, for being the first in our network certified as a *Freedom of Movement Certified Child Care Program*. The program is designed for caregivers of infants under the age of one. In order for a program to become Freedom of Movement Certified, they must receive a visit from one of the Capital District Coordinating Counsel's Infant and Toddler Specialists and earn points using a new tool developed for this purpose. Providing infants with the ability to move in a safe, open, and clean environment where they can manipulate their bodies freely and at will is of the utmost importance for optimal physical development.

On June 24, **The Children's Place at the Plaza** will be celebrating their 35th anniversary. The Children's Place was the first NYS worksite center opened under the Labor-Management Child Care Initiative which resulted from the collective bargaining agreements. At the 10:00 a.m. ribbon cutting, they will also unveil their new logo. A family celebration will take place from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. We congratulate the director Lori Tantakis, their board chair Karen Strong, and the staff of the center on reaching this impressive milestone. Deb Miller was the director at The Children's Place in its early years from 1980-1986, and Kimlee Marquise served as the director from 2003-2008, during the merger with Pierce Hall.

As provided in our last report to the Board, there are several worksite centers which we consider financially fragile because they have minimal cash reserves so any number of problems such as a drop in enrollment could result in closure. Currently these nine centers are: **Elizabeth Cady Stanton at Willard Drug Treatment Center, Brockport Child Development Center at SUNY Brockport, Children's Center at SUNY Brooklyn, Children's Place at the Empire State Plaza, First Step in the Watertown State Office Building, Children's Corner at the State Education Department, Tendercare Tot at Adirondack Correctional Facility, The Children's Center at Farmingdale State College, and Pooh's Corner at the Capital District DDSO**. FBP staff is in regular contact with these centers, but must also rely on them to share timely and accurate information.

B. Educating and Assisting the Worksite Center Boards

A number of the volunteer boards of directors at the worksite child care centers struggle with performing their role in the not-for-profit organization appropriately. FBP staff continues to address this issue in a number of ways. Staff developed and disseminated a comprehensive board manual that includes sample templates, forms, and information. In 2011, staff developed a training which outlines the roles and responsibilities of a board member and also how to work

cooperatively with the center director. This free board training is provided onsite by staff and has been given a number of times since its development: 2011 – 3, 2012 – 5, 2013 – 6, and thus far in 2014 – 4 times. Field staff also created a newsletter specifically for board members. The newsletter addresses board issues including: roles and responsibilities, the revitalization act, conflict of interest policies, and board member orientation, as well as providing tips and resources. The newsletter is sent to the complete center board membership each quarter. As another means of educating the boards, the board chair is required to sign the written quarterly report which those centers considered financially fragile must provide to us. Staff also meet with board chairs on an ongoing basis, are always available for phone consultations, and attend board meetings when feasible. Additionally, staff is developing a new form each board must submit in order for their center to be eligible to apply for FBP health and safety and training grants.

C. Family Benefits Program Grants

For FY 2013-2014, grants were funded as follows:

Audit Grants – all 33 centers received reimbursement for their annual fiscal audit for a total of \$145,810.

Training Grants - 39 grants were funded for a total of \$31,877.

Health and Safety Grants - 49 grants were funded for a total of \$123,054.

For FY 2014-2015, we have an approved Attachment A for the grants program

Audits Grants = \$170,000
 Health & Safety = \$200,000
 Training/Conference = \$70,000
 TOTAL = \$440,000

D. Center Director Changes

Maria Cirillo from **Busy Beach Day Care Center** at South Beach Psychiatric Center, and Peg Smith from **Campus Pre-School & Early Childhood Center** at Binghamton University are stepping down as directors. Both center boards have established a search committee and are in the process of recruiting and hiring new directors.

E. Child Care Centers Offering Additional Services

Center Name	Location	School-Age	Summer Camp	UPK
Bright Beginnings in Queens Village	Creedmoor PC	No	5	13
Brockport Child Development Center	SUNY Brockport	Yes	18	2
Buffalo State College Child Care Center	Buffalo State College	Yes	16	No
Busy Beach Day Care	South Beach PC	No	No	10
Campus & Community Children’s Center	SUNY Fredonia	Yes	48	4
Campus Children’s Center	SUNY Albany	Yes	112	No
Campus Pre-School & Early Childhood Center	Binghamton University	No	23	10

Center Name	Location	School-Age	Summer Camp	UPK
Care 4 Me	Fishkill CF	Yes	20	No
Carol A. Dunigan Day Care Center	Harriman Campus	No	20	No
Children's Center at Farmingdale State College	Farmingdale State College	No	40	No
Children's Center at Morrisville State College	Morrisville State College	No	13	No
Children's Center at SUNY Brooklyn	SUNY Brooklyn	No	No	16
Children's Center at Purchase College	Purchase College	No	No	No
Children's Corner Day Care Center	State Education Building	No	22	No
Children's Place at the Plaza	Empire State Plaza	No	12	No
Cobleskill Campus Child Care Center	SUNY Cobleskill	Yes	22	No
Delhi Campus Child Care Center	SUNY Delhi	Yes	16	No
Elizabeth Cady Stanton Children's Center	Willard Drug Treatment Campus	No	12	No
First Step Day Care Center	Dulles State Office Building	No	No	No
Gingerbread House	Elmira PC	No	No	8
Hanson Place Child Development Center	Chisholm State Office Building	No	No	20
Pooh's Corner	Capital District DDSO	No	10	No
Small Wonders Child Care Center	Suffolk State Office Building	No	No	No
Stony Brook Child Care Service	Stony Brook University	No	No	No
SUCO Children's Center	SUCO Oneonta	Yes	49	15
SUNY Cortland Child Care Center	SUNY Cortland	No	20	21
SUNY Plattsburgh Child Care Center	SUNY Plattsburgh	No	9	6
SUNY Potsdam Child Care Center	SUNY Potsdam	Yes	No	No
Tendercare Tot Center	Adirondack CF	No	No	No
Jan & Niles Davies Learning Center	Helen Hayes Hospital	Yes	No	42
University at Buffalo Child Care Center	University at Buffalo	Yes	23	No
Upstate Day Care Center	Upstate Medical	No	10	No
Wee Care Labor	Harriman Campus	No	No	No