



Amended Proposal to the Summer 2006 Child Care Committee Report

Submitted by

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Amended Proposal

The child care committee recently submitted its report recommending the expansion of on-campus child care through a competitive selection process. Based on the feedback received from University constituency groups, including the on-campus child care providers, an alternate idea was raised and reviewed by the child care committee which (1) achieves the committee's goal of increasing child care availability on and near campus, (2) increases subsidy awards to students, and (3) suggests an approach to University funded child care responsive to the identified needs of the University community.

The alternate option is that monies now allocated through the Family Services Office to the on-campus child care centers be re-directed to the current student child care subsidy program, doubling the award levels to the lowest income student parents and expanding the number of students served.

Relative to this alternate option, the committee recommended the following:

1. Alice's Rainbow, The Mary Jo Small Child Care at Brookland Woods and UPCC be given a two year notice that University funds will be reallocated. During the first year's notice, funding will remain at current levels. During the second year, funding to all three programs will continue at 50%.
2. Maintain a five-year commitment to current on-campus child care locations owned by the UI. These facilities will continue to be available for lease to child care providers serving faculty, staff and students. Current providers within those centers will have first option to remain.

In addition, \$50,000 in new monies is being requested to address the unique child care needs of University families which were identified in the 2005 - 2006 child care committee assessment.

Amended Recommendations of the Child Care Committee

Recommendation 1

Monies now allocated to the on-campus child care centers are re-directed to the current student child care subsidy program, doubling award levels for those students having the least amount of income and expanding the number of students served. In addition, \$50,000 in new monies is being requested to address the unique child care needs of University families that were identified in the 2005 - 2006 child care committee assessment.

Recommendation 1 permits

- funding to be given directly to students. Funding addresses the results of the 2005 child care survey: (1) The cost of child care was the problem that created the most difficulty for students and (2) money or funding to help pay for child care was rated as the most helpful service or program by students. and

- recommendations 2, 3 and 4, and other needs identified in the child care committee report to be addressed through the \$50,000 request.

Recommendation 2

A campus-connected, center-based child care model will be pursued with eleven (11) on and near campus child care centers within approximately one mile of the University. Current on-campus child care centers are included in this model with no net loss in child care availability to campus. University financial assistance will not be provided.

The Family Services Office through a Memorandum of Understanding will

- promote the programs on brochures and a web site,
- refer UI families to the programs,
- offer assistance to the programs relative to the IOWA Quality Indicator program,
- seek collaborators to address population specific child care needs, and
- promote student employment opportunities.

Campus-connected, center-based programs* invited to participate include: (1) current on-campus providers - Alice's Rainbow, The Mary Jo Small Child Care Center at Brookland Woods and University Parents Care Collective (UPCC), and (2) near campus providers - Good Shepherd, Home Ties, University Preschool, Melrose Day Care, Kids Care Collective, Apple Tree Children's Center, Little Angles Learning Center and HACAP Head Start. Combined capacity of the centers is 382 slots.

* Not included on the list due to its direct contractual relationship with UIHC, but located on campus, is UIHC Child Care managed by Bright Horizons.

Recommendation 3

Develop resources for backup child care/mildly ill child care.

Recommendation 4

Enhance awareness and outreach efforts to the University community.