

Description of Programs/Services for the December 10 Forum

Name of Agency: **Animal Crackers, Inc.**

Person Speaking: Christie Howell-Yrios

Using the space provided please provide a brief description of your program/services, including number of participants served by your agency/program in 2007:
Information will be faxed in.

Name of Agency: **Child Care Providers Together (CCPT)-AFSCME**

Name of Title: Project staff

Description: We are still in our early stages of forming a union.
We are here to be a voice for the child care workforce yet we are also committed to supporting quality child care.

Number of participants in union:

262 members in Dane – of that 125 licensed/137 certified

167 members in Madison- of that 69 licensed/98 certified

Oma Vic McMurray

Name of Agency: **Community Coordinated Child Care, Inc. 4-C**

Executive/Program Director Name: Jody Barnick

Using the space provided please provide a brief description of your program/services, including number of participants served by your agency/program in 2007:

AGENCY HISTORY AND PROGRAMS

Community Coordinated Child Care, Inc. (4-C) was incorporated in 1971. Three goals guide our work: to collect and analyze child care data; to develop programs, training, and related services to improve the quality and quantity of child care/early childhood education; and to bring together agencies to promote improvement in services to children. We provide services to early care and education providers, parents, community groups, and policy-makers.

At any particular time 4-C's Family Child Care Certification staff maintains a caseload of about 350 Dane County family child care providers annually (December 2007- there were 335 regulated and 25 in process). Certification is a voluntary form of regulation, with rules set by the State of Wisconsin. Certification requires criminal records checks of all home residents over age ten, home monitoring visits, specific record keeping and paperwork. Family child care providers run their own small in-home businesses doing care for their own and other people's children. Certified family child care providers may

care for up to 3 unrelated children under age seven, plus their own. Dane County has subcontracted with 4-C to administer this program since 1984. (2007 statistics- 5705 technical assistance calls, 863 visits including 74 that were investigating complaints, with 106 providers completing regulation for the first time. The 4-C program is 39% African American and 10% Latino- State licensing averages 3% in these categories in Dane County.)

4-C sponsors the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Family child care providers participating in this program are reimbursed for nutritious meals served to their day care children. Providers must follow nutrition guidelines established by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, maintain highly specific records, allow 3 home visits and attend one nutrition workshop each year. Our staff do home visits, paperwork checks, and design and teach workshops. We serve about 700 family child care providers in 20 counties in South Central and Southwestern Wisconsin. About half of the program is in Dane County. We are one of eight CACFP sponsors in Wisconsin, all of whom are 501c3 agencies. U.S.D.A is the sole funder, with the WI Dept. of Public Instruction providing oversight. We have sponsored CACFP since 1980. (2007 statistics – 1964 home visits – an average of 6400 children a month served)

Our Child Care Referral Program helps about 2,700 families and 3700 children each year to find regulated child care or information on related issues. 62% in 2007 were low income or on the subsidy program. Parents receive individual telephone consultations to determine their child care needs. They get a computerized list of providers in their area, informational questions, a map, and regulation information. A Referral staff person also spends time each week at the Dane County Jobs Center, assisting parents who receive county child care subsidies to locate regulated providers- though this service may end in 2008 for lack of resources. We are currently working to get an on line referral system developed to increase access to the program.

Resource Development assists the development of child care and early childhood education programs within 4-C's 5 county R&R service area. This is done by the development of data that assist new programs to access start up loans. The market data also sets the funding level for the reimbursement rate for the state child care subsidy system in Dane County when the rates are not frozen as they were in 2006 and 2007. Development also occurs through targeted project like the current projects to increase the amount of and quality of child care in the Latino and Hmong communities. 4-C talks to about 1000 individuals each year interested in starting either family or group child care programs. (2007 statistics- 27 potential group centers and 1279 individuals interested in starting family child care homes.)

4-C Professional Development/Training staff teach and coordinate continuing education workshops for early care and education providers. In 2007, 157 workshops were held on various topics with a total of 4,652 providers attending (in Dane County there were 76 workshops for 4417 providers and staff- with 12 in Spanish with an attendance of 281) Trainings were held in English, Spanish and Hmong. Workshops are planned in collaboration with other community agencies when feasible. There were 628 uses of Resource Room materials. In 2007 Providers received over 2668 additional instances (beyond that provided by the certification program) of technical assistance via telephone consultations, emails and the sending of additional information.

The Data department creates 4 standard reports each year in addition to specialty papers and consultations on specific issues for providers, community leaders and public policy leaders. In 2007 there were 53 calls or interviews handled with the media. 829 instances of technical assistance with the city or other agencies and over 28 community meetings covered in Dane county – mostly in the city of Madison.

We collaborate with the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, Head Start, The Association of Accredited Providers, Wisconsin Early Childhood Association, the Supporting Families Association and many others to do advocacy work on child care / early childhood education issues. Advocacy is a small part of the services we provide, not our primary function. Our 2007 budget was approximately \$3.7 billion – about \$2.4 million of that budget went to providers in food program payments.

Name of Agency: **Dane County Parent Council-Head Start**

Executive/Program Director Name: Marcia Huemoeller

Using the space provided please provide a brief description of your program/services, including number of participants served by your agency/program in 2007:

The Dane County Parent Council Head Start provides a comprehensive child development program for children and their families. The program areas include child health and development, family and community partnerships, and program governance and management. Head Start is family-centered and community-based, providing developmentally appropriate activities for children and support for parents in their work and child-rearing roles. Am not sure the # we served in 2007 but it would be around at least 700 families.

Dear City of Madison Early Childhood Care and Education Board,

I regret that I am unable to come personally to the forum on December 10, 2008. Both discussion topics greatly affect the program I work with. Please accept my written summary of the issues. Thank you for your time and efforts to support quality early childhood programming for the children of Madison.

Agency: **Eagle's Wing Child Care and Education Programs**

Director: Debb Schaub

Program/Services: Eagle's Wing serves approximately 120 children each semester on the UW Madison campus. Even though we are affiliated with UW, the Division of University Housing is an auxiliary to the university and does not receive any state funding – zero tax dollars. We serve children ages 18 months through 12 years of age and provide, full and half day toddler and preschool programming, before and after school care, full day summer school-age care as well as operate an academic year four-year old kindergarten program.

1. The impact of the economy on early childhood care and education in the City of Madison.

During the summer of 2008, Eagle's Wing felt the effects of the economy as it related to the families we serve. Generally our summer school-age program fills during spring registration. It did not fill then, nor did it fill during the summer. University Apartments staff have a very close relationship with many of our residents in Eagle Heights and University Houses. We found that many parents, who would typically have enrolled their school-age children in our summer program, were needing to keep their children home instead due to economic pressures. A few families made arrangements with neighbors, but most left their school-age children primarily on their own. Many did not feel comfortable with this arrangement but had no other options. Often parents on campus would come home at noon to check on their children, but often we saw children wandering the neighborhood.

Now it's not that these student families have a high standard of living. Many do not own a car and rely on bicycling, the city bus and our community car for transportation. Few of the families even have cable TV or satellite TV (approx 20 – 25% of our community has cable) so there really isn't anywhere to cut their monthly living expenses. In addition many of our families are graduate students and are not eligible for some of the support services available to other families. UW tuition costs continue to increase for these student families. The costs of high quality care and education for young children continue to increase as well, but if we increase our rates again, how many families will need to leave our program? And then, where will they get care? What types of substandard babysitting will they piece together? How will this affect the children both in the short term and long?

2. Supporting the social-emotional development of children with diagnosed or undiagnosed needs in ECE programs.

In the past 3 years I've seen more children with special needs than I have in the previous 30 years of my early childhood career put together. Currently 22% of our enrollment are children who struggle with diagnosed and undiagnosed needs. For those with a diagnosis we are able to connect with MMSD for support services. Eagle's Wing is very fortunate to be working with a wonderful itinerate teacher who indeed is an early childhood specialist. Each diagnosed child receives two (2) forty-five minute visits per week with their MMSD Early Childhood Teacher. When discussing the transition into kindergarten for one of our children with particularly challenging behavior, we were told not to worry, because next year in kindergarten this child will have a classroom aide working directly with him all the time. Well, that child is with us now for 50 hours each week and has 1½ hours per week with one on one.

A rather disconcerting dilemma for us is that we receive pressure from both the parents of children who have special needs as well as the parents whose children do not have special needs. There is not a single week that I don't have parents coming to me who are concerned that their "typically developing" child has been bit or scratched or hit by a child with a diagnosis (which is altogether true). Many demand that we dis-enroll the child who displays aggressive behavior. Parents who are working through issues with their child continually ask for support and guidance. Many have accepted that there is no quick fix and are doing everything they can to advocate for their children – but the pressure is enormous. Some are single parents who are going to classes as well as working. They plead with us to give their children extra help.

I'm worried about the children – all of the children; those with and those without “special needs”. I'm also worried about the teachers. How do they stay professionally motivated when working day in and day out with an ever increasing number of behavioral issues? I'm worried that this will lead to burnout and turnover – the last thing we want for Madison's children.

Debb Schaub
Manager of Children's Services
Division of University Housing
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Name of Agency: **Preschool of the Arts**

Executive Director: Brian Crisp (Becky Van Houten, retiring)

Description of Program and Services: The mission of Preschool of the Arts is to foster a vibrant and innovative learning community where child-focused exploration, creativity and collaboration inspire the curriculum. Serving about 230 children ages 18 months to five years, Preschool of the Arts offers both full and half day programming for 3 or 5 days per week. Our school is capped on each end of the building with inspiring art and music facilities for small groups of children to work with specially prepared art and music teachers. There are 14 classrooms of students offering opportunities for looping, mixed age groupings and a special classroom for bilingual Spanish education. There are approximately 33 full time teachers, 15 teacher assistants, full and part time and an administrative staff of 5.

Name of Agency: **Red Caboose Day Care Center**

Name & Title: Wendy Rakower, Executive Director
Lisa Melkert, School Age Program Director

Using the space provided please provide a brief description of your program/services, including number of participants served by your agency/program in 2007:

Child Care Center: Serves children 11 months through 5 years; currently 53 FTEs (65 children) Has sliding fees.

After School: At Lapham and Marquette Elementary Schools
Lapham: currently 80 FTEs (94 children)
Marquette: currently 42 FTEs (60 children)

About 22% of Red Caboose families receive public tuition assistance (county/W2 and city)

Name of Agency: **WI Early Childhood Association**

Name & Title: Ruth Schmidt

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