

June 29, 2009

Mr. Bill Clingan, Director  
Community Development Division  
Department of Planning and Community and Economic Development  
City of Madison

Dear Bill,

I write to convey the opinion of the Early Childhood Care and Education Committee on the measures taken to deal with the projected deficit in the Child Care Assistance program. We recognize that the Division had to deal with the deficit urgently, and, while we of course regret the steps that have thus far been taken, we acknowledge their necessity.

Nevertheless, we are extremely concerned about the possibility that families might lose funding for the last four weeks of the year, in a proposed step that has yet to be implemented. We request that before the Division make a decision to apply further cost-saving measures, or to withdraw commitments to families for the final 4-week period, that the ECCEC be given sufficient prior notice that we have the opportunity to respond as a committee and that our aldermanic representative, Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, have sufficient time to further discuss the issue with you, the Mayor's Office, and City Council.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanne Brown", with a stylized, flowing script.

Joanne Brown, Chair  
Early Childhood Care and Education Committee

Cc: Shiva Bidar-Sielaff  
Jolene Ibeling  
ECCEC members