

2/23/09

OVERVIEW:

GOV'S

PRE-K

BUDGET

PROPOSAL

22 January 2009

To: Paul Seaton
Louie Flora

I am writing to you as a professional in the Early Childhood field, as well as a parent of a soon-to-be-three-year-old who attends a home childcare facility. I have been teaching preschool and toddlers in the Kenai area for years, and am proud that my son is able to get the private care that is best for him. I am aware of impending changes in the education required of childcare professionals, and I am absolutely on-board with that decision. However, I feel that this community, and all the communities on the Kenai Peninsula, need the funding to help with these education requirements.

I feel that the money available for early childhood should be spent in the private sector. There are many local childcare facilities that provide quality services to the youth in the community. Those facilities should receive money, to continue providing the quality that the children deserve.

I am asking that you seriously consider where you place early childhood funds. Please consider distributing the money among the private sector, so we can continue to provide quality care for our children!

Thank You,

Michelle Seaman
335-0531

Louie Flora

From: tombearup@cox.net
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 9:48 AM
To: Louie Flora
Subject: Fwd: FW: my example letter-Can you forward this letter to the needed sorces my computer will not let me :)

Sensitivity: Confidential

Louie,

I received this letter and the writer was not able to send it to directly so she asked me to forward it to you.

Please keep us posted as to what is going on.

Thanks again for your help.

Tom

--
Thomas R. and Adele M. Bearup

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If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited.

If you have received this communication in error, please resend this communication to the sender and delete the original message or any copy of it from your computer system.

Thank You.

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From: Ka Cu <katie.2.u@hotmail.com>
To: Adell The ark <tombearup@cox.net>, bret reid
<freelanceadventurer@yahoo.com>, jeremy <jhotboy2@hotmail.com>
Subject: FW: my example letter-Can you forward this letter to the needed sorces my computer will not let me :)
Date: Tue, 24 Feb 2009 07:31:03 -0700

Dear Mr. Paul Seaton,

I'm writing to express my concern over recent law changes introduced to local child care providers at a meeting held by the Childcare Division of the Department of Education (CCPO). The new requirements appear as a push to place childcare preschool programs to the local school districts.

A new representative for CCPO, whose responsibilities are to be an advocacy and represent

providers "to the people and for the people," acted not as an advocate or representative for us, but rather threatened our livelihood by suggesting that if we did not unite as individual business owners we would "lose our funding."

We "Early Childhood Professionals" were surprised by the information presented and the apparent lack of resources or remedy for us. Our state-appointed advocate delivered dismal news: without acquiring teaching education for our current employees, our preschoolers would be incorporated into the local school system for their preschool needs. The reality for us is that our facilities may not continue to operate without the pre-school programs that we offer to the public.

The new education requirements call for "Teaching Education" for current staff or replacement of current staff, placing centers in the position of having unanticipated financial and resource burdens to meet the new department standard. Educated teachers would require higher salaries than child care providers, and the possibility of assistance in meeting these new requirements was not addressed at the meeting. The potential cost for hiring teachers or educating staff beyond the 75% the child care connection may or may not fund, is not guarantee enough for a business to undertake the burden to fulfill these requirements if they will be closed base on the non-compliance of its competitors.

At the meeting, CCPO gave Seward as an example of a city that could not meet the burden of the new requirements. The real effect of the changes was centers closing completely rather than taking the financial risks involved in compliance. Before the same result happens in the Kenai/Soldotna area, we would like to fully examine the possible affects on the community, economy and the children.

In the past licensing was a partner with centers for the children's best interest in our area. Now I feel as though there is a breach in our relationship, or a cold shoulder, as we have no advice from them merely a distant "I hope you guys unite" approach, without giving us the tools to be successful at meeting the new requirements.

My experience of local child care providers is that we are not millionaires, but we are in this field because we care. Children are in pre-school because they are trying to achieve a development level adequate for school (the word is Pre-School). Children cannot take on a concept of school at a pre-school age developmentally. This is why our program is there for the people and children.

Our appointed advocate is not advising or representing us in the upcoming changes in regulations. \$4,359 is the current monthly salary for a starting teacher in our area, it is not clear whether the individual daycares can cover these new costs or whether the community has the resources in qualified applicants to fill the positions. Without proper advocacy, daycare providers are forced to unite as they did advise us to do at the chat in February. Why is our advocate not advocating us?

Parents achieving Self Sufficiency through the PASS program (7AAC 41.012) is not funding daycare providers enough yet it is asking for more of our programs. The families do not have the freedom of choice of care and the facilities do not have advocacy or all the information to comply.

7AAC 41.025 Program rates should change and our "advocates" should advise us on how we are to meet requirements with the current funding.

Conflicts with new cost of teaching and education standards (7AAC 41.025 (A)). The program does not fund enough for us to comply especially with no advocate

Katherine Uei
Katie.2.u@hotmail.com
P.O. Box 3251 Soldotna Alaska 99669
Cell- 907-398-3864
B.Line- 907-260-3863
Fax Line- 907-260-6338

Pre –K Pilot Guidelines

The Department will offer funds for selected pilot Pre- Kindergarten programs that reflect the following approaches and requirements:

Alaska's voluntary pre-kindergarten programs will work with children and families living in poverty, children with disabilities, children who are learning English as a second language, or otherwise at risk. They will focus on all domains of each child's development as expressed in the Alaska Early Learning Guidelines.

- Program curriculum, assessment and learning opportunities will be based on use of the Alaska Early Learning Guidelines
- Programs will demonstrate growth through specific child outcomes in all developmental domains as expressed on the Alaska Developmental Profile, the Dial-3, and the PPVT.

Emphasis will be placed on school readiness, language development, literacy, mathematics, and cognition through a balance of teacher directed and child initiated activities

- Programs will provide opportunities and experiences for learning through exploration
- Programs will provide Mediated Learning Experiences
- Programs will provide direct instruction for three, four and young five year olds.

Each program will maintain professional qualifications for teachers and classroom staff.

- teachers will meet the requirements of 4 AAC 12.331
- All additional staff working with children will meet NCLB standards by 2010. Until then they will meet the preschool certification requirements.

Each program will prioritize family and community engagement and involvement, and will develop and implement:

- A written plan for ongoing communication with families to be included in the parent handbook
- Communication with parents in conversation or writing at least weekly
- Parent-teacher conferences to review child progress and set goals at least twice per year
- Staff knowledge of community resources and ability to make appropriate referrals
- Recourses available for families that home school their children.
- And at least 3 of the following: regular parent newsletter, additional parent-teacher conferences, daily report of activities, family social gatherings, educational events on topics chosen by families, opportunity to be on governing board or other policymaking body, community resource handbook

Each program will provide a safe and appropriate learning environment that meets the preschool certification requirements.

- Complete a self-assessment of each classroom using an appropriate Environment Rating Scale for the ages of children in the classroom.

Each program will maintain high educational expectations for staff and children

- Each program will provide a minimum of three hours of planned activities daily.
- Each program will provide a minimum of four child contact days per week.

Program management and leadership will insure:

- each program will meet preschool certification requirements
- fiscal and programmatic accountability

Each program will provide several means of communication among staff and between staff and management including:

- Staff meetings are held at least quarterly
- Staff participates in developing agendas for regularly held staff meetings
- A written annual performance appraisal is conducted by supervisor for all teaching staff using objective criteria

**Pastor Tom and Adele Bearup
P.O. Box 2763
41212 Sterling Highway, Mile 91
Soldotna, Alaska 99669-2763
907-262-8741**

February 22, 2009

Mr. Louie Flora:

This letter is in reference to our phone conversation this past week in involving educational funds for childcare and pre-schools.

As I mentioned, my wife Adele and I are very strong believers in the free enterprise system and with the private sector providing professional services to the communities that they serve. We currently are a licensed childcare center in the state of Alaska providing services to the central Kenai Peninsula.

We personally believe that there is no reason for funds to be spent in the Kenai Peninsula School District for pre-school childcare students. The private pre-schools are providing that service to the community in a professional manner and have done so for many years.

As a former Mayor of Soldotna, it has always been my belief that government is there to assist with providing in areas that the private sector are not able to cover and if there is an urgent need for that service. In our case, we have very qualified people that serve as administrators, teachers and assistants in our daycares and pre-schools.

I truly believe that we should not over burden our current school system with additional students that the schools are not prepared to take in. There are many concerns involving the idea of having the schools start pre-schools at their facilities. Some of which are the transportation of the students and the startup cost to the taxpayer.

My suggestion is to provide additional funding to the professional childcare facilities that are providing a tremendous service to their local communities and the people that they serve. We, as a professional group believe that the love and teaching that we are providing to the children, entrusted to us is exactly what these children need to have in their lives.

The professional childcare providers on the Peninsula continue to believe that what they are doing is so important that they are eager to get additional childcare training so that they can give the best that they can to the children that are in their care.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Please feel free to contact me in the event that you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Pastor Tom Bearup

Louie Flora

From: Sonia Tribble [nanaschildcare@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 8:54 PM
To: Louie Flora
Subject: Grant for Pre-Schools

To Whom It May Concern:

I recently heard there is a huge grant, earmarked for preschools.

Preschool targets a small age range of children. I am a 24/7 Group home childcare facility. I do have a CDA in child development. The age range of my facility is birth to 12 years old.

My childcare facility may not be called a preschool, but the function of it is the same with a lot more amenities. I have laundry facilities, I also have bedrooms where a sick child can stay so the parents don't miss work. What preschool has that??

I had a little boy from 18 months to 6 1/2 years, by the time I put him in kindergarten, he was spelling 4 letter words, adding subtracting, he also understood the concept of multiplication.

I have a 3 1/2 little girl since birth, she knows her colors, shapes, she recognizes 90% of her alphabets, she can count to 20, 10 in Spanish. She also can add simple numbers.

I have a little boy who did come from a local preschool 5 months ago. Mama said he was always tired and stressed out when picking him up there. She indicated how noisy it was there. Here, he seems much more rested and happy. And the atmosphere is more relaxed and quiet. She wished she changed long ago.

I had a child who got off the bus from Kenaitze Pre School. He was tired and hungry. They did not give him a needed nap, nor did they feed him lunch.

Most of the parents I get do not like the atmosphere of large facility, the child does not get the one-on-one contact they so very much need for proper brain development.

If a parent calls me for an opening and is enrolled in a preschool facility, which would put him on a part time enrollment with me, I would not enroll him and many other facility will not enroll him part time either. Preschools do not cover the full working hours some parents needs.

The childcare facilities on the peninsula are the lowest paid in the state.

With a good size grant, I could build an extension on the back of my house for a extra play room/home workroom for after school children. I could get some professional heavy-duty playground equipment.

So please allocate the money for the small business owners like me. It would be for the children.

Thank you for your time in this matter. If you have any other questions that I may help you out with please contact me. Thank you

Sonia Tribble
907-335-1960

Louie Flora

From: THOMAS CAMPANELLA [ecolet.t.campanella@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2009 10:16 AM
To: Louie Flora
Subject: one million dollars????

Kurt Olson,

THANK YOU FOR REPRESENTING THE NEEDS OF THE PENINSULA CHILD CARES. IT'S HIGH TIME THE STATE STOPS COMPETING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR. IT'S HARD ENOUGH MAKING A LIVING DOING WHAT WE DO. A STATE RUN EDUCATION SYSTEM CAN'T HOLD A CANDLE TO THE HOME BASE CHILD CARE SYSTEM WE CURRENTLY HAVE NOW. WE HAVE GIVEN THEM DECADES TO PROVE TIME AND TIME AGAIN WHAT A DISMAL FAILURE THEY ARE..

DON'T ALLOW THE GREAT AMERICAN SOCIAL EXPERIMENT A FRESH NEW STUDY GROUP AT SUCH A EARLY AGE.