

HHS/ED COMM #2&3
April 30, 2010
Worksession

MEMORANDUM

April 29, 2010

TO: Health and Human Services Committee
Education Committee

FROM: Vivian Yao, Legislative Analyst 

SUBJECT: **Worksession:** FY11 Operating Budget
FY10 Operating Budget Adjustment
**Review of Items Assigned Jointly to the Health and Human
Services and Education Committees (see list below)**

Those expected for this worksession:

Department of Health and Human Services

Uma Ahluwalia, Director
Sherry White, Chief Operating Officer
Kim Mayo, HHS Budget Team Leader
Kate Garvey, Chief, Children, Youth and Families

Montgomery County Public Schools

Dr. Marshall Spatz, Management and Budget Director
Dr. LaVerne Kimball, Community Superintendent
Sean Bulson, Community Superintendent
Janine Bacquie, Director, Division of Early Childhood Programs and Services
Stephen Zagami, Director, Department of Students Services

Office of Management and Budget

Beryl Feinberg
Trudy-Ann Durace

On April 16, the Health and Human Services and Education Committees met to discuss FY11 operating budget items with health and human service and education implications. Follow-up information was requested by Committee members on the following programs:

- Child Care Subsidies
- Early Childhood Services
- School Health Services
- Conservation Corps
- Public Private Partnerships – SHARP Street Suspension Services

The Committees will also review the adjustment recommended by the Executive on April 22 to the DHHS FY10 Operating Budget for Child Care Subsidies

I. CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES

The Committees reviewed the Executive’s proposed FY11 budget for Child Care Subsidies, which provided for a total of \$3,789,970 and 22.3 workyears. The Executive recommended one program adjustment for the shifting of Purchase of Care (POC) child care subsidy payments to the State, resulting in a decrease of \$6,766,000. The State is assuming responsibility for making Purchase of Care (POC) payments, but the County will retain programmatic and fiscal responsibilities.

During the discussion, Education Committee Chair Ervin sought clarification about why the WPA program in FY10 is averaging fewer clients per month than the same period in FY09 given the increased needs of low income families. The Department responded that more clients are qualifying and being directed to the State POC program. Education Committee Chair Ervin requested data showing the increase in POC use. The following table shows the monthly numbers of children for which POC and WPA subsidies were paid:

	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09	Feb-09
WPA	334	355	346	360	387	314	315	304	379	362	331	362
POC	1,353	1,347	1,325	1,312	1,222	1,187	1,202	1,342	1,314	1,374	1,340	1,277
	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10
WPA	325	336	335	356	385	342	313	320	320	333	322	276
POC	1,340	1,373	1,361	1,449	1,369	1,282	1,313	1,472	1,427	1,600	n/a	n/a

The following chart shows the change in average monthly numbers between FY09 and FY10 for the WPA and POC programs. WPA experienced a slight decrease in average monthly numbers (-18 children) while POC experienced a significant increase (128 children).

FY09 POC Average	1282
FY10 POC Average	1411
Change in POC average monthly numbers from FY09 to FY10	128
FY09 WPA Average	344
FY10 WPA Average	326
Change in WPA average montly numbers from FY09 to FY10	-18

The Committees also requested scheduling a mid-year worksession to review child care subsidy enrollment trends, projections on spending out FY11 subsidy amounts, any potential wait lists for services, and the impact of changes to the POC program on childcare providers and families.

WPA Adjustment

The Committees were briefed on the recommended level funding of \$1,842,210 for WPA subsidies in FY11. At the time of the worksession, the Department was on track to spend all of the FY10 appropriation and had increased the amount of the monthly subsidy for each enrolled child in the second half of the fiscal year beginning in January 2010. At the worksession, the Department reported that the Executive was considering suspending the supplemental payments to realize additional savings in FY10.

The Executive, in his FY10 Budget Adjustments submitted to the Council on April 22, recommended discontinuing the supplemental WPA payments for the remainder of FY10 to save \$178,000. The reduction will not prevent new families from being enrolled in WPA, and the Department will not cap enrollment in the program in FY10. The Department does not anticipate a reduction to the level of WPA subsidies for FY11.

The Committees have previously expressed concern about the level of family contribution required to participate in the WPA program. Council staff believes that high co-pays may be a limiting factor in WPA participation; however, funding has not been available to lower family payments on a permanent basis. Because of the dire fiscal constraints currently facing the County, Council staff regrettably concurs with this recommendation.

II. EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

A. PRE-KINDERGARTEN AND HEAD START SERVICES

The Committees reviewed FY11 funding recommendations from the Executive and the Board of Education for community-based and MCPS Head Start and Pre-Kindergarten programs. A chart that provides update information on these programs is attached at ©1-6.

The Committee recommended approval of the Executive's adjustments related to the Head Start program. The Committees also recommended FY11 funding for the following programs:

- MCPS and Community-Based Head Start slots for 648 children;
- MCPS All Day Head Start for 21 classes at 9 Title I schools;
- MCPS Pre-K slots for an additional 140 children above the 1945 slots budgeted in FY10;
- Centro Nia Community-Based Pre-Kindergarten program for 40 children. The organization reported to the Department that the proposed 7% reduction to the contract would likely reduce community outreach services and not affect the number of program slots. The organization has also applied for a Council grant.

Committee members requested data from MCPS on the percentages and number of Montgomery County students who qualify for Free and Reduced Priced Meals compared to other jurisdictions in Maryland. MCPS provided the chart attached at ©11 in response to this request.

B. CENTRO FAMILIA SERVICES

HHS Committee Chair Leventhal requested that the Committees return to discuss all recommendations related to Institute for Family Development, Inc., also known as Centro Familia, as well as separate requests from the organization to the Council. This section discusses the following:

FY10 Contract	FY11 Council Grant Request	CE Recommended FY11	Type of Award	Service
\$ 44,507	\$ -	\$ -	Early Childhood Services Contract	Pre-K - Escuelita
\$ 215,593	\$ -	\$ -	Early Childhood Services Contract	Pre-K - Escuelita
\$ 109,084	\$ -	\$ 61,084	Early Childhood Services Contract	Outreach services
\$ 80,000	\$ 85,875	\$ -	Community Grant	Family Childcare Network
\$ -	\$ 27,260	\$ -	Community Grant	Child Development Associate Training
\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000	Community Grant	Transition support

Information is also provided on the role of Family Services, Inc. in delivering services under any contracts awarded to Centro Familia.

Community Based Pre-Kindergarten (Escuelita) Contract Elimination

The Committees discussed the reduction of \$262,700 proposed by the Executive to the community-based part-day Pre-K program delivered by Centro Familia to 15 three year olds and 15 four-year olds. That contract provides for a three-hour educational program and support services. The program uses a pre-kindergarten aligned curriculum. Centro Familia reports that there are 41 families interested in its Pre-K services for FY11.

The Department has explained that this contract was selected for elimination because the service was going out for bid, creating the possibility of program transition, and the Board of Education was recommending an expansion of Pre-K that might serve children who would have attended La Escuelita. **The April 28 letter from Board President O’Neill and the Superintendent attached at ©7-11 confirms that MCPS will be able to serve all age and income eligible four-year old children who might otherwise have been served by La Escuelita. The letter also offers the support of bilingual MCPS parent outreach staff to facilitate contact with eligible families in order to help them transition to MCPS and navigate the registration process.**

In discussing this reduction, Councilmembers Navarro and Trachtenberg requested an explanation of how existing community-based and MCPS Head Start and Pre-K programs fit into an overall strategic plan for serving low-income, at-risk populations including program objectives, partners involved, and how programs are provided oversight and managed. Specific data was also requested comparing the costs of the two community-based pre-kindergarten programs.

The Department provided the following response related to how early childhood programs fit in an overall plan for serving low-income families:

High quality early childhood services are a critical part of the continuum of services for low income families in Montgomery County. Services are provided in communities of greatest need and supports are provided for families of the enrolled children. Having children fully ready for school equips them for future success in life. The County recognizes early childhood services as a foundational prevention strategy. Some of the key partners who have been involved in early childhood efforts in the County are: MCPS, MSDE, the Collaboration Council, child care providers, family child care providers, Centro Nia, Centro Familia, MHA, Family Services, the Organization of Child Care Directors, the Montgomery County Family Child Care Association, Montgomery College, JSSA, the Lourie Center, the League of Women Voters, MAEYC, Montgomery County Child Care Association, the Resource and Referral Center, Child Care Subsidy Program, and the Commission on Child Care.

Information relating to outcomes and program measures are described in your packet at ©12-13. A side-to-side comparison of the Centro Familia and Centro Nia programs is attached at ©14-15.

Council staff concurs with the reductions of Pre-Kindergarten funds for four-year children, as the school system is expanding services for income-eligible services for this population. Council staff is concerned about the availability of services for three-year olds in the community, and notes that there is likely to be gap in services for this population.

Outreach Services Contract Reduction

The Executive is proposing the continuation of the contract with Centro Familia for outreach services at a reduced level of \$61,084 for FY11 from \$109,084 in FY10. The outreach contract provided for early literacy learning parties, office coverage, and telephone assistance for Latino care givers and parents. The contract was reduced by \$20,000 in the FY10 Savings Plan, Round 2. The organization serviced 2,833 callers in FY09 and will serve an estimated 2,437 callers in FY10. Council staff understands that all of these functions will continue to a lesser extent in FY11.

In reviewing the centralization of LOCATE child care services by the State, it was unknown whether the centralized LOCATE services would support families who speak

languages other than English, including families who might otherwise have received support from Centro Familia. **Councilmember Navarro requested information about the specific services provided by the organization and expressed concern about how the outreach services relate to other services that receive County support including hotlines and patient navigators.** The Department provided the following response:

The current contract for outreach and referral services, awarded to Centro Familia through a Request for Proposals, supported central office functions and telephone assistance for Spanish-speaking child care providers who are both licensed and unlicensed and for parents who need to be linked to DHHS and community-based programs. The contract was directed at families and caregivers who have been unable to access early childhood and social services programs due to barriers such as language, literacy, and transportation.

The referral component was to follow up on referrals from the Montgomery County Child Care Resource and Referral Center to families with young children who had not been able to access licensed or quality child care programs. The families had barriers such as high costs, transportation or language or other significant barriers. They were required to act as a facilitator in enrolling at risk families in the child care subsidy programs. In FY08, Centro Familia received 3,227 calls and in FY09, 2,833.

While the services offered by Centro Familia under this contract have merit, Council staff questions whether the funds may be better used to support young children. It seems odd that support for Learning Parties is being eliminated in other contracts, but a limited amount of support for that service remains in this contract. Also, is it efficient to fund information and referral-type services provided by this agency when the Department has been exploring how to consolidate information and referral services generally? Would the Committees be interested in using the funding to support or subsidize community-based Pre-Kindergarten slots for three-year olds, as there is likely to be a gap in services for this population? If so, the Committees may want to seek comment from the Department about how this kind of effort could move forward with Family Service, Inc. or through an RFP or other process.

Centro Familia Community Grants

There are three FY11 proposed Community Grants related to Centro Familia, one proposed by the County Executive, and two submitted by the organization through the Council grants process. Two of the three grants are specifically related to the potential merger between Centro Familia and Family Services, Inc.

This subsection briefly describes each and is followed by a staff recommendation.

1. Family Child Care Network: Listos para La Escuelita.

This grant was recommended for funding by the County Executive in FY10 for \$80,000 and approved by the Council. For several years prior to FY10 this grant was approved as a Council Grant. This funding has supported training, business development, and home visiting for a network of non or limited English speaking family child care providers. It has the twin goal of improving school readiness of the children in the care of the providers and to improve the quality of care provided and economic self sufficiency of the providers. It has achieved positive outcomes for the 40-60 children and 15 providers served annually in this program. Centro Familia submitted an FY11 Council grant application for \$85,875 to continue this program. The County Executive did not recommend funding for these services in FY11.

2. Child Development Associate training

Centro Familia submitted a second FY11 Council grant application requesting \$27,260 for the cost of application and membership (multi year) to become an authorized provider of Continued Education Unit training to help Latina child care providers with a Child Development Associate certification obtain the required training to renew their CDA certificate.

3. County Executive recommended Community Grant for Centro Familia

In the March 15 budget, the County Executive recommended a Community Grant for Centro Familia for \$50,000 for general operating funds limited to facilitate the transition of the services to another nonprofit.

Centro Familia and Family Services, Inc. are in extensive merger discussions and jointly submitted a grant application outlining the proposed use of the funds recommended by the County Executive. Under the merger, Centro Familia would dissolve and no longer be a separate nonprofit organization. It would become a program of Family Services, Inc. with the objective of retaining its unique culture of service delivery within the larger administrative capabilities of the larger organization. The bulk of the funds would be used to convert and set up computer, accounting, payroll, human resource and client records from Centro Familia to Family Services, Inc. A more detailed description of each budget item is attached on ©16-17.

Updated information provided by the two organizations for FY 10 is that Centro Familia has assigned its rights and obligations to Family Services, Inc. for its three current County contracts: Pre-K Escuelita, Outreach Services, and Family Child Care Network-Listos para La Escuelita. All employees paid for by these contracts are now Family Services, Inc. employees.

Discussion:

1. Given the importance of early childhood education in preparing low income, limited English proficient children for school readiness, and that significant numbers of these children are cared for in family day care settings, the County has recognized and supported services to improve the quality of that care, with the additional benefit of improving the economic self sufficiency of limited English speaking immigrant family child care providers, through training, provision of a career ladder, etc. The experience and services provided by Centro Familia in this program area are somewhat unique.
2. Given the significant County investment in operating dollars as well as capital funds for Centro Familia over the last 10 years, a case can be made for approval of County funds to assist in the administrative costs associated with transferring the programs and systems from one organization to another.
3. However, staff believes the highest priority for public funding is to continue to the extent possible those services that meet a critical public need and are not generally provided elsewhere.
4. **Staff Recommendation: Shift \$50,000 in funding from CE Community Grant for Centro Familia to Family Services, Inc. and shift purpose of funding to continue some level of services for the family child care network. This funding level is less than has been provided in prior years and Family Services, Inc. will have some one-time administrative expenses to incur so realistically, the level of service in FY11 will be lower than in previous years.**

C. OTHER EARLY CHILDHOOD CONTRACTS

The Committees reviewed other adjustments to Early Childhood Services contracts and services. The Committees recommended approval of the Executive's proposal to eliminate funding to support learning parties.

In discussing the centralization of the LOCATE Child Care Resource and Referral Services by the State, the Department suggested that appropriate connections with MC311, ChildLink and LOCATE services need to be made. Councilmember Ervin expressed the need to monitor the State's delivery of services to residents locally.

The Committees also reviewed other Early Childhood Services contracts, which are proposed for 7% reductions.

Vendor Name	FY10 Contract (GF portion only)	7%	Estimated FY11 Contract*	Service
Allard, Lindsey	9,950	700	9,250	Early childhood educator/training
Borders Group, Inc.	1,205	80	1,125	Children's Books
Childhood Development	8,640	600	8,040	Mental health services
Clark, Louise	6,120	430	5,690	Early childhood training
Easter Seals	6,000	420	5,580	Early childhood educator/training
Family Services, Inc.	334,284	23,400	310,884	Mental health services/Pre-K/C.
Family Services, Inc.	522,326	36,560	485,766	Healthy Families/Baby Steps
Hanek, Diane	28,400	1,990	26,410	Mental health services
Jewish Social Services Agency	59,020	4,130	54,890	Mental health services
List, Lynne	9,700	680	9,020	Mental health services
Mental Health Association	9,820	690	9,130	Mental health services
Mental Health Association	101,921	7,130	94,791	Families Foremost/MOMS
Montgomery Child Care Association	1,000	70	930	Early childhood training
Montgomery College	26,000	1,820	24,180	Scholarships
Montgomery College	33,000	2,310	30,690	Scholarships
Norwood Enterprises, LLC	2,617	180	2,437	Children's Books
Peysen, Sandra	30,720	2,150	28,570	Early childhood educator/training
Reginald S. Lourie Center	49,840	3,490	46,350	Mental health services

Councilmember Trachtenberg requested additional information related to the Early Childhood Services contracts that are proposed for reduction including information on the population served, the history of working with the County, and other available funding streams for the organization. The chart on ©18-21 provides some of the requested information.

If the Committees do not recommend changes to the reductions proposed by the Executive to Early Childhood Services contracts, Council staff recommends that Committees to return after contracts have been finalized to receive an update on the impact of these reductions to services.

III. SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

The Committees recommended all but one adjustment proposed by the Executive for School Health Services. The Committees did not recommend reduce School Health Room Aide I and II Positions from .73 workyear to .62 workyear for a savings of \$1,541,340 as proposed by the Executive.

The Executive is proposing a reduction to School Health Room Aide (SHRA) I and II positions from .73 to .62 workyears, which reduces the hours of the SHRAs by one hour per day for the school year. The additional hour was negotiated in a MCGEO side letter starting in FY08. The reduction does not roll back all of the negotiated hours in the

side letter, as there were 26 SHRAs that were in .52 WY positions and they will continue at the .62 WY level.

This reduction results in a 15 minutes gap in coverage in elementary schools and 45 minute gap in coverage in secondary schools when a SHRA is not on site. Seven hour coverage provides a SHRA on site throughout the school day. Some of the gap can be managed by coordinating nurse and SHRA work hours to maximize on site coverage at the beginning and end of the work day. The State does not specify the number of hours of SHRA coverage.

The Department has explained that in looking for areas to make reductions, it explored increases to services that have not been in place for a long time. The Department stated that its goal has been to save positions through small reductions in hours instead of reducing whole positions, if possible.

The Council has received correspondence from SHRAs and their advocates that request that the Council not approve the Executive recommended reduction in hours. See ©22-27. Advocates believe that the SHRAs have been unfairly targeted and will experience financial distress as a result of this action. The correspondence explains that the reduced hours are insufficient to allow SHRAs to complete assigned tasks and that the health and safety of students and staff will be compromised with less coverage on the shoulder hours of the school day. In addition, writers point out that duties of SHRAs have become more complex over time as a result of public health crises like H1N1 and MRSA, and the care of students with serious chronic illnesses cannot be performed by non-health care personnel.

Data is not available that quantifies how the additional one-hour coverage has contributed to the health and safety of students. Correspondence to the Council suggests that students often take medicine upon arrival at school and that school staff is busiest and less able to administer first aid or respond to health issues on the shoulder hours of the day.

HHS Committee Chair Leventhal requested that the reduction be included on the reconciliation with the request that the Council take up this issue in the context of discussions related to furloughs and other workforce reductions. Committee members expressed concern about whether the reduction would impact the health and safety of students.

The Committees requested comment from MCPS on the impact of the reduction on students and staff and the experience of school staff with the current arrangement. The Board of Education President and Superintended provided the following response to the Committees' request:

The Montgomery County Board of Education strongly supports and values the role of school room health aides in providing essential health services for Montgomery County children attending MCPS schools. The Board of

Education and MCPS staff has worked closely with DHHS staff to ensure the quality of health services in schools. . . . The Board of Education understands that the reduction in the availability of school health room aides during the school day will affect the services that they can provide. However, all county agencies, including MCPS, have recommended budget reductions that will have a significant effect on children. Given the fiscal situation, there may be no realistic alternative to many of the proposed reductions. It is the Board's hope that sufficient revenue will become available to restore the reductions of health room aide hours as soon as possible. Until then, school and DHHS staff will work closely together to minimize the impact on children of any reductions in school health room aide hours. MCPS staff intends to work closely with DHHS and with school principals to monitor the effects of the changes. Staff will report any changes in service quality to the Board of Education.

The MFP committee is scheduled to discuss furloughs and staff compensation issues at its April 29th meeting.

IV. CONSERVATION CORPS

The HHS Committee reviewed the Executive's recommendation for \$400,000 and 3.7 workyears for the Conservation Corps program in FY11, which is a decrease of \$456,730 (53%) and 23.5 workyears (86%) from the FY10 approved budget.

The Executive is recommending a change in the delivery model of the Conservation Corps program by transitioning the program to a non-profit organization in FY11. The recommended budget maintains program funds of \$150,000 to allow the last cohort under the current structure to finish the program. The Executive's original recommendation provided for \$250,000 to be contracted with a non-profit to run the program for the second half of the fiscal year beginning in January 2011. The anticipated budget for the program in FY12 would be \$500,000. The Department reported that existing nonprofits deliver services similar to those of the Conservation Corps who may be interested in bidding on the contract.

The Department anticipates that there will be a reduction in the number of crews from earlier levels when the program transitions to a nonprofit. In FY09, the program operated with three crews; however, the program operated in FY10 with only two crews due to a year-long vacant crew leader position.

The Executive also recommended the shifting of lease costs for the Conservation Corps to the Leases NDA and 7% reductions to two contracts -- one for GED services through Montgomery College and the other for uniforms through Unifirst.

Background

The Conservation Corps is modeled after the Civilian Conservation Corps, established during the Great Depression. The Civilian Conservation Corps employed and trained millions of young men, building needed roads and bridges. Since 1984, the Montgomery County Conservation Corps has served a similar function in the County. It has prepared young people for employment while giving them an opportunity to gain work experience, learn necessary skills, gain an appreciation of the environment, and have access to educational support. In 1986, the program was moved from the County Government to Montgomery County Community College for both programmatic and cost savings measures. In 1989, it was moved back to County Government where it has remained. **Council staff notes because of the educational and human services components of the program, it does not fit neatly under the mission of any one County agency. Council staff understands that this may make the program more vulnerable to budget reductions in difficult economic times despite the good outcomes it produces.**

Program Outcomes

The program will serve a total of 77 corps members in FY10, and 68 youth will remain on the waiting list after the new cohort begins in April. This is a substantial increase from the 10 youth reported on the waiting list during budget discussions last year.

The youth served are typically between the ages of 18 and 24. The breakdown of ages for youth served this year is as follows:

Age	April 2010	September 2009	Total
18	3	3	6
19	3	5	8
20	8	5	13
21	2	5	7
22	1	4	5
23	5	2	7
24	2	0	2
Total	24	24	48

The Department reports the following program outcomes for the current fiscal year (see also ©29):

- Of the 53 members that have been served through March, 34 were enrolled without a high school degree. Of those 34, 7 completed their GED program and another 25 increased their grade levels by a minimum of 2 grades, a 94% success rate.
- Only 1 corps member recidivated into the justice system this year.

The program has been successful in the past in generating revenue from public and private sources for work performed by Conservation Corps members. The revenue estimate for FY10 is 70,000; however, the program has generated significantly more than this amount in past years including \$198,169 in FY05. Past sources of revenue have come from County agencies including the Department of Environmental Protection, the former Department of Public Works and Transportation (currently the Department of General Services and the Department of Transportation), Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and Regional Services Centers. **Council staff notes that the program's placement within County Government made it possible for the program to deliver services to public agencies for fees without going through cumbersome procurement processes. If the program moves to a nonprofit, a mechanism that allows payment to the nonprofit for services provided should be developed.**

Community Input

The Council has received testimony and correspondence in support of and against the proposal to transition the program to a nonprofit. The significant amount of correspondence received by the Council has been against the idea of transitioning the program. The correspondence (examples at ©30-32) against the proposal generally expresses (1) the importance and need for the program, (2) concern that the transition is really an attempt to dismantle the program, and (3) doubt that the quality of the program will be maintained if the program transitions to a private non-profit.

The Friends of the Montgomery County Conservation Corps submitted testimony (©33) supportive of the proposed public-private partnership contingent on program implementation that includes (1) serving out of school, unemployed youth; (2) providing educational opportunities, including GED and AmeriCorps education scholarships; (3) providing job training, preparation, and placement; (4) engaging in conservation activities; and (5) promoting youth development and personal and life skills.

Council staff notes that other groups have expressed concern about the current structure of the Conservation Corps program and recommended changing the structure. The Corps Network, the national advocate and representative of the nation's Service and Conservation Corps, published an evaluation of the Montgomery County program in December 2008 (©34-39). In that report, the Corps Network described effective practices and made recommendations that included "developing a focused inter-county strategic plan on restructuring its program within the county to expand and serve more of its target population" and diversifying and expanding the program funding sources. **Council staff notes that having the program exist within County Government may inhibit the ability for the program to leverage funding from private sources.**

Last year, the Transition Work Group, an organization of parents, county and school staff, and services providers who work with youth adults who have development and other disabilities, delivered testimony (©40) also suggesting that the Corps be reconstituted as a 501(c)(3) entity.

Committee Discussion

HHS Committee Chair Leventhal expressed skepticism that the transition of the program to a nonprofit would leverage significant amounts of funding from private sources as other efforts like the Child Assessment Center and Collaboration Council have not. He also expected that the program would continue to need support from the County to continue operations in future years.

DHHS representatives noted that there are more private models of Conservation Corps programs around the country than public models. Some these private models have leveraged robust private support.

The Committees commented on the educational aspect of the program, and Councilmember Trachtenberg suggested pursuing a dialogue with MCPS on any opportunities to partner and leverage funding for the program. Representatives from MCPS and Montgomery College are expected to attend this worksession and participate in the discussion.

Council staff recommendation:

Council staff is not opposed to the Executive's proposal if there is plan to ensure that the nonprofit provider implements effective practices highlighted by the Corps Network and the program elements highlighted by the Friends group.

Because the Conservation Corps does not fit neatly within the mission of any single County agency, the program is vulnerable to budget reductions and has been transferred to different County agencies on multiple occasions. Having a nonprofit operate and advocate for the program may be its best hope for continuation and growth.

If the Council approves the proposed program delivery model, Council staff will work with the Department, the Park and Planning Commission and other outside Agencies to develop a mechanism after a nonprofit vendor is selected to allow the vendor provide services to County agencies for payment without having to go through a separate procurement process.

VII. PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

The Committee reviewed contracts that DHHS administers for public/private partnerships whose primary services are educational in nature and involve collaboration with the school system. The Committee concurred with the Executive's recommendation regarding the following contracts:

Vendor Name	FY10 Contract (GF portion)	Reduction Amount	7%	Estimated FY11 Contract**	Service
George B. Thomas Learning Academy	40,580		2,840	37,740	Ruth Rales
George B. Thomas Learning Academy	955,464	150,000		805,464	Saturday School
Interages, Inc.	40,192		2,810	37,382	Ruth Rales
Montgomery County Public Schools	185,000		11,140	173,860	Alternative Ed/SED
Passion for Learning, Inc.	24,537		1,720	22,817	Ruth Rales

The Department reported that George B. Thomas Learning Academy representatives do not anticipate reducing the number of youth served and are looking at a tiered fee schedule.

SHARP Street Suspension Program

The Committees also reviewed the SHARP Street Suspension Program and the recommendation to continue contract with a 7% reduction for the three churches who deliver the program. The Executive recommended \$37,200 each.

Attendance information on the program is provided as follows:

The following three charts provide information on (1) the monthly attendance by program site for FY09 and FY10, and (2) FY10 referral data.

FY09 Monthly Attendance by Site

Sites	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Total
Gaithersburg	8	11	13	8	11	12	63
Burtonsville	10	10	7	19	11	10	67
Sandy Spring	3	4	7	4	2	5	25
TOTAL	33	39	45	52	26	41	155

FY10 Monthly Attendance by Site

Sites	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Total
Gaithersburg	8	9	10	7	10	9	53
Burtonsville	8	11	15	8	7	8	57
Sandy Spring	1	0	5	3	0	0	9
TOTAL	17	20	30	18	17	17	119

FY10 Referral Data

Site	# out of school suspensions	# students referred	# students admitted	% students attending from students referred
Gaithersburg	143	79	53	67%
Burtonsville	174	126	57	45%
Sandy Spring	188	21	9	43%
TOTAL	505	226	119	53%

Council staff makes the following observations related to program data:

- The program is serving about 24% of students receiving out of school suspensions.
- All programs experienced some reductions in attendance in FY10 with lower percentage decreases for Burtonsville (15%) and Gaithersburg (16%) and a more significant decrease for Sandy Spring (64%).
- Sandy Spring's service numbers for the last two years have been low – 25 students served in FY09 and 9 students served in FY10.

Councilmember Ervin commented that the low numbers of students served by the program are due in large part to a change in implementation of the MCPS out-of-school suspension policies. She questioned whether the County should continue supporting the program, and asked that MCPS comment on the need for the program and whether schools are able to address the needs of families of children who receive out-of-school suspension.

The April 28 letter from the Board of Education President and Superintendent provided the number of out-of-school suspensions for schools referring to the SHARP program included in the table above. In addition, the letter expressed MCPS's appreciation for the faith-based community's support to students while on out-of-school suspension and recognized that its efforts to develop strategies to decrease the incidence of out-of-school suspensions impacts the number of students who are eligible to participate in the SHARP program.

Community Based Head Start and PreK Programs

Community Based Head Start and Prek Programs										
Models	Multi-Cultural Pre-K Community Based				Head Start- Community Based		MCPS School-Based Pre-K - 2½ hours (Based on average of actual salaries) 97 classes (avr. Class size 20 -22) (1)	MCPS School-Based Head Start 3 1/4 hours (Based on average of actual salaries) 33 classes (2)	MCPS School-Based FD HS-Title I Supplemental (21 classes) to be combined with (2) for Full-day (Based on average of actual salaries) (3)	MCPS Head Start classes (costs based on two immediate left columns) (should be close to MCPS allotment)
	Example programs	Escuelita	CentroNia	Mont Coll	SSPCCC					
Method of award	RFP	RFP	Public Entity	RFP						
Children's Capacity	30	40	20	10	20	20	20	20		
Number of Children Enrolled	30	40	19	10	2072	618	420 of 618 Head Start seats			
Total funding	\$262,701.00	\$343,399.00	\$199,502.08	\$121,371.41	\$98,711.49	\$151,473.00	\$71,825.58			
Total Funding per child	\$8,756.70	\$8,584.98	\$9,975.10	\$12,137.14	\$4,935.57	\$7,573.65	\$3,591.28			
Hours of service per day	3	8	4.5	4.5	2.5	3.25	6			
FY10 Contract Amount	Personnel	\$145,963.00	\$183,388.00	\$105,775.00	\$40,638.00					
	Fringe Benefits	\$32,112.00	\$36,677.00	\$32,198.00	\$16,255.00					
	Operating Expenses	\$84,626.00	\$123,334.00	\$29,832.08	\$33,051.41					
	Capital Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
	Total	\$262,701.00	\$343,399.00	\$167,805.08	\$89,944.41					
MCPS Costs	Teacher					\$39,934	\$46,045	\$30,089	\$1,184,409.00	
	Paraeducators					\$13,426	\$22,525	\$19,369	\$677,049.00	
	Social Service Asst			\$13,512.00	\$13,512.00	\$4,761	\$14,942		\$179,304.00	
	Speech Pathologist			\$7,593.00	\$7,593.00	\$4,268	\$12,357		\$148,284.00	
	Substitutes-Teachers					\$690	\$690	\$690	\$22,760.24	
	Teacher, Special Needs					\$797	\$797		\$9,564.00	
	Teacher, ESOL					\$705	\$705		\$8,460.00	
	Substitutes-PARAS					\$591	\$788	\$788	\$26,004.84	
	Psychologist			\$4,943.00	\$4,943.00	\$1,759	\$3,394		\$40,728.00	
	Contractual Services			\$140.00	\$70.00	\$154	\$280		\$3,360.00	
	Instructional Materials					\$700	\$1,140		\$13,680.00	
	Food					\$542	\$1,349		\$16,188.00	
	Parent Activities			\$400.00	\$200.00	\$152	\$400		\$4,800.00	
	Equipment					\$197	\$574		\$6,888.00	
Social Workers			\$4,654.00	\$4,654.00	\$1,469	\$3,231		\$38,772.00		

Community Based Head Start and PreK Programs

Models	Multi-Cultural Pre-K Community-Based		Head Start- Community Based		MCPS School-Based Pre-K - 2½ hours (Based on average of actual salaries) 97 classes (avr. Class size 20 -22) (1)	MCPS School-Based Head Start 3 1/4 hours (Based on average of actual salaries) 33 classes (2)	MCPS School-Based FD HS-Title I Supplemental (21 classes) to be combined with (2) for Full-day (Based on average of actual salaries) (3)	MCPS Head Start classes (costs based on two immediate left columns) (should be close to MCPS allotment)	
	Field Trips			\$455.00	\$455.00	\$274	\$292	\$3,504.00	
Fringe/benefits						\$28,292	\$41,449	\$20,890	\$936,078.00
Staff Development							\$515		\$6,180.00
Total MCPS Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$31,697.00	\$31,427.00	\$98,711	\$151,473	\$71,826	\$3,326,013.08	
Ages of Children served	3 and 4 years	3 and 4 years	3 and 4 years	4 years	3 and 4 years	4 years only			
Child Care Subsidies	None	Program provides support to families in obtaining subsidies for wrap around services	Participation in subsidies strongly suggested	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Eligibility	English Language Learning	English Language Learning and FARMS	Head Start/ Fed Poverty Level	Federal/State FARMS level	Fed Poverty Level	Fed Poverty Level			
Length of service year	12 months	12 months	12 months	10 months + summer ELO if Title I	10 months + Summer ELO if Title I. Head Start Summer School (100 seats)	10 months + Summer ELO Head Start Summer School (100 seats)			
Child Care wrap around services	Available on site	Available in classroom; subsidies and scholarships available	Parents use subsidies to pay for additional hours.	Parents arrange for either before or after	Parents arrange for either before or after	Parents arrange for either before or after			
Teacher qualifications	minimum AA, pursuing BA in Early Childhood Education	BA in Early Childhood Education, minimum AA pursuing BA in ECE	CDA/ HS Standards (NAEYC/ MSDE)	MSDE Early Childhood Certified	MSDE Early Childhood Certified	MSDE Early Childhood Certified			
Curriculum	Aligned with MCPS PreK curriculum	Aligned with MCPS PreK curriculum	Aligned with MCPS PreK curriculum	MCPS Pre-K curriculum	MCPS Pre-K curriculum	MCPS Pre-K curriculum			

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Community Based Head Start and PreK Programs

Models	Multi-Cultural Pre-K Community-Based		Head Start- Community Based	MCPS School-Based Pre-K - 2 1/2 hours (Based on average of actual salaries) 97 classes (avr. Class size 20 -22) (1)	MCPS School-Based Head Start 3 1/4 hours (Based on average of actual salaries) 33 classes (2)	MCPS School-Based FD HS-Title I Supplemental (21 classes) to be combined with (2) for Full-day (Based on average of actual salaries) (3)	MCPS Head Start classes (costs based on two immediate left columns) (should be close to MCPS allotment)
Training requirements	Child care licensing requirements	Child care licensing requirements	HS Inst. and other HS training	Pre-k Inst./Volun. cohorts	Pre-k Inst./HS Inst./Volun. cohorts	Pre-k Inst./HS Inst./Volun. cohorts/3 days of FDHS training	
Nutrition support	Snack Provided	Participates in USDA Food Program, snacks and lunch	Each child must receive meals and snacks that provide at least 1/3 of the child's daily nutritional needs; lunch and snack	FARMS participation	FARMS participation	FARMS participation	
Assessment tool	ECOR used	ECOR used	MCPS-AP, ECOR	MCPS-AP, ECOR	MCPS-AP, ECOR	MCPS-AP, ECOR	

(2)

Community Based Head Start and PreK Programs

Models	Multi-Cultural Pre-K Community-Based		Head Start- Community Based	MCPS School-Based Pre-K - 2½ hours (Based on average of actual salaries) 97 classes (avr. Class size 20 -22) (1)	MCPS School-Based Head Start 3 1/4 hours (Based on average of actual salaries) 33 classes (2)	MCPS School-Based FD HS-Title I Supplemental (21 classes) to be combined with (2) for Full-day (Based on average of actual salaries) (3)	MCPS Head Start classes (costs based on two immediate left columns) (should be close to MCPS allotment)
Supports offered	Mentor funding not available in FY10	Mentor funding not available in FY10	Head Start Instructional Specialists; psychologists, speech path., social workers, admin.	staff developer, EC specialist, reading specialist, psychologists, speech path., social workers, admin.	staff developer, EC specialist, reading specialist, psychologists, speech path., social workers, admin.	staff developer, EC specialist, reading specialist, psychologists, speech path., social workers, admin.	
	Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation	Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation	related services outlined above	related services outlined above	related services outlined above	related services outlined above	
	Health Consultation for staff	Health Consultation for staff	HS nurse/dental hygn.	Health aide/HS/PK nurse	Health aide/HS/PK nurse/dental hygn.	Health aide/HS/PK nurse/dental hygn.	
	Parents required to volunteer 4 hours/month	Family Support Activities	Parent Involvement as per HS Performance Standards, HS Policy Council	Parent outreach, education, policy council, volunteers, outreach from FSW	Parent outreach, education, volunteers, outreach from Family Service Worker, Parent Involvement, Policy Council, per Head Start Performance Standards		
	Frequent parent workshops, including health information	Frequent parent workshops, including health information	Parent education, family partnership agreements, shared governance, Family Nights	Math and Literacy Nights, Literacy outreach, Parent Education, Parent Academy	Parent education, family partnership agreements, shared governance, Family Nights, Parent Academy	Parent Education, family partnership agreements, shared governance, Family Nights, Parent Academy	
	Not Accredited	Accredited by MSDE	Requires program to be accredited, licensed according to COMAR	Meets state COMAR requirements	Meets state COMAR requirements and Federal Head Start Performance Standards	Meets state COMAR requirements and Federal Head Start Performance Standards	

(5)

Community Based Head Start and PreK Programs

Models	Multi-Cultural Pre-K Community-Based		Head Start- Community Based	MCPS School-Based Pre-K - 2½ hours (Based on average of actual salaries) 97 classes (avr. Class size 20 -22) (1)	MCPS School-Based Head Start 3 1/4 hours (Based on average of actual salaries) 33 classes (2) (2)	MCPS School-Based FD HS-Title I Supplemental (21 classes) to be combined with (2) for Full-day (Based on average of actual salaries) (3)	MCPS Head Start classes (costs based on two immediate left columns) (should be close to MCPS allotment)
	Staff includes Parent Resource Coordinator (currently vacant)	Staff includes Parent Resource Coordinator	Each site has Family Service Worker assigned, as well as use of HS Parent Volunteer Coordinator	Family service worker assigned to each site as well as use of Parent Involvement Specialist, Social Worker, Instructional Specialist, special needs teacher, speech, psychologist, and ESOL teacher	Family Service Worker assigned to each site as well as use of Parent Involvement Specialist, Social Worker, Instructional Specialist, special needs teacher, speech, psychologist, and ESOL teacher	Family Service Worker assigned to each site as well as use of Parent Involvement Specialist, Social worker, instructional specialist, Special needs teacher, psychologist, and ESOL teacher	
	Bi-lingual teachers/staff	Bi-lingual teachers/staff	Head Start performance standards require at least 1 staff who speaks language of majority of children	Many paraeducators bilingual	Many paraeducators bilingual	Many paraeducators bilingual	
			Dental screenings and follow up	Referral to resources	Dental screenings and follow up	Dental screenings and follow up	
			Vision Screenings	Vision Screenings	Vision Screenings	Vision Screenings	
			Head Start School Health Nurses	Health Nurses Available at Schools	Head Start School Health Nurses,	Head Start School Health Nurses	
			Medical evaluations	Medical consult as needed-referral	Medical consult as needed-referral	Medical consult as needed-referral	
	Special needs assessments	Special needs assessments	Special needs assessments	Special needs identification and assessment process	Special needs identification and assessment process	Special needs identification and assessment process	

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Community Based Head Start and PreK Programs

Models	Multi-Cultural Pre-K Community-Based	Head Start- Community Based	MCPS School-Based Pre-K - 2½ hours (Based on average of actual salaries) 97 classes (avr. Class size 20 -22) (1)	MCPS School-Based Head Start 3 1/4 hours (Based on average of actual salaries) 33 classes (2)	MCPS School-Based FD HS-Title I Supplemental (21 classes) to be combined with (2) for Full-day (Based on average of actual salaries) (3)	MCPS Head Start classes (costs based on two immediate left columns) (should be close to MCPS allotment)	
Challenges	Recruitment of qualified staff		Recruit qualified staff	Recruit qualified staff	Recruit qualified staff	Recruit qualified staff	
	Staff turnover		Staff turnover	Normally occurring transfers and retirements	Normally occurring transfers and retirements	Normally occurring transfers and retirements	
	Program shares space; must pack up all materials each weekend			N/A	N/A	N/A	
			Pay differential between Head Start teacher and rest of staff	MCPS teacher salary scale	MCPS teacher salary scale	MCPS teacher salary scale	
	Child care subsidy, eligibility and copay too high	Child care subsidy, eligibility and copay too high	Child care subsidy, eligibility, and copay too high	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Not full day		Potentially full day with child care subsidies (local, state or college)	Not full day	Not full day	Full day	
			Cost and demands of Accreditation	space available in some communities	space available in some communities	space available in some communities	

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

April 28, 2010

The Honorable George Leventhal, Chair
Health and Human Services Committee
The Honorable Valerie Ervin, Chair
Education Committee
The Montgomery County Council
Stella B. Werner Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leventhal and Ms. Ervin:

At the joint meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee and the Education Committee on April 16, 2010, you requested additional information from Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) on several budget issues. The follow-up questions include:

- A chart or charts that show the percentages and numbers of Montgomery County students who qualify for free and reduced-priced meals compared to other jurisdictions in Maryland.
- An explanation of how existing community-based and MCPS Head Start and Pre-kindergarten programs fit into an overall strategic plan for serving low-income, at-risk children. This response will be jointly developed with the county's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).
- Comment/recommendation regarding the proposed reduction in the School Health Room aide position hours including the impact of the reduction and the school system's experience with the current level of services.
- Comment/recommendation regarding the need and continuation for the SHARP Street Suspension Program given implementation of updated MCPS suspension policies and the fewer numbers of students being referred for out-of-school suspensions and the SHARP Street Program. We would also like to get Fiscal Year 2010 year-to-date information on the number of out-of-school suspensions from the schools that refer to the three continuing SHARP programs.

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Below are the MCPS responses to each of the follow-up questions.

Free and Reduced-price Meals System Population

Enclosed is a chart showing the number and percentage of MCPS students eligible to receive Free and Reduced-price Meals System (FARMS) services in FY 2010. Montgomery County has the third highest number of students in the state (41,514) and ranks 15th in Maryland in terms of percentage of FARMS-eligible students (29.3 percent).

Head Start and Prekindergarten Programs

MCPS will be able to enroll and serve all age- and income-eligible four-year-old children in MCPS Prekindergarten and Head Start Programs who might otherwise have been served by La Escuelita (Centro Familia). Although the La Escuelita program is located in Wheaton, it serves children from several school attendance areas. MCPS has increased its capacity to serve four-year-old prekindergarten students by increasing the number of classes that will be available in 2010–2011. MCPS also has the capacity to transport children across school attendance areas. MCPS has expanded its capacity to transport more prekindergarten and Head Start children within a wider contiguous zone.

Additionally, MCPS early childhood director Janine Bacquie spoke with Ms. Kate Garvey, chief, Children, Youth, and Family Services, on April 22, 2010. She offered to provide bilingual MCPS parent outreach staff to facilitate direct contact with the eligible families in order to help them transition to MCPS and navigate the registration process.

School Health

The county executive has recommended that hours for school room health aide positions in DHHS be reduced. The Montgomery County Board of Education strongly supports and values the role of school room health aides in providing essential health services for Montgomery County children attending MCPS schools. The Board of Education and MCPS staff has worked closely with DHHS staff to ensure the quality of health services in schools.

In FY 2008, DHHS increased duty hours for school health aides from five to seven hours daily, pursuant to a negotiated side letter with the Municipal & County Government Employees Organization (MCGEO) Local 1994 that was made a part of the three-year contract. This added \$1.51 million to the FY 2008 Operating Budget. This major budget initiative was reviewed in detail by the joint Health and Human Services and Education committees on April 18, 2007. According to DHHS, the reason for the increase in work hours was “the increasing need for these services in the schools,” partly related to increased immunization requirements. At the committee meeting, Council staff questioned whether the workload of school health room aides actually had increased. The joint

committees and the Council approved and funded the increase in hours. The MCGEO Local 1994 contract and the associated side letter terminate as of June 30, 2010.

For FY 2011, the county executive recommended a reduction of the work hours for school health room aides from seven hours to six hours daily, for a savings of \$1.54 million. The executive identified this service for reduction because the provision had been in place for only three years. According to Council staff, this reduction will leave a 15-minute gap in coverage for elementary schools during the school day and a 45-minute gap in coverage for secondary schools. Council staff noted that data are not available to assess whether the additional coverage has contributed to added service or whether the reduced hours of service would result in a decrease of service. A number of school health aides testified that a reduction in hours would mean a loss of service.

Staff in the Division of School Health Services has extensive experience with the needs of schools and has provided quality school health services to our students for many years. As the county executive's recommendation states, the change will have a service impact. The Board of Education understands that the reduction in the availability of school health room aides during the school day will affect the services that they can provide. However, all county agencies, including MCPS, have recommended budget reductions that will have a significant effect on children. Given the fiscal situation, there may be no realistic alternative to many of the proposed reductions. It is the Board's hope that sufficient revenue will become available to restore the reductions of health room aide hours as soon as possible. Until then, school and DHHS staff will work closely together to minimize the impact on children of any reductions in school health room aide hours. MCPS staff intends to work closely with DHHS and with school principals to monitor the effects of the changes. Staff will report any changes in service quality to the Board of Education.

SHARP Street Program

MCPS is very appreciative of the contribution made by the faith-based community of efforts to provide support to students while on out-of-school suspension. Over the past few years, MCPS has worked hard to develop strategies for working with students that decrease the incidence of out-of-school suspensions. These efforts have been very successful and the percentage of students suspended has been reduced by half. We realize that this reduction impacts the number of students who are eligible to participate in the SHARP Street Program.

The number of out-of-school suspensions in the current school year from the schools that refer to the three continuing SHARP programs is as follows:

B-SHARP, Burtonsville

Paint Branch High School - 52
Springbrook High School - 73
Benjamin Banneker Middle School - 9
Briggs Chaney Middle School - 40

The Honorable George Leventhal
The Honorable Valerie Ervin

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April 28, 2010

G-SHARP, Gaithersburg

Gaithersburg High School - 112
Forest Oak Middle School - 19
Gaithersburg Middle School - 12

SHARP Street, Sandy Spring

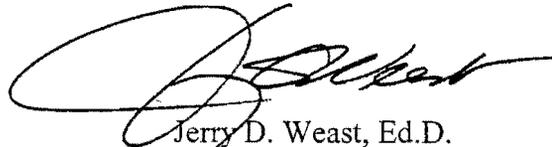
Sherwood High School - 32
James Hubert Blake High School - 75
Col. Zadok Magruder High School - 53
Farquhar Middle School - 10
Redland Middle School - 13
Rosa Parks Middle School - 5

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to comment on these budget issues. We look forward to working closely with the County Council to preserve and enhance the quality of education to serve all the children of our community.

Sincerely,



Patricia B. O'Neill
President



Jerry D. Weast, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

PBO:JDW:sz

Enclosure

Copy to:
Members of the Board of Education
Executive Staff
Mr. Ikheloa
Ms. McGuire

Maryland State Department of Education
Public Local Education Agencies
School Year 2009-2010

Enclosure

Official Number of Students Approved for
Free and Reduced-Price and Percent of Enrollment by District as of October 31, 2009*

Ranked from highest percent of free and reduced to lowest percent.

Local Educational Agency	Free	Reduced	Paid	Enrollment *	F&R as % of Enrollment
30 Baltimore City	64,347	5,515	13,814	83,676	83.49%
32 Seed School	85	27	48	160	70.00%
19 Somerset	1,634	219	1,038	2,891	64.10%
09 Dorchester	2,337	352	2,024	4,713	57.05%
16 Prince George's	55,351	12,031	59,927	127,309	52.93%
05 Caroline	2,387	602	2,712	5,701	52.43%
01 Allegany	3,675	898	4,570	9,143	50.02%
22 Wicomico	6,173	961	7,421	14,555	49.01%
11 Garrett	1,548	607	2,289	4,444	48.49%
14 Kent	815	173	1,194	2,182	45.28%
21 Washington	7,326	1,787	12,225	21,338	42.71%
23 Worcester	2,264	413	4,099	6,776	39.51%
03 Baltimore County	31,461	9,345	63,019	103,825	39.30%
07 Cecil	4,721	988	10,480	16,189	35.26%
20 Talbot	1,278	263	3,011	4,552	33.85%
15 Montgomery	31,428	10,086	100,374	141,888	29.26%
08 Charles	5,602	1,638	19,599	26,839	26.98%
18 St. Mary's	3,665	879	12,595	17,139	26.51%
02 Anne Arundel	15,020	4,315	55,293	74,628	25.91%
12 Harford	7,681	2,239	28,719	38,639	25.67%
10 Frederick	6,435	2,030	31,656	40,121	21.10%
17 Queen Anne's	1,297	330	6,226	7,853	20.72%
04 Calvert	2,465	727	13,435	16,627	19.20%
13 Howard	5,649	1,725	43,384	50,758	14.53%
06 Carroll	3,059	1,018	24,229	28,306	14.40%
TOTALS	267,703	59,168	523,381	850,252	38.44%

Source: Maryland State Department of Education, Nutrition Programs

* Includes all sites where children have access to a meal.

Prepared By: GR

12/22/09

CYF Responses to Council Staff Questions:

An explanation of how existing community-based and MCPS Head Start and Pre-Kindergarten programs fit into an overall strategic plan for serving low-income, at-risk populations including program objectives, partners involved, and how programs are provided oversight and managed.

High quality early childhood services are a critical part of the continuum of services for low income families in Montgomery County. Services are provided in communities of greatest need and supports are provided for families of the enrolled children. Having children fully ready for school equips them for future success in life. The County recognizes early childhood services as a foundational prevention strategy. Some of the key partners who have been involved in early childhood efforts in the County are: MCPS, MSDE, the Collaboration Council, child care providers, family child care providers, Centro Nia, Centro Familia, MHA, Family Services, the Organization of Child Care Directors, the Montgomery County Family Child Care Association, Montgomery College, JSSA, the Lourie Center, the League of Women Voters, MAEYC, Montgomery County Child Care Association, the Resource and Referral Center, Child Care Subsidy Program, and the Commission on Child Care.

Community-based Pre-K Program Outcomes, Measures, and Instruments

Outcomes

The general outcome the County seeks is the improved school readiness of young children not previously reached by other early childhood programs. The results will be measured and reported on a regular basis.

Measures

- a. The Contractor must ensure that recruitment of families has succeeded in full enrollment of the program, with 90 percent of the children eligible for Free and Reduced Meal Services (FARMS), or children are English Language Learners, or children are facing barriers to school readiness.
- b. The Contractor must ensure that families and children are linked with needed community services.
- c. The Contractor must ensure that the assessment of children shows that they have enhanced:
 - 1) social and personal skills;
 - 2) language and literacy skills;
 - 3) mathematical thinking skills;
 - 4) scientific thinking skills;
 - 5) skills in social studies;
 - 6) skills in the arts; and
 - 7) skills in physical development.

Instruments

The Contractor must use the following instruments to measure outcomes under this Contract:

- a. Early Childhood Observation Record (ECOR) or an assessment tool that is correlated with the state-recommended curriculum implemented in the program. The contractors must summarize observations for each child at least twice per year and forward results for each child to the County's designated representative.
- b. Contractors must ensure that the State-required Children's Health Inventory, Staff Health Requirements and First Aid Certifications are completed within the first reporting period.
- c. Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS) - the selected entities must allow a visit from a qualified ECERS observer as assigned by the County within one month of this Contract's execution, with a second visit to be repeated again at the end of each contract year. These assessments will be used by the County for comparison purposes and evaluation of the learning environment.

Reports

- a. The Contractor must provide to the County monthly updates on recruitment and enrollment and daily attendance records of children participating in the program in a format approved by the County.
- b. The Contractor must provide to the County monthly reports, submitted by the 10th day after the end of the month, that include program activities, progress towards achieving outcomes, and assessment of children's progress.

The Committee specifically requested for a detailed description of the outreach and referral services provided by Centro Familia.

The current contract for outreach and referral services, awarded to Centro Familia through a Request for Proposals, supported central office functions and telephone assistance for Spanish-speaking child care providers who are both licensed and unlicensed and for parents who need to be linked to DHHS and community-based programs. The contract was directed at families and caregivers who have been unable to access early childhood and social services programs due to barriers such as language, literacy, and transportation.

The referral component was to follow up on referrals from the Montgomery County Child Care Resource and Referral Center to families with young children who had not been able to access licensed or quality child care programs. The families had barriers such as high costs, transportation or language or other significant barriers. They were required to act as a facilitator in enrolling at risk families in the child care subsidy programs. In FY08, Centro Familia received 3,227 calls and in FY09, 2,833.

Councilmember Ervin requested an itemized program budget and comparison of the Centro Familia and Centro Nia programs.

The budgets and side by side program descriptions for Centro Familia and Centro Nia are attached.

Community Based Head Start and PreK Programs

Community Based Head Start and Prek Programs

Models		Community-based Pre-K	
Program Names		Escuelita	CentroNia
Method of award		RFP	RFP
Children's Capacity		30	40
Number of Children Enrolled		30	40
Total funding		\$262,701.00	\$343,399.00
Total Funding per child		\$8,756.70	\$8,584.98
Hours of service per day		3	8
FY10 Contract Amount	Personnel	\$145,963.00	\$183,388.00
	Fringe Benefits	\$32,112.00	\$36,677.00
	Operating Expenses	\$84,626.00	\$123,334.00
	Capital Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Total	\$262,701.00	\$343,399.00
Ages of Children served		3 and 4 years	3 and 4 years
Child Care Subsidies		None	Program provides support to families in obtaining subsidies for wrap around services
Eligibility/Target Group		English Language Learners	English Language Learning and FARMS
Length of service year		12 months	12 months
Child Care wrap around services		Available on site	Available in classroom; subsidies and scholarships available
Teacher qualifications		Minimum AA, pursuing BA in Early Childhood Education	BA in Early Childhood Education, minimum AA pursuing BA in ECE
Curriculum		Aligned with MCPS PreK curriculum	Aligned with MCPS PreK curriculum
Training requirements		Child care licensing requirements	Child care licensing requirements

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Community Based Head Start and PreK Programs

Models	Community-based Pre-K	
Nutrition support	Snack Provided	Participates in USDA Food Program, snacks and lunch
Assessment tool	ECOR used	ECOR used
Supports offered	Mentor funding not available in FY10	Mentor funding not available in FY10
	Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation	Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation
	Health Consultation for staff	Health Consultation for staff
	Parents required to volunteer 4 hours/month	Family Support Activities
	Frequent parent workshops, including health information	Frequent parent workshops, including health information
	Not Accredited	Accredited by MSDE
	Staff includes Parent Resource Coordinator (currently vacant)	Staff includes Parent Resource Coordinator
	Bi-lingual teachers/staff	Bi-lingual teachers/staff
	Special needs assessments	Special needs assessments
Challenges	Recruitment of qualified staff	Child care subsidy, eligibility and copay too high
	Staff turnover	
	Program shares space; must pack up all materials each weekend	
	Child care subsidy, eligibility and copay too high	
	Not full day	

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
FY 2011 Council Grant Application

APPLICANT/AGENCY INFORMATION:

A. Organization/Agency Name: Institute for Family Development DBA: Centro Familia / Family Services Inc.
Street Address: 10914 Georgia Ave Silver Spring /601 E. Diamond Ave, Gaithersburg MD 20877
Telephone Number(s): 301-754-1801 / 301-840-3202
Fax Number(s): 301-754-1803 / 301-840-9261
Executive Director/CEO: Pilar Torres/Thom Harr Contact person if different from Executive Director: _____
Email address for Director and/or Contact: ptorres@centro-familia.org/harrt@fs-inc.org
Website address (URL) for organization: www.centro-familia.org/wwwfs-inc.org

B. Amount Requested: \$50,000

C. Please check one of the following in each of the 3 categories below: Your response to these questions is for information and categorization purposes only.

Non-Profit agency:

- Non-profit agency incorporated year 2002 or later
 Non-profit agency incorporated prior to year 2002

Purpose of funding request:

- Requesting operating funds
 Requesting capital funds

Type of activity to be funded:

- Community Development
 Economic Development
 Health, Behavioral Health
 Services to Older Adults, People with Disabilities
 Services to Children, Families (includes early childhood programs)
 Basic Needs, Emergency Services, Housing-related Services
 Youth Development Services (includes out-of-school time programs such as tutoring, mentoring, academic enrichment, recreation, and gang prevention programs)
 Other: Please specify: transfer of programs/merger

D. Give a brief summary of your application in the space below:

The proceeds of this grant will be used to transfer the services now provided by the Institute for Family Development (d.b.a. *Centro Familia*) to Family Services, Inc. to place them in the context of a more robust administrative infrastructure and to preserve them for the community. These include microenterprise development and sustainable income for Latino providers of home based child care, a network of child care providers, direct early childhood education and childcare services for the community.

Program Description of Grant Funds Per Line Item-

1. IT Techonology (\$12,000)- Funds for this will be used to convert CF's current systems into FSI's. Purchase of a server, several computers for classrooms, new software for childcare center for compliance and quality, install risk management software and introduction of staff compliance training through Essential Learning.
2. Accountant (\$4,800)- transition of bookkeeping and audit records, set up of new cost centers, payroll and compliance review of all current records. (part of the design team)
3. CFO (\$11,520)- transition of bookkeeping and audit records, set up of new cost centers, payroll and compliance review of all current records. This will ensure that going forward all CF's auditing and bookkeeping in being done under the strict administrative guidelines of Family Services, Inc. (part of the design team)
4. Copier (\$500)- CF needs to provide documentation on a daily, weekly and monthly basis- copier needs to be purchased
5. Program Manager (\$4,224)- Oversight of the current programs and will help with transition of information, grants, contracts, fee-for-service and growth under new administrative oversight of FSI. (part of design team)
6. Legal Counsel (\$2,700)- Review of merger, contracts and liabilities that maybe pending for CF, to ensure that FSI has no liabilities accepted with assumption of contracts, etc.
7. IT Tech (\$1,400)- hours applied to staff members in IT department for set up of computers, server, phones, software, etc.
8. Compliance Officer (\$4,100)- Review of all HR and client records to ensure strict compliance with governing bodies and FSI corporate compliance guidelines.
9. Marketing and Print Materials (\$5,500)- Re-branding of CF programs under FSI administrative oversight. Marketing materials for child care center (fact sheets, brochures, etc.)
10. Marketing Manager (\$3,256)- hours applied to Marketing staff for development of materials, print ad, translation, website design of programs and child care center.

Children, Youth and Family Services								
Early Childhood Services								
Vendor Name	FY10 Contract (GF portion only)	7%	Estimated FY11 Contract*	Service Description	Population Served	# of Years Contracting w/County	Compliance w/Meeting Goals/Outcome	Funding Streams Available to Contractors
Allard, Lindsey	9,950	700	7,250	Core of Knowledge training and mentoring for early childhood educators and quality evaluation of child care programs	Family Child Care Providers, Child Care Center Directors, Child Care teachers	3	Yes, Unknown	
ARBOR E&T, LLC				Substitute child care teachers	Family Child Care Providers, Child Care Center Directors,	3 years	unknown, contract never used	Unknown
Borders Group, Inc.	1,205	80	1,125	Children's Books	Children and Parents	2 years	Quality books were purchased to support early literacy programs for family and children at risk	Federal, State, County and other private funding donations
Centro Nia	343,400	24,040	326,230	Licensed community-based bi-lingual full day Pre-k services for 40 children	ESOL 3&4 years olds in a high risk area of the county	2 Years	All outcomes have been met	Federal, State, County and other private funding donations
Childhood Development	8,640	600	8,040	Early Childhood Mental Health/Child Care Consultation (ECMHCCC)	Children at risk of being expelled from child care, and their child care teachers and their parents.	3 Years	Yes (97% of children who were in danger of being of expelled were able to continue with their enrollment in the child care because of the early childhood mental health intervention.	Federal, State, County and other private funding donations
Clark, Louise	6,120	430	5,690	Pre-K Curriculum and Core of Knowledge training for early childhood educators	Family Child Care Providers, Child Care Center Directors, Child Care teachers	3	Yes	Unknown

Eosler Seals	6,000	420	5,580	Core of Knowledge training and consultation for early childhood educators to support inclusive child care	Family Child Care Providers, Child Care Center Directors, Child Care teachers, Parents, Early Childhood Specialists	3	Yes Unknown
Family Services, Inc.	334,284	23,400	310,884	Pre-K Curriculum and Core of Knowledge training, mentoring and technical assistance support for early childhood educators. In addition, part of Child Link supported in this funding and early childhood Mental Health child care consultation.	Family Child Care Providers, Child Care Center Directors, Child Care teachers and Early Childhood Specialists	3	Yes Unknown
Family Services, Inc.	522,326	36,560	485,766	Healthy Families/Baby Steps	Families that are at risk of being involved with child welfare are enrolled in Healthy Families. Parents who have just delivered a baby and need health guidance or referrals into other early childhood programs.	Healthy Families over 10 years Baby Steps- 8 years	Federal, State, County and other private funding donations
Hanek, Diane	28,400	1,990	26,410	Early Childhood Mental Health/Child Care Consultation (ECMHCCC)	Children at risk of being expelled from child care, and their child care teachers and their parents.	3 Years	Yes (97% of children who were in danger of being of expelled, were able to continue with their enrollment in the child care because of the early childhood mental health intervention); Federal, State, County and other private funding donations
Institute for Family Development	109,084	4,130	61,084	Outreach services	Additional outreach to Hispanic families on early childhood services	10 years	Outcomes were met; Federal, State, County and other private funding donations
Institute for Family Development	44,507	-	-	Expand quality family child care services in Hispanic high-need community	low income non-regulated family providers	8 years	Many outcomes were met; Federal, State, County and other private funding donations

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Institute for Family Development	215,593	--	--	Community-Based bi-lingual 3 hour Pre-k services for 30 children	ESOL 3&4 years olds in a high risk area of the county	4 years	Many outcomes and other private were met funding donations	Federal, State, County
Jewish Social Services Agency	59,020	4,130	54,890	Early Childhood Mental Health/Child Care Consultation (ECMHCCC)	Children at risk of being expelled from child care, and their child care teachers and their parents.	3 Years	Yes (97% of children who were in danger of being of expelled were able to continue with their enrollment in the child care because of the early childhood mental health intervention.	Federal, State, County and other private funding donations
List, Lynne	9,700	680	9,020	Early Childhood Mental Health/Child Care Consultation (ECMHCCC)	Children at risk of being expelled from child care, and their child care teachers and their parents.	3 Years	Yes (97% of children who were in danger of being of expelled were able to continue with their enrollment in the child care because of the early childhood mental health intervention.	Federal, State, County and other private funding donations
Mental Health Association	9,820	690	9,130	Early Childhood Mental Health/Child Care Consultation (ECMHCCC)	Children at risk of being expelled from child care, and their child care teachers and their parents.	3 Years	Yes (97% of children who were in danger of being of expelled were able to continue with their enrollment in the child care because of the early childhood mental health intervention.	Federal, State, County and other private funding donations

Mental Health Association	101,921	7,130	94,791	Families Foremost	Mothers age 12-24, at risk parents to be, and at risk parents of children birth through 48 months in the Wheaton/Silver Spring area.	more than ten years	All outcomes are fully met	Federal, State, County and other private funding donations
Montgomery Child Care Association	1,000	70	930	Care of Knowledge training for early childhood educators	Family Child Care Providers, Child Care Center Directors, Child Care teachers	3	Yes	Unknown
Montgomery College	26,000	1,820	24,180	Award scholarships for child care providers pursuing an Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education and/or a Child Development Associates Credential	Family Child Care Providers, Child Care Center Directors, Child Care teachers	10	Yes	Unknown
Montgomery College	33,000	2,310	30,690	Award scholarships for child care providers pursuing an Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education and/or a Child Development Associates Credential	Family Child Care Providers, Child Care Center Directors, Child Care teachers	New contract, see above	Yes	Unknown
Norwood Enterprises, LLC	2,617	180	2,437	Children's Books	Children and Parents	2 years	Quality books were purchased to support early literacy programs for family and children at risk	Federal, State, County and other private funding donations
Peysler, Sandra	30,720	2,150	28,570	Pre-K Curriculum and Core of Knowledge training and mentoring for early childhood educators	Family Child Care Providers, Child Care Center Directors, Child Care teachers	3	Yes	Unknown
Reginald S. Laurie Center	49,840	3,490	46,350	Early Childhood Mental Health/Child Care Consultation (ECMHCCC)	Children at risk of being expelled from child care, and their child care teachers and their parents.	3 Years	Yes [97% of children who were in danger of being of expelled were able to continue with their enrollment in the child care because of the early childhood mental health intervention]	Federal, State, County and other private funding donations

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March 25, 2010
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Open letter to Montgomery County Council,

I cannot express my disappointment and frustration with the recommendation of HHS and the County Executive to reduce the hours of School Health Room Aides, from 7 hours to 6 hours a day. I have been a SHRA, for the past 21 years, I am also a member of the SHS LMRC and a MCGEO union steward. For the first time, I really feel like we are just a **“cost item”** and not valued employees protecting the health and safety of the students of Montgomery County. . Our commitment to the students and families of Montgomery County is unprecedented and this high level of service can only be accomplished by continuing the 7-hour SHRA positions. The concern from fellow employees and parents of coverage during the school day has been overwhelming.

Some of the main reasons the SHRA fought so hard 3 years ago to become 7 hour employees was to help provide more coverage during the school day of the health room to sick, and injured students and also to provide adequate time for documentation of student visits at the end of the day, along with our many other duties. Many SHRA’s were unable to complete their required paperwork in the 6-hour time frame due to constant interruptions. (We are like a walk in clinic with no schedule) and most of the time we are on our own.

Completing daily tasks was and is especially hard in middle school and high school, which have a longer school day than elementary and larger student populations. Not to say that the time is not needed in Elementary schools, where many schools have especially busy health rooms and have much more hands on with the students care. Many of the special programs, flu clinics etc.. are normally scheduled in elem., schools, forcing even extra work on these employees.

Montgomery County is also the model for our special education services provide in MVPS. More and more medically fragile students are being mainstreamed into regular schools. These students require more attention, patience and specialty care. Pacemakers, insulin pumps, feeding tubes and catheterizations are a commonplace.

Our situation is unique. The minute we set foot in the school building we are on call. From fights, to injuries while walking to school, bee stings and children needing their inhalers. Students often take medicine upon arrival at school, parents drop off medicine for us to administer at the same time the students are being dropped off. Parents used to have to wait up to a ½ hour or more to drop off medicine and doctors permission, coasting them valuable time from work.

The busiest time of day for the school staff (secretaries and administration) is the beginning and end of the school day. This is the time of day they are least able to lend a hand and help injured or sick students. The phones are ringing, parents

dropping and picking up students, buses coming in or running late. With additional cuts to MCPS this will further jeopardize the medical treatment the students will receive when the School Health Room Aides are not there.

We will have no "prep" time to set up and open our health room, disinfect it and be ready to start the day every morning ready to see students. What other county job do the employees enter the worksite with a group of customers already waiting for them inside? With more and more public health crises coming to a head, we have also been besieged with H1N1, MRSA, Flu tracking, absentee tracking, immunization tracking, among some of the many reports and data tracking HHS is using. Every year there seems to be a new crisis that we have the duty to handle.

In the last few years our jobs have become increasingly more difficult, complex and time consuming. New computer data entry programs have not assisted us with faster documentation, but instead have hindered us with slow programs, often down or not responding, and more and more tracking and reports to be completed. Precise and comprehensive documentation of medication administration, student visits, accident reports are a priority. Our documentation is a part of the legal health record of the student. Simple bandaides and scrapes are still common, but also are the severe asthma attacks, anaphylaxis, diabetic treatments, nebulizers, catheterizations, rectal seizure medicines, lice, ringworm, diarrhea, pinworms, pregnancies, fights, drug and alcohol use and even last year at my school a taser.

Our duties and responsibility have also been expanded. This year and last have been extremely difficult and demanding for us. I find it unbelievable in light of the H1N1 scare and paranoia surrounding it. This past year and last spring we were inundated with sick students, alarmed staff, and frightened parents. Parents were calling, coming by and asking us for information, staff was concerned and frightened. . We were isolating students, putting masks on them, excluding them from school and tracking their return as well. During this time we were the information source, the link between MCPS and the County Health Dept.

I urge you to listen to your front line staff that know their job and need the 7 hour day to be able to continue to serve the students, staff and families of Montgomery County in a caring, respectful and safe manner.

Respectfully,

Patty Vogel
School Health Room Aide
Newport Mill M.S.

FW .txt

From: Floreen's Office, Councilmember
Sent: Monday, April 05, 2010 3:08 PM
To: Montgomery County Council
Subject: FW:

-----Original Message-----

From: Minear, Sandy [mailto:sandy_minear@mcpsmd.org]
Sent: Monday, April 05, 2010 2:36 PM
To: Floreen's Office, Councilmember
Subject:

Dear Councilmember Floreen:

As a School Health Room Aide (SHRA) working for HHS/School Health Services for 22 years, I am asking that you please do not cut the one hour from our day. We work a 7 hour day. School Health Room Aides work a 10 month work year - when MCPS is in session. The reduction of one hour a day is 200 hours or 30 work days within the 10 months. Added to that the 10 day furlough, proposed by our County Executive, this is 40 days of NO PAY. I know of no other group of county employees that have been a target of such a severe budget cut. There are over 200 School Health Room Aides - an all woman workforce.

Our position was increased to 7 hours three years ago. To go back to 6 hours per day is doing a great disservice to the children of Montgomery County, who rely on the SHRA to be there when they are in school - all day. High schools and middle schools are in session for 6 hours and 45 minutes and the elementary schools are 6 hours and 15 minutes. School Health Room Aides serve the children and parents of MCPS.

Reducing the time the health room is open will affect many things:

- * Coverage of the health room for the safety of students and staff
- * Financial Distress to the SHRA and family
- * Less time to record daily information
- * Reports being completed on time
- * SHRA's having to work additional unpaid hours as in the past
- * SHRA's not taking their required lunch
- * Records being reviewed in a timely way
- * Possible litigation by parents if their child requires medical attention and there is not a trained person there to render first aid and take the necessary emergency

Again, PLEASE consider the impact that this will cause.
Thank you.

Sandy Minear, CNA, SHRA
Rockville High School
Direct 301-517-5949
Fax 301-517-8288
Montgomery County - DHHS
School Health Services

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

School Health Services

Mary Rafferty, RN, SCHN

Greenwood ES 301-924-3145 Olney ES 301-924-3126 Farquhar MS 301-924-3111

March 21, 2010

Dear Mr. Leggett:

I would like to respond to the proposed budget for Montgomery County. While I understand this is a very difficult time for all, and I am accepting of budget cuts being made everywhere, I do feel that they need to be fair and in the best interest of the safety of everyone involved.

In looking at the cuts being made to the Department of Health and Human Services and particularly the School Health area, I do not feel that this was done fairly. First, you have proposed a reduction in work hours for the School Health Room Aides (SHRA's) from 7 hours to 6 hours. This is a 14% cut in their pay. These employees give tirelessly to their schools, often working past their hours and not getting a lunch break because of their dedication and caring to the children of Montgomery County. The school instructional day is 6 ½ hours long, however, there are children in the school building much before and after the instructional day begins and ends and there are many instances when the health room is put to use. However, this burden will now fall upon the school secretaries, many of whom are already short staffed and overworked, but more importantly, are not certified, trained staff to care for sick or injured children.

Secondly, I would like to address the proposed 10 day furlough for all "non-emergency" county employees. For a 12 month, full time employee, that is 3.85% of their 2080 work hours per year. However, in School Health we work roughly 190 days a year (that is the 185 days of instruction and the 5 days prior to school starting) as opposed to the 260 days that a 12 month, full time employee would work. Furloughing us at 10 days means that we are losing 5.26% of our time, as opposed to the 3.85% of the 12 month, full time employees. For the SHRA's, that is on top of the 14% pay cut already being put in place. For the School Community Health Nurses (SHCN's), this means that we will be taken out of our nursing function for our 10 day furlough, as well as being taken out of our nursing function in order to act as SHRA's while our Health Room Aides are on their furlough. For nurses who cover 3 or more schools (common in Montgomery County), that means that the nurse will be taken out of her job role as a nurse to perform SHRA functions for 30 additional days. In other words, the nurse will be taken out of her role for more than 20% of her work year. Because of the level of care needed at many schools, the Health Rooms cannot be left unattended by trained health care professionals and therefore the nurse will be needed to cover the furloughed SHRA.

The county has many students with serious, chronic illnesses that really cannot be left to non-health care personnel to be responsible for their care. Care being given by uncertified, untrained staff becomes a concern when we are dealing with so many children with chronic, often life-threatening illnesses. In one of my schools alone, I have 5 students with diabetes requiring the SHRA there to perform an average of 13-15 treatments a day with them. Another school that I am responsible for has 3 students with diabetes (one as young as 6), requiring my SHRA there to perform an average of 20 treatments per day. At this same school, I have 34 children requiring Epipens (emergency Epinephrine) because

(25)

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

School Health Services

Mary Rafferty, RN, SCHN

Greenwood ES 301-924-3145 Olney ES 301-924-3126 Farquhar MS 301-924-3111

of severe, life-threatening allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) and many with inhalers and nebulizers to treat their asthma. These are just a few examples of very young children who need considerable guidance and oversight to manage life threatening conditions. Because of the exceptional care that is provided by the Health Room staff, these children are able to be safe, productive students in the school setting. Is this something that should be left to an MCPS secretary?

Again, I think we are willing to do our part in helping to make ends meet in the county, but I do feel that this must be done fairly. I hope you will see the importance in having the Health Rooms staffed the entire time the students are at school and not just during instructional time by trained individuals in order to insure the safety and well being of Montgomery County's children. I hope you will also realize that to furlough everyone carte blanche, regardless of their total work hours is not right-this should be prorated. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Mary Rafferty, RN, BSN, SCHN

From: Floreen's Office, Councilmember
Sent: Monday, April 05, 2010 10:18 AM
To: Montgomery County Council
Subject: FW: School Health Room Aide cuts

-----Original Message-----

From: Dwinsgames26@aol.com [mailto:Dwinsgames26@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 04, 2010 3:50 PM
To: Andrew's Office, Councilmember; Berliner's Office, Councilmember;
councilmember.urich@montgomerycountymd.gov; Ervin's Office, Councilmember; Floreen's Office,
Councilmember; Knapp's Office, Councilmember; councilmemberlevanthal@montgomerycountymd.gov;
Navarro's Office, Councilmember; councilmembertrachtenberg@montgomerycountymd.gov
Cc: crisco00786@aol.com; terps44@aol.com; pvogel2625@aol.com
Subject: School Health Room Aide cuts

Dear Montgomery county council members,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed reduction in hours for the Montgomery county Health Dept. ---School Health Room Aides.

I am a recent Montgomery county Graduate and went to MCPS schools from Kindergarten to high school. I graduated from B-CC a few years ago.

During my 12 years in MCPS I often had to go to the health room and was seen by the School health room aide. She would often put aside her lunch to see me when I was sick, keep us calm even in emergency situations when everyone else around was in a panic. Sometimes I had to go in either before school or after school to get a copy of my physical or bring in or receive a copy of my immunizations.

As you might know, in high school and middle school you have to have a pass from teachers to go anywhere in the school.

Having the health room open that little bit before the bell and after the bell made it easier for many of us to check up on outstanding medical information we needed. .

It seems that they are a small part of a much bigger picture in Montgomery County. The School Health Room Aides certainly made my life a little easier during my school days.

Thanks you,

Michael Hernandez
Chevy Chase, MD

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Child Welfare

- Clarification of position created mid-year in Child Welfare. The personnel complement shows 1 WY reduction to a Nurse Manager and a 1 WY reduction Social Worker II position in child welfare. Can you explain what is happening to these positions?

The incumbent Nurse Manager was reclassified to a Manager III and a Social Worker II was reclassified to a Social Worker III based on their respective job responsibilities.

- Update on foster care transportation

Figures for Bus Transportation from the end of August 2009 (when school began) through February 28, 2010:

- o Total Number of Students Served: 40
- o Students Served in February: 34
- o Total Cost through February: \$52,709.06
- o Total Cost Paid by County: \$40,000.00
- o Total Cost Paid with State Funds: \$12,709.06
- o State Funds will be used for the remainder of the school year and should meet the demand for the remainder of the school year.

- Update on Treehouse

- o Updated reports are attached.
- o The Treehouse received a \$12,000 Federal ARRA grant for the period November 23, 2009-September 30, 2010. These funds are being used to add hours for child sex abuse therapy and will continue to be administered through the Primary Care Coalition contract.

Conservation Corps

- Provide outcome data for the program (# served, recidivism, wait list, etc)

(July 2009 – March 31, 2010)

- o Recidivism: Only 1 corps member has recidivated into the justice system this year.
- o Waiting List: 68 young people will remain on the waiting list after the new group of corps members begins in April.

#’s Served:

The Conservation Corps will serve a total of 77 corps members in FY10. 27 corps members were enrolled in **March of FY09** and completed in **Sept. FY10** (see below Cohort I), 26 corps members began in **October** and completed in **March** (see below Cohort II), and 24 new corps members have been hired and are beginning the program in **April**. It’s important to note that the program operated in FY10 with only 2 crews due to a year long vacant Crew Leader position.

GED:

Of the 53 corps members that have been served in the program through March, 34 were enrolled without a high school degree. Of those 34, 7 completed their GED program, and another 25 did not complete but increased their grade levels by a minimum of 2 grades. This is a measure of GED success over a 6 month period (see below). This is a 94% success rate, as 32 corps members either completed their GED or increased their grade levels by a minimum of 2 grades. It’s important to note that many of the corps members enter the program with significant educational deficits.

	Cohort 1 3/09 to 9/09	Cohort 2 10/09 to 3/10	Cohort 3 To begin 4/10 to 10/10
Enrolled	27	26	24
Prior HS Diploma	10	9	10
GED acquired	4	3	TBD
Increase by two grade levels	14	11	TBD

CYF Response to Budget Questions 4/23/10

Could you provide the following information on the program?:

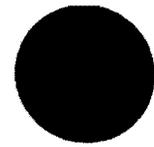
1. A brief history of the program and its placement in different agencies and reasons for changes.
 2. % of revenue generated by the program for FY07, FY08, FY09 and estimated FY10 including amounts generated through contracts with public agencies. Would you also happen to know when revenue through public contracts peaked?
-
1. The Conservation Corps is modeled after the Civilian Conservation Corps, established during the Great Depression. The Civilian Conservation Corps was a great success, employing and training millions of young men, and building needed roads, and bridges. Since 1984, the Montgomery County Conservation Corps has served a similar function in the County. It has prepared young people for employment while giving them an opportunity to gain work experience, learn necessary skills, gain an appreciation of the environment, and have access to educational support. In 1986 the program was moved from the County Government to Montgomery County Community College for both programmatic and cost savings measures. In 1989 it was moved back to County Government where it has remained.
 2. Revenue:
 - 09: \$90,654
 - 08: \$86,996
 - 07: \$69,975
 - 06: \$111,772
 - 05: \$198,169
 - 04: \$145,461

FY10 revenue estimate: \$70,000 \$54,442 collected as of 4/23/10
Some past sources of revenue: DEP, DPWT/DGS/DOT, MNCPPC, Regional Services Centers

Age Breakdown of Corps members

Age	Apr-10	Sep-09	Total
18	3	3	6
19	3	5	8
20	8	5	13
21	2	5	7
22	1	4	5
23	5	2	7
24	2	0	2
Total	24	24	48

055502



Keep Funding the Montgomery County Conservation Corps; March 31, 2010

The Montgomery County Council faces some tough budget decisions in the next few weeks but I urge the members to keep investing in people like me and the organization that helped me turn my life around: The Montgomery County Conservation Corps.

Started 25 years ago, MCCC is a six-month program that offers unemployed young people - these days mostly African-American and Latino men -- the chance to finish their high school diploma or obtain a GED while learning job skills by doing things that help their communities.

And MCCC does this at a cost per student that is more than \$1,200 less than the annual cost of educating a public school pupil and more than 50 percent less than the cost of incarcerating someone for a year.

I was 19 when I joined Conservation Corps in 2000. Up to then, I wasn't doing anything productive. I was sitting at home. I had gotten into trouble for truancy and trespassing, and I was expelled from Albert Einstein High School after a big fight.

I didn't have any hopes and dreams. I felt like a failure. I was young and dumb, one of those "I-know-everything" teenagers. I found out about MCCC from the lawyer defending me in the court case over the fight. I was told I could get probation or join the Conservation Corps, so I joined, reluctantly.

I immediately liked being with other kids my age and I liked that the program leaders cared about me. But it was tough in the beginning, with all the rules and regulations. I was still rebellious. I was still trying to prove I was this thug. Little by little they broke me out of my shell with positive reinforcement. I had never really had people trying to help me. And you know what? It felt good, and things started to get better for me.

I wound up planting more than 2,000 trees while I was with MCCC. That's what I was known for, that and for working hard. I started feeling like I was doing things for a reason. I started looking at things long term, instead of day-to-day.

I graduated with my GED in 2002. After graduation, I tried Montgomery College but I didn't fit in. I also worked for three years as a veterinary technician. Today, at 27, I am three quarters through a criminal justice program at Sanford Brown College in Vienna, Virginia.

Without MCCC, I'd still be struggling. I picture myself as a bum.

So when the County Council starts making budget decisions and determining what is essential and what is not, I hope they think about me, people like me and the MCCC. My story is not unique. There are many of us who have innate skills that need to be brought out into the light. We can be the seed you invest in and nurture to make a better community. Take away the MCCC, and you take away our motivation, our hopes of a turnaround. We need MCCC. It makes great people.

Sincerely,

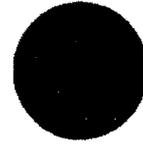
Edward Pineada
11702 Newport Mill Rd
Wheaton, Md. 20902

APR -2 AM 9:17
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
CONSERVATION
CORP

Monday, March 29, 2010

President, Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Ave
Rockville, MD 20850

055781



Dear Council President Floreen,

I am writing to ask you to reject the County Executive's planned cuts for the Conservation Corps. Please keep the program in the County Government. I am 21 years old and live in Montgomery County. There are many youth like myself in the county who have trouble trying to work in good times. Imagine how much harder things are in this economy and then tell me where I can get a job and training at the same time without the Corps. I want to work and learn some skills to help me be successful, instead of just hanging around on the street.

For twenty-five years, the Corps has helped youth from many backgrounds. What we all need are an opportunity to work, help learning the skills we need for future success, and a place that lets us mature outside of a "normal" educational or job setting. How many opportunities like the Corps do you think there are for someone like me? Most people find out about the Corps by word of mouth. If the program is so unknown and rare, do you really think the people who are making this recommendation to you really care about Montgomery County's youth?

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns and please work to strengthen the Corps so that it can be around for another twenty-five years.

Sincerely, *German E. Dellana*

German, E, Dellana
Name

506 Dornier ave 101

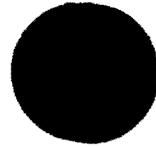
Takoma Park MD 20912
Address

2010 APR -0 AM 8:54

RECEIVED
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
COUNCIL

March 31, 2010

055503



President Floreen
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Council President Floreen:

I am writing this letter to you and the Council to urge you to reinstate the Montgomery County Conservation Corps in the County budget and to reject the planned abolishment of the program. I have been the GED instructor for twenty-three years at the MCCC, first with the MCPS and now with Montgomery College. During my tenure at the MCCC, I have had the opportunity to teach hundreds of youth. Most have improved their educational skills and quite a large number have earned their high school diplomas.

MCCC is a unique program in our County. It affords unemployed and often under-educated youth a real "second chance" to make positive choices about their futures. Job training, life skills and education combine to offer our youth opportunities for growth and development. MCCC is one of 143 programs nationwide and has won many awards for its excellence.

As a County resident, I know the County is facing enormous budget shortfalls, but please do not turn your back on the youth in our County who have no voice. MCCC offers choices and opportunities seen nowhere else in Montgomery County. How can one place a value on the lives of our young people?

The MCCC just celebrated twenty-five years of service to Montgomery County. I truly hope MCCC will be able to continue for at least another twenty-five.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and consider retaining the MCCC.

Sincerely yours,

Cheryl L. Frank
12609 Triple Crown Road
Darnestown, Maryland 20878

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RECEIVED
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
COUNCIL



JF?

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County Council Hearing Testimony

April 8, 2010

My name is Jerry Rupert and I am president of the Friends Board of the Montgomery County Conservation Corps. We are a non-profit group of volunteers, who support the Corp's efforts to make these young people more employable while completing projects of lasting value to the community. Many of you joined with us over the years and especially in November as we celebrated The Corps' milestone 25th anniversary.

Needless to say, we are disappointed to learn of the County Executive's proposed budget cuts for the Corps. However, when we met with County officials to better understand the proposed budget, we learned it does not eliminate services to our young people, but rather changes the delivery model.

We are committed to working with the County Executive and County Council to ensure the continuation of The Corps. We look forward to participating in the transition to an even stronger and more vibrant Conservation Corps that can help more County young people live independent and productive lives.

Our Board met and adopted the following resolution regarding the Executive's proposed budget:

Resolved that:

The goal of the Friends Board in this challenging budget environment is to maintain the critical services and programs that The Corps provides to at-risk youth in the County. We support the concept of a public-nonprofit partnership which continues The Conservation Corps' mission, contingent on the implementation of the following:

- serving out-of-school, unemployed youth
- education, including GED and AmeriCorps education scholarships
- job training, preparation, and placement
- conservation
- youth development
- personal and life skills

Therefore be it resolved that:

The Friend's Board seeks the County Council's support of the budget proposed by the County Executive as it relates to the Montgomery County Conservation Corps.

I know you will be making difficult decisions over the next few months and we wish you well.

Now, on a lighter note, we have 15 rain barrels left for sale and I know that each of you would love to purchase one. I would be more than happy to make the arrangements for you.

Thank you for your time this evening.

Jerry Rupert
Gerald L. Rupert and Associates
12300 Blakely Court
Silver Spring, MD 20904
(W) 301-572-5333

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The Corps Network ECO Report
Montgomery County Conservation Corps
December 18, 2008
Overall Comments

Over the past 24 years, the Montgomery County Conservation Corps (MCCC) has established itself as a strong organization offering service opportunities and essential support to its Corps members. Through its leadership and staff, MCCC has developed an effective program model and key partnerships with other county departments. As a result, MCCC continues to complete service projects which transform the landscape of Montgomery County. Given the proposed inter-county service project opportunities, and the current high school dropout rate within Montgomery County, the opportunity exists for MCCC to become even more responsive to the needs of its community. To achieve this, it is necessary for MCCC to reconsider its current structure within the County government and other key changes necessary to serve more Corps members and have a greater impact within Montgomery County.

Report Format

This report is divided into two parts. Part A focuses on effective practices while Part B covers recommendations and suggestions. Each part of the report covers all six ECO sections. Only Part A of this report will be a public document; **Part B is strictly for the use of Montgomery County Conservation Corps.**

Part A: Effective Practices

1. Purpose and Activities

Evidence of Effective Practices:

- Montgomery County Conservation Corps has updated its mission to ensure it accurately reflects its current program components.
- The mission is visible around the corps and is posted in each staff office.

2. Organization and Management

Evidence of Effective Practices:

- MCCC has been an established program within Montgomery County for 24 years and has strong staff tenure.

- The staff is fully committed to the mission of MCCC; and effectively utilized their diverse skill sets.
- MCCC held a staff planning retreat during 2008.
- A comprehensive 5-year plan has been developed and updated to reflect what can be realistically accomplished by the Corps.
- MCCC has strong relationships with other county departments and works regularly with Public Works, Parks, and other Health and Human Services agencies.
- MCCC staff served as co-presenters in a workshop session on Corps member retention at the 2008 Annual Corps Forum.
- The corps has developed a recruitment strategy which includes use of a video, brochure distribution, and a recruitment trailer – all appropriate for their target audience.
- MCCC vans are clearly marked with the organization name and logo.
- MCCC has purchased bus advertisements as a strategy to increase its communication with alumni.
- Corps members are issued complete uniforms while serving in MCCC.

3. Program Design

Evidence of Effective Practices:

- The '*Passport to Success*' offers an excellent approach for staff to assist Corps members tracking their accomplishments.
- MCCC offers an open forum for all Corps members to voice their opinion during the daily formation.
- Opportunities for team development are offered during the Corps member orientation which includes a group ropes course. MCCC also acknowledges a 'Corps member of the Month' and displays this accomplishment on the Wall of Fame within its facility.
- Corps members are given exposure to various job skills on a rotating basis.

- MCCC actively recruits a diverse group of staff and Corps members.
- 167 hour NCCER pre-apprenticeship Training is available to all corps members.
- The corps offers financial incentives for member accomplishments.

4. Corps member Development

Evidence of Effective Practices:

- Corps members are able to work with all staff through the crew leader program.
- The Counselor reviews individual plans, Passport to Success accomplishments and key goals with Corps members on a monthly basis.
- The Corps members are able to participate in a 30 day paid orientation.
- GED instructor and curriculum are solid.
- Corps members are given the opportunity to access educational assistance for GED completion even after their term of service ends.

5. Work Experience and Service Projects

Evidence of Effective Practices:

- Projects are valuable and diverse and Corps members receive valuable supervision.
- All Corps members are trained in CPR and First Aid.
- MCCC implements projects that are both innovative (Water Barrels Project) and sustainable (tree planting and screened-porch building).

6. Evidence of Success (studies, data collection etc.)

Evidence of Effective Practices:

- N/A

Part B: Recommendations and Suggestions

1. Purpose and Activities

Recommendation: N/A

Suggestions:

- The mission needs to be consistently posted in all publications.

2. Organization and Management

Recommendations:

*The Montgomery County Conservation Corps should consider developing a focused inter-county strategic plan on restructuring its program **within the county** to expand and serve more of its target population – the 15,000 high school dropouts within Montgomery County.*

The MCCC Friend's Board should have an internal review and should consider restructuring. More clearly defined roles for the board members will benefit the Corps.

Structured monthly staff meetings should be instituted with staff and HHS to discuss the strategic plans for MCCC.

MCCC would also benefit from increasing relationships with other local organizations and nonprofits, especially other local Corps.

It is necessary to diversify and expand MCCC's funding sources. It is also important to develop an inter-county action plan for obtaining service projects.

MCCC lacks a Government Relations component which is greatly needed.

Suggestions:

- Identify key Corps to correspond with about best practices. Additionally, establish training goals that are documented regularly. Performance measures should be tied to these staff development goals.
- It is important for MCCC to reach out to other local corps (CivicWorks, Earth Conservation Corps, Maryland Conservation Corps, and West Virginia), the local Chamber of Commerce, and other service organizations.

- Establish a stronger relationship with the Montgomery County Forest Department.

3. Program Design

Recommendation:

As part of the expansion discussed, MCCC should consider a longer term of service for Corps members. This will help increase the percent of Corps members who successfully earn their GED. Additionally, it is important to clarify with Corps members the certifications offered during the first 6 months of their term. This information should also be updated consistently in all publications (website, brochure, etc.)

Suggestions

- A Personal Development plan should be established for each Corps member during the orientation, helping them make an informed decision about service within MCCC.
- The Friend's Board should be more diverse to reflect the diversity of the staff and Corps members of MCCC.
- There should be an opportunity for project sponsors to become more engaged in the Corps member career development component.

4. Corps member Development

Recommendation: N/A

Suggestions:

- Increase the availability of GED tutors.
- Establish more consistent opportunities for both written and verbal Corps member reflection.

5. Work Experience and Service Projects

Recommendation: A project specific safety guide needs to be created and enforced.

Suggestions

- Organize a safety tailgate before any project begins to discuss what safety precautions need to be taken.

6. Evidence of Success (studies, data collection etc.)

Recommendation: MCCC needs to strengthen the process for collecting and utilizing data.

Suggestions

- Train all staff on how to collect and compile data.
- Add the collected data on the Passport to Success

**Montgomery County Conservation Corps
Transition Work Group 4-15-09**

The budget before you proposes that funding for the Montgomery County Conservation Corps (MCCC) be reduced by eliminating the position of coordinator (as well as funding for three Corps members). This proposal is more drastic than it sounds. Essentially, it guts the purpose and effectiveness of the Corps

Our Corps is one of 121 such programs throughout the nation. It serves young men and woman, ages 18 to 24, who have left school without the skills and experience necessary for getting ahead in life, most without a diploma or GED. Last year, 65% had been court-involved, many incarcerated, and many have learning or other disabilities. Almost all completed the six-month program and only eight percent had another brush with the law – a rate than is less that half of the recidivism rate for similar youth. Over its 25 years, our Corps has worked with some 2,600 youth who learn essential skills while working on outdoor conservation projects. With the current staff, plus a part-time GED tutor, the Corps can serve only about 50 youths a year. The Corps has new partnerships with Americorps and the Woodlands Job Corps Center, both beginning to pay dividends for Corpsmembers.

The coordinator is, essentially, the counselor who works with each of these youths to develop and implement a personalized plan to meet that individual's challenges: development of work skills, attainment of the GED, ability to work with a team, personal goals, and a vision of what they can achieve.

Removal of the coordinator would essentially remove the justification for the Corps. It would sink the Corps below the nationally accepted standards for such a Corps.

At the very least, we most strongly urge that the position of the coordinator be retained as essential to effective operation of the Montgomery County Conservation Corps.

Instead of the proposed cut, we suggest:

- That the Corps be reconstituted as a 501(c)3 entity.
- That DHHS be given the funds and authorization to enable the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families to contract with the Corps for services that meet nationally recognized standards.

In effect, this would enable the Corps to:

- Employ staff and purchase equipment as needed.
- Gain access to grants and contributions
- Have contract supervision from the Collaboration Council staff which is experienced in supervision of contracts with agencies that serve youth