## **MEMORANDUM**

**To** Board of Regents

From: Board Office

**Subject:** Annual Report on Child Care – FY 2003

**Date:** May 12, 2003

### **Recommended Action:**

Receive the report.

## **Executive Summary:**

## Campus Child Care Centers

- Each university provides on-campus child care centers and participates in community referral services.
- The campus centers all operate at full capacity with extensive waiting lists. Maps showing locations of the centers on the campuses are attached to this memorandum.

## Funding of centers

- Fees assessed to parents, university subsidies and other funding sources, including federal, fund the campus centers.
- The financial contributions by the universities allow centers to charge student parents lower fees.
- The centers could not continue to operate if they cared only for children of students within the current subsidized rate structures.
- Based upon anticipated appropriations, ISU and UNI have increased their general fund child care budgets for FY 2004 as follows: ISU by less than 1% and UNI by 3%. The proposed SUI budget shows a 1% decrease.

#### **Federal Grant**

 Each university receives Campus Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) grants. Through this grant colleges and universities were able to request 1% of their Pell Grant disbursements. SUI received \$55,454; ISU \$89,312; and UNI \$54,500.

# Other child care activities

- The University of Iowa provides child care assistance to graduate and professional students. Through the program an eligible graduate student may receive up to \$100 per month toward the cost of child care for children under age 2 or \$75 for a child older than 2.
- All three universities participate in community referral services to assist parents seeking options for quality child care.
- The University of Northern Iowa provides after school and summer programs for children of student families living in the University Apartments.
- Iowa State University offers the Flex-Care Program for part-time care of preschool children.
- Iowa State University also provides the Comfort Zone, a child care program for mildly ill children. SUI also has a program for care of mildly ill children.

#### **Unmet Needs**

- The numbers of student parents who could further benefit from support from the universities relative to their child care expenses is unknown.
- Each of the child care centers maintains a waiting list. There are approximately 180 names on the combined waiting lists for the three on-campus centers at SUI and 150 at the center housed at the UIHC. Approximately 220 names are on the waiting lists for the centers at ISU, and 70 at UNI.
- The Graduate and Professional Student Child Care Assistance Program at SUI has a waiting list of 56 students. This is up from 32 last year.

#### BACKGROUND:

### UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

## Graduate Student Assistance Program

- The Graduate and Professional Student Child Care Assistance Program is designed to assist professional and graduate students with their child care costs.
- In order to be eligible for the program the child must be less than 60 months of age, and the family must meet the financial guidelines.

- Families with children under two may receive up to \$100 per month for child care, and a student who has a child above two may receive up to \$75 per month.
- To date in the 2003 academic year, 108 graduate student families have been served with 56 on the waiting list.

# Support for Parents with Mildly III Children

- The University provides support in two ways when the children of students are ill.
- There were 28 students enrolled in the program in FY 2003.
- First, subsidy program provides up to \$50 per semester on a first come first serve basis to help student parents pay for the cost of a substitute caregiver when their children are ill.
- Secondly, while not a formalized policy, individual faculty members may permit students to attend to their ill children by remaining home.

# Resource and Referral Services

- The University contracts with Community Coordinated Child Care (4Cs), a community-based nonprofit agency, to provide child care resource and referral services.
- During FY 2002, the referral service served 400 university-affiliated families, 127 of which were student families.
- Best Beginnings is a program that recruits and trains in-home family day care providers and center based staff wanting to provide infant care. In FY 2002, 213 university-affiliated families requested referrals for infant care.

### On-campus centers

 There are five child care centers on campus available to faculty, staff and students. Three centers were formerly operated by student organizations and have evolved into nonprofit agencies, separate from the University. The fourth is a traditional preschool. The fifth program primarily serves employees of the UIHC.

- The three nonprofit centers and the preschool are housed in homes owned by the University. The centers pay market-based rent for the facilities.
- The three nonprofit centers are licensed to care for 125 children.
   These centers employ approximately 90 students as well as serving sites for student observations and practicums.
- The University Preschool has served the University for over 50 years.
   Currently, it serves 12 University affiliated children between the ages of 3 and 5. There are 55 students on the waiting list.
- The UIHC child care center provides child care for children of employees of the UIHC. The center is accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs and is licensed to care for 108 children. The center is managed by Bright Horizons Family Solutions. UIHC provides an in-kind contribution of space and maintenance, and some funding. Approximately 150 children are on the waiting list.

# Flexible spending accounts

 The University permits employees to set up flexible spending accounts from which dependent child care expenses can be paid on a before tax basis. In FY 2003, 1,338 employees participated in the program spending in excess of \$4.4 million.

### Federal Grant

- The University was awarded a U.S. Department of Education grant under the program, Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS). In partnership with Hawkeye Area Community Action Program, three in-home family care providers offer services to PELL grant undergraduate student families. In addition, eligible center-based programs may also participate. The program provides child care subsidy and family support services. During the 2003 academic year, 16 families are being served in home setting; 8 families in center-based setting with a total 29 children receiving services.
- Federal funding for the program is \$55,454 annually and will continue until September 2005.

#### Unmet needs

- Upon receiving the CCAMPIS grant, the University Family Services
  Office began providing services to undergraduate student families.
  While the focus was to offer subsidized child care, it became obvious
  that the needs of undergraduate student families are extensive –
  financial, housing, parenting, and social support.
- This past year there were 157 student families receiving PELL grants.
   Assistance could be given to only 37 student families. There is a need for a program much like the Graduate and Professional Student Child Care Assistance Program for undergraduate students.
- About 40% of the graduate students who were served through the Graduate and Professional Student Child Care Assistance Program had family incomes under \$20,000. More funding for child care subsidies was identified as a number one priority in a recent child care needs survey.

#### IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

#### On campus centers

- There are two child care centers located on the ISU campus.
- The University Community Child Care at Pammel Court provides 81
   FTE slots for children birth through school age, with another 18 FTE
   slots available during the summer for school-age children. As of April
   2003, 130 ISU families were on the waiting list.
  - Sixty-nine percent of the families served are student families.
  - The center continues to be accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs, one of four in Ames, and 9% nationwide, to receive this standard. The center is a designated Gold Seal Quality facility by the Iowa Department of Human Services as a resource in quality improvement efforts.
- The center provides employment to 22 students and as a practicum site for over 60 early childhood and elementary education students from ISU and DMACC.
- The center located at Veterinary Medicine is managed under contract by Bright Horizons Family Solutions, a for profit organization. The center is in its fifth year of operation and continues to be at the maximum capacity of 79 FTE slots.
  - Currently, there are 81 children enrolled with 45% from student families.

 This center, too, is accredited and designated Gold Seal Quality by DHS. The center employs 15 students and serves as a practicum site for about 45 students.

#### Referral services

- The University continues to collaborate with the Center for Child Care Resources (CCR). The CCR is part of the Statewide Resource and Referral Network.
  - Over the past 12 months, 201 ISU families have benefited from the services of the CCR. Sixty-two percent of these families were ISU student families.
- The Story County Infant Care Network was established to address the increasing need for infant care slots available in family care homes. Of the requests for child care referrals to the CCR, threefourths were for infant care.
- The University provides financial and in-kind support to the CCR and the Infant Care Network.

### Flex-Care Program

- The Flex-Care Program is a part-time preschool child care program exclusively for student families. The program operates during the academic year. Families may contract for care 1 to 42.5 hours per week, based on class and study schedules. The program is fully utilized with a waiting list of 10 children.
- As of April 2003, this program has served 25 ISU student families.

### Comfort Zone

- The Comfort Zone is a program to care for mildly ill children. The program is open on days that parents request care and is licensed to care for a total of eight children per day. An income dependent sliding fee scale is used for ISU students and employees.
- Currently, 305 children are pre-registered for care. Between August 2002 and March 2003, 140 children from 58 families (including 30 student families) have received care.

 In FY 2003, the Student Health Center discontinued shared nursing costs due to budget constraints. To sustain the existing sick child care program, the Comfort Zone received an additional \$9,000 from the ISU Strategic Enhancement Plan to cover the increase in nursing salary costs. The Comfort Zone is the only sick child care program in Story County.

# Communication efforts

- The University collaborates with the YWCA to make the Babysitters List available free of charge to ISU student families.
- A booklet, "What Everyone Who Cares for Children Needs to Know" is available free of charge. This booklet provides guidance to both parents and sitters.
- "Child Care Resources at ISU" continues to be distributed on campus for current and prospective students, family, and staff.

#### Federal Grant

- CCAMPIS funds of \$89,312 per year for four years provide financial assistance to ISU undergraduate student families to help purchase quality child care services while they are in class, working or studying outside their homes.
- Currently the program has been able to assist financially with the child care fees of 55 children of student families with an additional 28 children on the waiting list.

#### **New Programs**

- The Child Care Assistance Program (CAP) is a new program designed to assist student parents with their child care expenses while attending ISU. Funds for the program are made available as a portion of the special fees paid by every student who enrolls each term.
- The CAP program provides up to \$500 per semester for a care of a child under 24 months of age and \$375 per semester for a child older than 24 months. In FY 2003, the program awarded \$16,725 to 20 eligible families.
- The Child Care Assistance Program for Undergraduates (CAP-U) provides assistance as in the CAP program described above. In FY 2003, the program awarded \$32,375 to 41 families.

 Free Evening Child Care for Finals program is designed to provide free child care at the campus center for student parents during exam week. Child care services are provided during the evenings from 6-9 p.m. for children 6 weeks to 12 years of age. In Fall 2002, 16 student parents were served. Funding for the program is from reallocated funds from Off Campus and Adult Student Services.

#### New child care center

Construction has begun on the North Campus Child Care Facility to replace the aging West Pammel Court facilities. Programs that will be accommodated in the new facility are University Community Child Care, Center for Child Care Resources, Comfort Zone and Office of Child Care Resources. Occupancy is expected in February 2004.

#### UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

### Child Development Center

- The UNI Child Development Center (CDC) is a licensed, nationally accredited, full-day child care program located in Price Laboratory School.
- The CDC provided high quality child care for 54 children. Currently, 36 are children of student parents. As of April 2003, the waiting list includes 70 families.
- The center employs approximately 75 students and hosts approximately 80 university students for a variety of field experiences each semester.
- UNI has worked over the years to keep parent fees as affordable as possible. Semester fee for student parents with a child under 2 is \$1,500; for faculty/staff parents, \$2,220.

# Activities at University Apartments

- The University Apartments continues to operate a recreational program for children who reside in the complex.
- There is an after school program for children 5-12 that currently has 12 children registered.
- The summer session programs generally enroll 10-12 preschool children and 16-20 school age children.

#### Federal Grant

A new evening program opened with the start of the spring 2003 semester. This program is funded by the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) grant through the U.S. Department of Education. The grant provides approximately \$54,500 per year for four years. Child care services for the evening program are free to any Pell-qualified student parents. Other student parents may enroll their children and pay on a sliding fee scale. As of April 2003, 27 children are registered. Currently, about one-half of the available slots are filled.

#### Referral Services

- Between February 2002 and February 2003, the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) received calls from 38 families who identified themselves as affiliated with UNI requesting assistance in finding child care services. Since it is not required for families to identify where they work or attend school, it is difficult to know the total associated with UNI.
- Nearly 82% of the families contacting CCR&R for assistance in locating child care were searching for infant or toddler care.

#### Needs assessment

- In Spring 2002 the Child Care Committee developed and implemented a campus-wide survey to determine how many parents with dependent children need child care services to work or attend classes at UNI.
- There were 446 responses to the survey. Of these, 32% indicated that they had children living with them. Only 18% indicated that they used the university child care services.

# Student Activity Fee Child Care Grants

- The Student Activity Fee Grant Program was designed to offset the cost of child care for student parents whose children are not enrolled at the CDC. While graduate students may apply, the program gives priority to undergraduate students.
- Off-campus costs have been significantly higher for these families.
   Currently, student parents pay approximately \$678 more per semester than student parents with children at the CDC.
- The pool of parents who apply and are eligible for available funds grows each year. Many of these student families have multiple children needing child care, thus committing a sizable portion of their income to child care expenditures. The committee requested \$35,000 for FY 2004 child care grants.

### Additional facilities

• The Child Care Committee continues to seek additional sites for possible child care facilities on or adjacent to the campus. In 2001 the committee presented a request to the Campus Facilities Committee to expand the number of child care slots to 100 either by expanding the existing facility or through new construction.

### **FUNDING**

Financial Financial support for the child care programs at the universities for FY 2003 and proposed Support FY 2004 is shown below:

							General	Overall
	FY 2003			Proposed FY 2004			Fund	Percent
	General	In-kind	Total	General	In-kind	Total	Increase	Change
SUI	366,046	136,613	502,659	361,412	127,160	488,572	-1%	-3%
ISU	188,745	160,546	349,291	190,055	202,546	392,601	0.69%	12%
UNI	193,901	*	193,901	200,329	*	200,329	3%	3%
TOTAL	748,692	297,159	1,045,851	751,796	329,706	1,081,502		

<sup>\*</sup>Includes space, unspecified maintenance, utilities, etc.

The financial numbers noted above do not include the funds received through the U.S. Department of Education CCAMPIS grants. SUI - \$55,454' ISU - \$89,312; UNI - \$54,500.

Full Reports

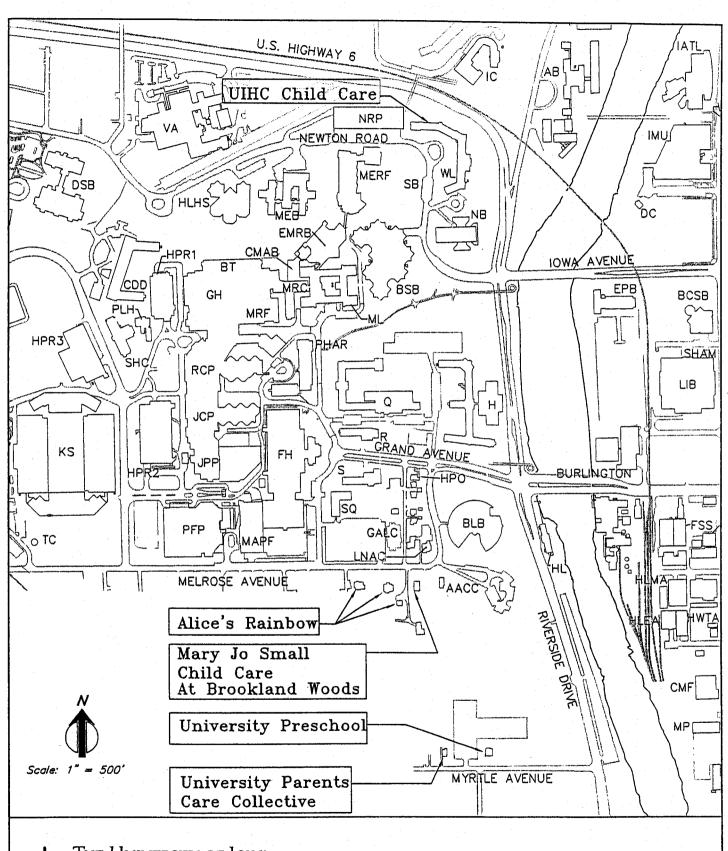
The each university's full annual report is included in the Regent Exhibit Book.

Marcia B. Brunson

Approved:\_

Gregory S' Nichols

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THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Location Map University Child Care Locations

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