

RESOLUTION NO.: 8—2014-15

TO THE HONORABLE, THE OUTAGAMIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

MAJORITY

1
2 The Community Early Learning Center (CELC) is an initiative to ensure that every child under
3 the age of five in the Fox Valley and surrounding communities will have the opportunity to
4 achieve their full potential. A key component of that effort will involve the renovation of the
5 former Catholic Central Elementary School located at 1313 S. State Street, Appleton. The
6 renovated facility will house five existing agencies focused on serving children age birth to five
7 including: the Outagamie County Birth to Three Program, the Appleton Area School District
8 Birth to Five Program, Project Bridges Child Care Center, Even Start and Head Start.

9
10 The goals of the CELC are multifaceted. Through co-locating these agencies in a shared facility,
11 the CELC will provide a variety of direct services to children and families by offering outreach
12 activities to identify, screen and refer children with or at risk of a developmental delay to
13 necessary services; provide family education and involvement activities; provide information and
14 referral to connect families on community resources and services. The CELC is designed to
15 provide a site for ongoing research in the area of early childhood development including the
16 impact that quality early childhood development programs have on the overall development of a
17 child; best practices in early childhood assessment, outreach, intervention and connecting
18 families to necessary resources. Additionally, the CELC will provide a site to train current and
19 future professionals in best practices in assessment, evaluation and working with a population
20 age birth to five. Lawrence University and the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh are partners in
21 this aspect of the CELC. The \$2 million remodeling project is funded through a multitude of
22 community contributions. The Board of Directors has raised approximately \$1.5 million to date.
23 Any shortage in fund raising activities will be made up through a no-interest loan. The Catholic
24 Diocese is providing the building rent free to the CELC for a period of 10 years. The CELC will
25 be responsible for building upkeep and maintenance during the period of the lease. The CELC is
26 expected to open its doors in September 2014.

27
28 The Outagamie County Executive strongly supports this important, innovative and integrated
29 community initiative and has agreed to include \$100,000 in his 2015 County Executive Budget's
30 Capital Projects Fund. That budget will be brought to the Outagamie County Board of
31 Supervisors at its annual budget meeting in November for further action. This resolution
32 requests the County Board's nonbinding conceptual approval of the proposed funding as a sign
33 of its support pending final 2015 budget deliberations.

34
35 NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned members of the Health & Human Services Committee
36 recommend adoption of the following resolution.

37 BE IT RESOLVED, the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors does support the proposed
38 funding of \$100,000 to the CELC to assist in the creation of the CELC building, and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is conceptual in nature and will need further
2 action by the county board, through its annual budget meeting, for such funds to be appropriated for the
3 stated purpose, and

4 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Clerk be directed to forward a copy
5 of this resolution to the Outagamie County Health and Human Services Director, the Outagamie County
6 Finance Director, and the Outagamie County Executive.

7 Dated this _____ day of June, 2014.

8 Respectfully Submitted,
9 HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

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13 _____
14 Jerry Iverson

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19 Kevin Behnke

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24 Cathy Spears

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28 Duly and officially adopted by the County Board on: _____
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31 Signed:

32 Board Chairperson

County Clerk

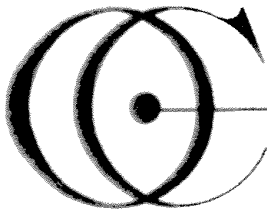
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34 Approved:

Vetoed: _____

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37 Signed:

County Executive

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OUTAGAMIE COUNTY

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING LEVEL 3

410 S. WALNUT STREET, APPLETON, WI 54911-5936

TELEPHONE (920) 832-4741

FAX (920) 832-5164

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 2, 2014

To: Thomas Nelson, Outagamie County Executive

From: Rosemary Davis, Director

Re: Community Early Learning Center

I received a recommendation from Tom Stratton, Aging and Long Term Support Division Manager to move the Outagamie County Birth to Three Program from its current location in the Valley Packaging Industries (VPI) Brewster Street Facility at 3375 West Brewster St., Appleton to the proposed Community Early Learning Center (CELC) located in the former St. Mary's School in Appleton. After many discussions I agree with this recommendation.

- The Outagamie County Birth to Three Program fits the programmatic goals and vision of the CELC. The Birth to Three Program provides home-based services to children under the age of three who have a developmental delay or a diagnosis of a condition that may lead to a developmental delay. The program offers screenings, evaluation, assessment, early childhood special education, speech, physical, and occupational therapy, resource and referral, and service coordination.
- There are issues with the current Brewster Street location of the Birth to Three Program. Space is limited in that facility to accommodate staff meetings and group training programs for parents. Staff meetings are held at other VPI Facilities. A weekly feeding program held in rented space at Christ the Rock Church. The long term future of the VPI Adult Day Program housed in the Brewster facility is uncertain due to funding policies of the local Managed Care Program that have shifted the day services program responsibilities from this vendor to various residential program providers. If the Adult Day Program becomes financially infeasible for VPI to operate, Birth to Three could not absorb the entire rental and operating cost of the building in its budget alone.
- The CELC provides a family friendly, central point of information and referrals for families seeking services and programs to meet their child's needs". The location is close to the Outagamie County Court House complex for easy access to WIC, Economic Support and other County provided services.

- With other partner agencies in the building, there will be increased opportunities for child find efforts to ensure all families having children with potential developmental delays in Outagamie County are made aware of Birth to Three services. This will be accomplished through working with partners in the CELC to expand developmental screenings to ages 0-5; increased marketing to expand other programs' awareness of the Birth to Three Program throughout the county and to minority populations.
- Opportunities will be available for more shared staff and family training events plus the opportunities to share the cost with partner agencies. There are plans for additional training for child care providers in identifying children with developmental delays.
- CELC provides access to on site meeting rooms, a cafeteria for feeding classes and a gym for events like the Birth to Three Christmas gathering that allow families to gather, meet and share common issues and challenges.
- Cost to services located in the building is based on the percentage of occupied space. The Birth to Three Program will take 7% of the available space in the CELC. Funding for the costs are estimated as follows based on 7% of the budgeted costs. Funds will come from the current budget. The difference from existing budget and the proposed cost of \$2,185 will come from new and other existing non-county funding sources. This will not result in cutbacks in services now or in the future:

	Current Brewster Expenses transferable to CELC (EIP Annual Expense)	CELC Expenses (Proposed EIP Annual Expense)
Brewster Rent	7,320	-
Depreciation – Building	300	-
Building/Liability/Ins/Maintenance	5,000	-
Rent for Feeding Groups	900	-
Utilities	1,900	5,460
Facilities Management	-	1,050
Snow Removal/Lawn Care	-	315
Cleaning Services	-	4,900
Janitorial Supplies	-	210
Capital Improvement Fund	-	700
Maintenance	-	1,120
Miscellaneous	-	350
Mortgage	-	3,500
TOTAL	15,420	17,605

There may be some negative aspects of relocation to this building.

- a building in the heart of Appleton presents potential barriers to service access for some rural families and those in surrounding communities who choose not to travel into Appleton.
- the project with its current list of occupants fully fills the building to capacity.
- Building additional space at this location may be limited or prohibited due to the age of the building, changes in building codes since the original structure was built and modifications to the structure that may be required to add additional floors or space.
- the inherent appearance of favoring Appleton over other communities in the county by moving the Birth to Three Program to this facility. However, this feeling may be spoken regardless to the community that the program is located. Birth to Three referred 75 children to the Appleton Area School District in 2013.

Benefits for relocating the Birth to Three Program to the CELC include:

- improved services to children birth to five from child find and screening activities done at the center with the facility partners
- training and educational programs that will be developed and implemented by the partners that will enhance the quality of early learning opportunities available throughout the region
- dissemination of best practices in early childhood care and education that will enhance the quality of life for children and their families.

Please contact me with questions. I appreciate your consideration of this matter and thank you for your anticipated support.