

LIAISON REPORT for CAMP FIRE

AGENCY: ___University Community Childcare___ LIAISONS: Seth Carter (ISU) and Maria Archevald-Cansobre (ISU)

1. Need for Program. Describe who the target population is and whether their numbers are increasing or decreasing. Indicate the source of this information. Also, indicate how the program/service is different and how it is similar to others and what would happen if the program/service ceased to exist. List the priorities established by ASSET Funders, which the programming addresses.

The target population for UCC is all the community of Ames. Due to their high rating with Federal and State facility reviews, UCC has a high demand for their services. They have recently increased the occupancy space in some classes however they are now at their maximum capacity.

This service differs from other day-care services because of their high ratings and because they offer discounts to Iowa State Students on Child-Care costs.

If this service were to be canceled many families lives would be put on hold while they try to locate new day care services. Also, considering how they offer discounts to ISU students, many ISU students could be strongly negatively impacted.

2. Program Strengths. Pick two to four factors that contribute most importantly to the program/service outcomes. Do not list everything that is satisfactory. We will assume that things not mentioned are okay. For each strength describe some supporting evidence.

- Excellent ratings in Federal and State reviews of facility and staff
- Partnership with ISU

As mentioned before, they have excellent ratings in reviews. As a result, they are typically sought after by potential consumers long before the service is actually needed. ISU's close proximity and well known elementary education program (among others) they have a large amount of students seeking experience in the childcare area and receive a lot of cheap labor thanks to work study.

3. Program Weaknesses. Select factors that detract most from the program/service achieving its outcomes. Present details as described above. Recommendations for reducing these weaknesses should follow the discussion of each weakness.

- Capacity limits
- Lack of funding
- Demographic of Board

UCC is not able to serve all those requesting services due to lack of capacity. They also watch the number of hours worked by all employees very closely as they use all of the hours of labor that they can afford.

Something that the board brought up themselves during their board meeting was that they need a demographic of board members who do not use the UCC services. There was an issue a few years ago about flooding and the board was unable to act in the best interest of UCC because too many members had kids involved in their services. As of now only one of the 8 members on the Board do not use UCC services.

4. Financial Outlook. Current funding concerns should be described. In addition, the assessment of the program's plan to cope with shrinking resources should be given.

Other than the general concern of using every dollar they currently get very carefully there are no major concerns with finances. They have well reason to believe they will be getting funded from all sources they have been receiving from.

5. Internal Management Practices. Summarize your assessment of the management of the agency, and the role of the Board. If there are deficiencies, details should be provided. Conclude with recommendations when appropriate.

The Board is led by a father who uses UCCs services and his wife also serves on the board. The board does get input from Penny (the woman who served as my main contact) who has a large number of years and experience in the operations of UCC. The day that I attended was a transitional time for the board. 3 of the 9 present were attending their first board meeting, and some Executive roles were newly assigned.

The most notable thing about this board is the lack of members who do not use UCC services. Penny expressed concern about this at the meeting I attended and others agreed but no direct plan was discussed.

6. Agency Suggestions/Comments. Make note of any suggestions, comments or questions agencies may have with regard to the ASSET process, budget forms and or anything else that relates to the process.

The only thing that Penny spoke to me about was how the fiscal year endings between ASSET and UCC are so different that it can be hard to estimate the expenses that UCC will incur at the time ASSET needs them.

GENERAL ASSESSMENT: