

# D C E C B U Z Z

## Possible Budget Cuts to Affect Child Care

Based on projected income for 2002, Polk County Health Services (PCHS) has created a list of areas for potential budget cuts. Cuts will be affected by the amount of state money available to counties. Concerns about cuts should be brought to the attention of your state legislator to let them know that health services are important. For information about your state legislator, feel free to contact Carolyn.

Some areas which **MAY** be affected by these budget cuts include, **BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:**

**Vocational Services:** 1) raise fees at Day Care for Exceptional Children, 2) cut plan to increase supported employ-

ment services, 3) cut county funds for RAINBOW Center clients, 4) create waiting lists.

**Personal & Environmental Support Services:** 1) cut proposed Real Skills Training program, 2) reduce county subsidy of paratransit services for ADA eligible clients, 3) cut county subsidy of supported community living for clients of Mainstream Living, 4) cut Protective Payee program for people with disabilities, 5) cut Homemaker program for people with disabilities, 6) cut Meals on Wheels for people with disabilities, 7) cut rent subsidy for 178 people, 8) create waiting lists.

**Residential Services:** 1) cut proposed Residential Care Fa-

cility for Persons with Mental illness, 2) cut goal to expand residential services, 3) create waiting lists.

**Consultation, Prevention, Intervention, Detoxification, Information and Education Services:** 1) cut proposed Roommate Match Program, 2) cut county funded prevention and public awareness programs such as Buckle Bear, Healthy Moms/Healthy Babies, Young Moms, HOPE Drama Troupe, bicycle safety, and a campaign educating businesses about abilities and willingness of people with disabilities to work, 3) 11% cut in Ankeny

Substance Abuse Project and  
*(Continued on page 4)*

## Day Care for Exceptional Children

Volume 1, Issue 2  
December 2001

### Current Board Issues:

- © Budget Cut Possibilities
- © Board Member Center Visit Reports
- © Review of Policy Preventing Attendance of Children of Staff
- © Insurance Change
- © Holiday Schedule
- © Advocacy Group
- © Sick Child Care Coalition

**Next Board Meeting:**  
**Jan. 24, 7 pm, location to be determined.**

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## New Insurance Carrier for Full Time Staff

After a search for a new provider for employee health insurance, DCEC recently switched from John Deere Health to Coventry Health Care; benefits were effec-



tive November 1. The change in companies did not affect current staff benefits or their providers, but is considerably more cost effective. The money Day

Care will save on insurance will go back into the Day Care budget to be used on things such as building maintenance, equipment, and staff salaries.

Written by Jenny R.

## Letters From Our Readers

### **Staff should not be responsible for buckling/strapping any of our children in buses, cars or other transportation for liability reasons.**

In agreement with Des Moines Public School regulations, Day Care staff are not allowed to secure children into school-related transportation methods (buses, cars, etc.), making the responsibility belong to the driver or assistant(s) on the vehicle. Day Care extends this policy to all school districts, not only Des Moines Public.

Concerned parents should feel free to contact

bus garages to make sure that their child is being buckled in. Day Care staff will continue to report any incidents to both the bus garage and the parent of the child.

It is also important for parents to make sure that each child who needs a vest for transportation, has one, and that all wheelchair parts are in good working order. Parents are also responsible for calling bus garages to let them know when their child will not be riding.

*To all of our readers:*

*We would love to hear from you!! Please send us your story ideas, comments, suggestions, responses to our newsletter, art—whatever you want—to Amanda at Woodland or Mary at Beaver.*

### **DON'T FORGET!!**

**DCEC WILL BE CLOSING AT 4 PM ON CHRISTMAS EVE DAY, DEC. 24TH. HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY!**

## Day Care Staff Prepare For Holiday Party

Day Care staff have been especially busy the past month as they prepare for the DCEC annual Holiday Party. Staff have volunteered to work on various committees which are in charge of everything from finding donors for the presents to decorating the Ruby Van Meter gym. The invitations committee has already prepared and mailed out multi-sensory invitations as well as green RSVP slips. If you have not received an invitation, you

should contact Jenny or Allison at the Woodland center as soon as possible. RSVPs were due by the 11<sup>th</sup>.



Donations for presents have been significantly lower this year, so the Day Care has received substantial assistance

from the Toys for Tots and Red Cross programs to make up for this shortfall. Due to popular demand, Day Care staff are again performing their own version of "The 12 Days of Christmas." We look forward to seeing all of you Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Ruby Van Meter gym.

Written by Karl S.

## One on One With Karl Schmidt

For those of you who do not yet know me, my name is Karl Schmidt and I have recently become the Lead Teacher of the Rainbow Rooms. Prior to being Lead Teacher, I was the Group Leader of the Caterpillars last summer, and I have been an Assistant Teacher in the Rainbow Rooms for the past three summers. Prior to working here, I held a variety of

odd jobs including working for Nielson's Greenhouse, Baker's Square Restaurant, and as a vendor at the Iowa State Fair. I am a Des Moines native who graduated from Roosevelt in 1997 (the same school that my father at-

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***"I enjoy Tennis, Climbing, Mountain Biking, fixing/maintaining bikes, and traveling."***

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tended). Last May I graduated from Earlham College (a small, Quaker, liberal arts school in Richmond, Indiana that my Grandfather attended) with a B. A. in psychology.

## Room to Room With the Go Getters

What does it mean to be a Go-Getter? It means when you want something, you work hard to get it. That is exactly what the Go-Getters at the Beaver Center do. The children in this room range from ages 4 to 6. We have a total of 18 children in the room with 6 staff in the room throughout the day. These children are at the age where they are learning independence. All of the children are working to show their personalities as well.

Toy cars and race tracks are the choice toy in the room, and with 13 boys that's not surprising! Other children in the room enjoy texture and switch toys. "My favorite part of daycare is when we go outside," said Daron. All of the children enjoy activity time, especially Jordan! The children also enjoy movie afternoons on Fridays. Christopher said, "My favorite movie is *The Lion King*." On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month we get visits from Rosie Van, a traveling part of the Des

Moines Public Library. They come to read books to us and then leave a stack of books for us to enjoy until their next visit.

Written by Tina G. & Morgan H.

**GET WELL**  
**Toddrae**  
**And**  
**Ashlynn**

## News Briefs

### Surprise Visit

The Beaver Center had a nice surprise from a Woodland Center parent (who is also a Board Member). She brought a card and "treats" for the staff just to say thanks and how much she appreciated everyone. Thanks Elizabeth!

### New Purchase

The Wee Ones recently purchased a large mirror for the room. This purchase was made possible through a memorial donation from St. Theresa's Church, in memory of Claire Galloway.

### Handy Man

DCEC recently hired a new handy man who is available for projects around Woodland and Beaver.

### Board Member Visits

Two Day Care Board Members met with staff on an individual basis at the Beaver Center. They listened to concerns, suggestions and other input from staff members. Most of the staff at the Center had the opportunity to visit, although not everyone took advantage of the opportunity. A date has not yet been set for a similar meeting at the Woodland Center.

### Sprucing Up

Gary, a staff member at the Beaver Center, has been busy painting the interior of the Beaver Center on weekends. Thanks to Gary—it's looking good!

### CPI Training

The first Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) training session taught by Brian, the Woodland On-Site

Director, was held Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. The 12 hour course is required for all staff and must be renewed every year. Four staff members from each center attended the evening sessions. The focus of the class is to learn techniques for keeping both staff and children safe when a child's behavior becomes harmful to themselves or others. Emphasis is also placed on recognizing behavior patterns to prevent situations from reaching the "crisis" stage.

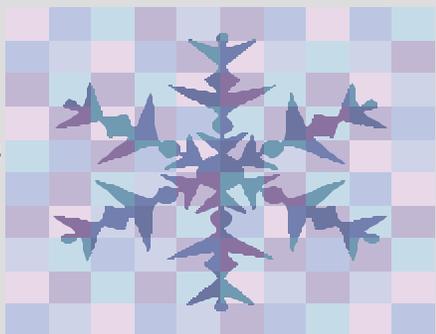
### Holiday Project

Some clients at Woodland created Holiday Giving Books full of chore coupons, which they will do in exchange for a food item to give to a local food pantry. Anyone wanting to donate additional items should contact Jenny or Amanda at the Woodland Center.

## What to Watch For...

### DECEMBER:

- 9-Hanukkah Begins at Sundown
- 21-First Day of Winter
- 24-Christmas Eve, DCEC CLOSING @ 4
- 25-Christmas Day, DCEC CLOSED
- 26-Kwanzaa Begins
- 27-All Staff Meeting, 7pm, Woodland
- 31-New Year's Eve



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### JANUARY:

- 1-New Year's Day, DCEC CLOSED
- 21-Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday, Observed



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 2217 Beaver  
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**T**O PROVIDE DAY CARE SERVICES TO PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY CHALLENGED CHILDREN IN ORDER FOR THEM TO REMAIN IN THE FAMILY/HOME SETTING.

**Know anyone who loves working with special needs kids?  
 Call Mary @ 274-2831 or Brian @ 280-5446  
 for current job openings or more information.**



## Creations



### From Our Kitchen

#### **PB&J. Shake and Shiver**

(Adapted from Better Homes and Gardens After-School Cooking.)

- 2 Cups Chocolate Milk
- 2 Large Scoops Vanilla Ice Cream (1cup)
- ½ Cup Peanut Butter
- 2 Tablespoons Jelly
- Chocolate Sauce (Optional)
- Chopped Peanuts (Optional)

Combine chocolate milk, vanilla ice cream, peanut butter, and jelly in blender and blend until smooth. Pour into glasses and serve immediately. We have found that this shake, while weird sounding, tastes great. The sweetness of the jelly helps to

balance the heaviness of the peanut butter in this great, anytime treat!

Recipe submitted by Karl S.

#### **To Our Readers:**

We'd like to save some space for contributions from our readers—art, poetry, recipes, etc. Please submit any entries, clearly labeled with your name and "Newsletter Entry" to a staff member.

*(Continued from page 1)*

Employee & Family Resource substance abuse prevention grants, 4) 11% cut in county funds for Employee and Student Assistance Program, 5) 11% cut in detox subsidy grant at Broadlawns, 6) cut consultation and educational services for the elderly with mental illness and for schools and day care centers.

**Services for People with Developmental Disabilities:** 1) end transportation, residential and vocational services for 22% of clients with developmental disabilities.

**Treatment Services:** 1) reroute inmate medical fees to Mental Health Fund, 2) cut proposed mobile team to assist police during a psychiatric crisis, 3) cut county subsidy for FOCUS program at Broadlawns.

**Polk County Health Services Administration:** 1) use fees from child welfare to decategorization project grants for some PCHS operating costs, 2) cut cost-sharing of training for direct care staff, 3) cut plans for hospital brochure containing public service resources for clients, 4) eliminate proposed Program Planner/Budget Analysis position.

PCHS is also considering the pros and cons of establishing waiting lists versus lowering the quality of service for all programs. Please feel free to contact Carolyn if you have any questions about this issue.