

Notes from Special Meeting of Wakefield Health Care Center Board of Directors
February 2, 2010

Steering Committee members in attendance:

Jim Litchfield	Ed Haglund
Kathy Skinner	Toni Haglund
Mike Mogus	Also present, Theresa Miner

Members of the WHCC Board in attendance:

Ken Thomsen, President	Terry Borg
Sue Vander Veen, Secretary	Bill Harrison
Sheila Vander Veen	Vicky Jones

Also present, Terry Hoffman, Administrator

The purpose of meeting with the WHCC Board was to explore with them a proposal for combining operation of a community day care center with the operation of the WHCC. It was suggested that some services of a community day care and those currently being performed by the WHCC could be combined for the mutual benefit of both, including cost sharing of some staff, more options for grant opportunities, and therapeutic benefit to the elderly as well as for the children.

Some of the questions that need to be answered:

1. How many families/children are in need of child care.
2. Where will the money to build and operate a child care facility come from.
3. How many children are on state assistance for child care.
4. How many before and after school children will there be.
5. Will school district provide busing for before and after school children, even if they are not in the school-sponsored pre-school.
6. Size of the facility.
7. What will future needs be, and should we take this opportunity to think broadly about how a new facility could serve the community in ways other than child care, such as including a wellness center as part of the facility.
8. Budget.
9. Who would hire the director for the day care.

Kathy Skinner explained to the Board that surveys have been distributed by local employers to determine the need for community day care in Wakefield, the due date for which is Friday, Feb 5, 2010.

Advantages to the day care committee working with the WHCC for block grant money: new building to be constructed, additional employment for the community, and a working relationship with an established non-profit organization. Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District writes grants for the City. Block grant application deadline is in April. Grants are not awarded until August or September. Funds are not available until about November.

No money is currently available for this venture. Intent is for the City to own the facility, but a non-profit to operate it, along the same lines as the WHCC is now operated, where the City owns the facility, but the business is operated by a non-profit corporation. Hope to construct a new facility and have it paid for when it opens, so the only budget issues would be operating expenses, not mortgage payments.

Funding options for building a facility would include federal funding, private grants, and City matching funds. State funds are more likely to go toward programs and for commodities, and not for construction.

Jim Litchfield advised the Board that he had contacted nearby landowners about the possibility of purchasing land adjacent to the WHCC, and that the landowners were interested but would not commit without further information. Other land options include the site of the old high school behind Iowa-Nebraska State Bank, and a site at the Industrial Park Addition to the City of Wakefield east of the highway.

WHCC Board concerns:

1. Current WHCC administrator is too busy to also be day care administrator also.
2. A good administrator for the child care facility, who has child care and administrative experience, is a must.
3. Who would hire the child care administrator.

Good synergies of working jointly:

1. One kitchen staff for both operations.
2. Use of one bookkeeping staff for both operations.
3. More efficient use of staff.

Goldcrest Child Care was mentioned as a private, non-profit organization in Adams, Nebraska, that is attached to an assisted living facility, though there is not free access between the two facilities at all times.

Good Samaritan facilities were also mentioned as a corporation that often combines elder care facilities with day care facilities.

Syracuse built a day care next to their assisted living facility.

Other comments:

1. Should this be a joint venture of two separate non-profit corporations working cooperatively.
2. Should this be a combined operation of the current WHCC corporation Broad which hires the WHCC administrator and the day care director is hired as a "department head" by the administrator.
3. Director of the child care operation must have expertise regarding state regulations.
4. Possible requirements for a full time child care director: early childhood experience and good business instincts.
5. The most profitable child care centers operate pre-schools.
6. Staffing costs are 60-65% of the budget for child care facilities.
7. Insurance is very costly.
8. Need to be licensed for more rather than less children because census can fluctuate.
9. Some day care operations experience lower census numbers during the summer.
10. Sometimes local businesses will underwrite part of the budget in order to have priority for their employees' needs.

A straw vote was taken of the WHCC Board of Directors as to whether they were interested in moving forward with a joint project. All were in favor of pursuing the concept but had reservations about the impact on the work load of the WHCC administrator.

Theresa Miner, Recording Secretary for the Day Care Steering Committee