

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 17, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO #35: FEASIBILITY OF THE CAMPAGNA KIDS PROGRAM DAILY RATE

This memorandum is in response to City Council's request for information regarding the feasibility of the Campagna Kids (CK) Program offering a daily rate. The Campagna Center, (TCC) under a Cooperative Grant Agreement with the City administers this before and after care program at all of the City's elementary schools except Cora Kelly. CK operates in accordance with Virginia Department of Social Services Standards for Licensed Child Day Center and National Afterschool Association Accreditation Standards. The program is offered five days a week, September through June, and fees are based on a monthly sliding fee scale.

TCC has considered offering a part-time service, but for the following reasons has not done so:

- The overall intent of the City funding for before and after care is to increase the availability of school age child care for the City's working families. Most CK parents work five days a week and have not expressed a need for part-time services.
- Budget constraints require collection of full tuition for all open enrollments. Part-time enrollment would be complicated. For an example, if a child is enrolled for two days a week, then only a child needing three days a week could be enrolled in order to achieve a full-time enrollment. CK sites typically operate at budget capacity and part-time enrollment could lead to a waiting list of families requiring care five days a week.
- State licensure standards will not permit drop-in service. Implementation of a part-time service would require additional administrative staff to manage registration, scheduling, billing and to ensure ongoing compliance with staff-to-child ratio requirements.

TCC has indicated that they will consider offering a part-time service at the twelve sites with the following understandings:

- Drop-in participants would not be accepted. Families seeking part-time service must register for same days each.
- Since full-time five day-a-week registrations are the actual, a set number of part-time slots would be established for each site depending on capacity at the site.

- Part-time services would be offered after school only, and parents must register for the same two or three days each week.
- The part-time fee would be based on a daily rate of \$20. The sliding fee scale would not apply for part-time enrollment.