

Information Supplement to Childcare Aware, Bright & Early and Growing Futures

The purpose of the document is to provide supplementary informant to the discussion on adding 33 full-time FTE's to the state payroll. These employees are currently temporary employees contracted through Human Services. They were previously employed by Lutheran Social Services in Fargo, until their bankruptcy/reorganization.

As you move forward in the decision there are three additional pieces to the puzzle which are important:

- 1) **HB 1416 (passed & signed)** – allows for the following:
 - a. A school board / district to set-up a four-year old program that is approved by the department of human services.
 - b. Defines four-year old program approval process
 - c. Eliminates current early childhood education program in Dept. of Commerce
 - d. Makes changes in early childhood council
- 2) **HB 1466 (passed & signed)** – allows for the following:
 - a. Allows for the submission of an application for “**best in class four-year old experience**” grant.
 - b. The annual award for grant is \$120,000 per approved group size (14) and there is a \$20,000 matching component for this grant.
 - c. It requires the department to assign a program support coach to each approved program.
 - d. Allows for any program including church, business or organization that operates a four-year-old program.
 - e. Fiscal not provides for the following:
 - i. 4.8 million for 20 programs at \$120,000 (3.3 million from DPI fed funds and 1.5 million from the Commerce department)
 - ii. Provides \$120,000 for evaluation or data and outcome analysis
 - iii. .2 FTE for administration of grant funding (\$28,000)
 - iv. 3 FTE to support approved 4-year old program (\$510,00)
- 3) **SB 2018 (In House with changes)** allows for the following:
 - a. The current 1.5 million moves from Commerce to the Department of Human Services

Full-time Employee summary from LSS to DHS

There are two components to these 33 FTE's which DHS would like to make permanent.

Regulatory four-year old program:

The first component is **regulatory**. The **4 staff from Bright and Early** are the individuals who will do the accreditation for the \$120,000 in “**best in class 4-year old experiences**” grant.

In addition to the Bright and Early **regulatory component** is the **Growing Futures database/registry**. This group manages the workforce registry that tracks training and qualifications of childcare providers, as a component of licensing.

Technical Supports to Childcare Providers (Coaching, Training and various Supports)

Childcare Aware has 26 temporary positions and currently 24 are filled. The two vacant positions are CCA positions. There are a variety of positions including coaches, inclusion specialists that serve providers and families. This could include a variety of health and safety resources.

Questions to be asked:

Why should the Regulatory organization (DHS) do the technical support for these agencies too?

In HB 1466 there is an allocation for \$510,000 and 3 FTE to support approved four-year old programs. Isn't that what Bright & Early (4 FTE) and the Growing Futures (3 FTE) would do? According to the Dept. of Public Instruction, that's what Bright & Early does is the accreditation. They would continue to do that for the best-in class 4-year old grant.

There is between \$600,000 - \$800,000 left over from previous 4 year old program? How is that added back into budget at DHS?

How do all the administration fees, office rental etc... Tie into current budget submitted to DHS?

I could ask about 10 more questions.... But will wait until after I visit with the both of you...