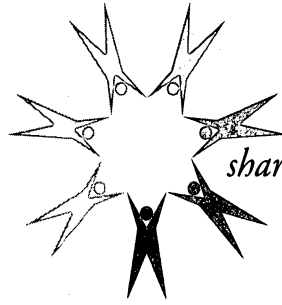


Department of Human Service Programs



sharing resources...building community

Jill Herold
Assistant City Manager

TO: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

FROM: Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager for Human Services

DATE: October 14, 1998

SUBJECT: Response to Council Order #73 dated 9/28/1998 RE:
Report on After-School Programs for 10-14 Year Olds

Childcare

Commission for
Persons with Disabilities

Community and Youth

Community
Learning Center

Coordinating Council for
Children, Youth and Families
(Kids' Council)

Council on Aging;
Elderly Services

Low Income
Fuel Assistance

Multi-Service Center;
Homeless Services

Office of Workforce
Development

Planning & Development

Recreation

The following list describes the generally available after-school programs for children 10-14 years old. Not all of these programs serve children in this entire age range: some programs may serve children through 4th grade, other programs may serve children up to the age of 12, still other programs may serve children 13 and up. Not included in this list are programs sponsored by private schools and religious organizations, which primarily serve affiliated youth. The Girl Scouts have had a preliminary conversation with Community Schools staff about possible future collaborations to enroll more children in scouting; similar discussions are in the exploratory stage with the Boy Scouts.

School-Age Child Care

- The Department of Human Service Programs (DHSP) operates six programs: three of these programs (Fitzgerald, Fletcher, Maynard) serve children in grades K-4, including some 10-year olds; one (Harrington) serves children in grades K-3 (no pre-teens), and two (Graham & Parks, King) serve children in grades 3-6. There are 236 children on the waiting list for these DHSP programs currently.
- There are another 18 privately operated (for profit and not-for-profit) licensed center-based school-age child care programs. This includes some operated by agencies such as CEOC, the YMCA, Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House, East End House, Cambridge Community Center, and the Community Art Center, and parent-run programs located in the Agassiz, Cambridgeport, Peabody and Tobin school buildings. Most of these programs serve some 11 and 12 year olds and a few serve 13 year olds; however, the majority of children served by these programs are 10 and under.



- The Child Care Resource Center recently surveyed the 90-100 licensed home-based child care providers (who provide full-day child care for pre-school-age children); 18 of these providers said they would be willing to provide after-school care, if they had empty slots. In order to make this option more attractive to such providers, the State has created a new licensing arrangement whereby additional older children who are siblings of younger children already in the care of such providers would not count against the capacity of such a program.
- An unknown number of unlicensed (i.e., no license required) family (usually home-based) child care programs serve school-age children, including some 10-14 year-olds.
- the Child Care Resource Center provides information and referrals regarding all licensed child care programs, as well as scholarship availability. Their experience is that most of the Center-based providers' slots are filled by the end of the summer; however different programs have longer or shorter waiting lists depending upon their popularity. In the middle of the school year, there are few if any vacancies. It is very hard to estimate the number of Cambridge families with unmet need, since most families place themselves on many waiting lists, and don't necessarily remove their name from waiting lists when they find a slot for their children.
- There are a number of scholarship resources available to assist families with child care costs, including the City-assisted Trust Fund, a limited number of State-funded vouchers (targeting primarily families receiving TANF or DSS assistance), and scholarship funds mobilized by individual providers. The Child Care Resource Center maintains a waiting list for scholarships for income eligible working parents which includes 800-plus households from 13 cities and towns (including Cambridge) and includes households seeking child care for infants/toddlers and pre-schoolers, as well as school-age children.

Other Center-Based Programs

- The DHSP operates 13 Community School programs at each of the elementary school sites providing enrichment classes, homework help, tutoring, and recreational activities during after-school, vacation, and early release hours. In the Agassiz neighborhood, these services are coordinated by an affiliated program that operates as a 501(c)(3).

Some Community School activities are free; most charge a nominal tuition. Each program offers scholarships to help low income families cover all or part of the costs of participation. Although individual enrichment classes (acting, science, piano, etc.) may fill up, there are many activities to choose from, and so no child is ever closed out of an entire community school program. In Fall 1997, the program served 1,504 children, including 324 pre-teens.

- The DHSP operates five Youth Centers (Area IV, East Cambridge/Frisoli, West Cambridge, North Cambridge/Gately, Cambridgeport/Moore,) offering drop-in programming for pre-teens during after-school, weekend, vacation, and early release times. (Separate programming is offered at different times for teens.) Programs include homework help and tutoring (staffed by primarily by Tutoring Plus and staff; an affiliate of the Algebra Project offers programming for pre-teens at the Area IV Youth Center), personal growth and leadership development (including violence and dating violence prevention, substance abuse prevention, mental health counseling, and safety-related

training), work and job search skills development, fitness/sports, and recreational (including outdoor adventure) activities. Pre-teens (defined by the program as children age 9-13) make up approximately 60% or over 700 of the 1,200 youth served this year. There are no waiting lists.

- The School Department operates Learning Centers at most elementary schools, extended day programs (jointly operated with the DHSP Community Schools program) at the Fletcher, Maynard, and Kennedy Schools, and the SummerBridge program at two additional sites providing supervised access to computers and homework/tutoring support. These programs serve children from varying age cohorts, including some pre-teens. Waiting lists vary from program to program. The Cambridge Sisters program at the Fletcher, Harrington, and Fitzgerald schools provides after-school personal development support for pre-teen girls.
- The MIT Upward Bound (grades 8-12) and Educational Talent Search (grades 6-12) Programs provide academic support and preparation for post-secondary education. There are no waiting lists.
- Bell Foundation runs after-school tutorial programs at the Fitzgerald and Graham & Parks schools.
- The DuBois Academy is a weekend program at the Cambridge Community Center offering tutoring and support for personal development to young boys.
- IDILL is a new tuition-based after-school academic enrichment program at the King School.
- The DHSP's Recreation Department offers swimming, gymnastics, and tennis classes for children age pre-teen and under at the War Memorial. Classes are geared to different ages and abilities. (Gymnastics classes only serve children through age 12.) Demand varies from class to class: when a particular class becomes oversubscribed, the Recreation Department attempts to create a new section of the class to accommodate children on the waiting list.
- The DHSP's Recreation Department also offers after-school programming for children with special needs (including pre-teens) twice-a-week after school and on Saturdays at the Gately Shelter. There is no waiting list for this program.
- The Cambridge Housing Authority operates a WorkForce program (at Roosevelt Towers, Jefferson Park, and Newtowne Court) open to all residents age 13-18. Participants attend after-school homework assistance and stipended employment readiness classes; youth age 14 and older who maintain satisfactory grades are eligible for work placements. There are no waiting lists.

The RAP program is a tenant-run after-school drop-in program for young residents of Washington Elms/Newtowne Court. There is no enrollment requirement, and therefore, no waiting list.

- The following organizations offer other enrolled programs that serve pre-teens (though not necessarily the entire 10-14 age range), as well as children from some other age groups. Except as noted, these programs have the ability to accommodate all interested children.
 - * Boy Scouts (awaiting more information)
 - * Girl Scouts (200 scouts, primarily grades 1-6; ability to enroll new scouts depends on availability of adult volunteer leaders)
 - * Cambridge Performance Project (some classes fill up)
 - * YWCA (biweekly girls' group)
 - * Riverside Leadership Council's Teen Theater
 - * Phillip Brooks House program
 - * Jambastics (some classes fill up)
 - * Community Arts Center (video group)
 - * Cambridge Public Library "Bookies" (for 6th-9th graders)
 - * Cambridge Express and Cambridge Jets Track Clubs
 - * Cambridge Youth Soccer
 - * Cambridge Youth Hockey
 - * Pop Warner Football and Cheerleading
 - * Little League Baseball (in North, East, Central, and West Cambridge)
 - * Cambridge Girls Softball
 - * Shoot Straight Basketball Program

Summer Programs

- Cambridge Camping, all community schools, the YMCA and YWCA, the Phillips Brooks House (in conjunction with the Cambridge Housing Authority), the School Department, and several other programs offer summer camp activities for part or most of the summer vacation. Scholarships are offered by the community school programs and many other camp programs.

Last summer, 20% of the 1,022 children attending community school camps were pre-teens. Some of these programs filled up as soon as registration opened; others filled only just before the camp session. System-wide there are always vacancies, so that no child need be excluded from summer camp activities. However, there is not always enough scholarship funding.

Mentoring Programs

- Mentors are matched with children in need of the one-to-one support of an additional adult by a number of programs serving Cambridge pre-teens and other youth: Cambridge Community Services, Guidance Center (for clients of the Center), Margaret Fuller House, Tutoring Plus, and the Big Brother and Big Sister programs of Greater Boston. Most programs have waiting lists for children looking to find mentors; the length of the wait varies seasonally, and depends to a great extent upon the interests/age/gender of the young people and of the adult mentors that volunteer.

Street-Based Programming

- Positive EDGE street outreach workers provide after-school and weekend support, counseling, and service referrals for at-risk youth, and intervene to prevent conflicts from escalating to violence.



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20.

October 19, 1998

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 22, regarding a report on after school programs for 10-14 year olds, received from Assistant City Manager for Human Services Jill Herold.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment

Consent Agenda #20

4675

Relative to AW Report #22
regarding a report on after
school programs for 10-14 year
olds.

In City Council October 19, 1998

Referred to

Human Services + Youth Committee

on motion of Councillor Reeves

10/23 sent to Councillor Reeves