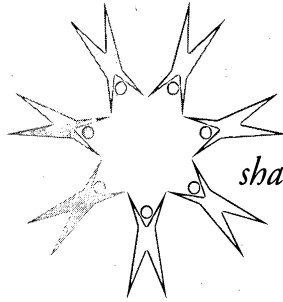


Department of Human Service Programs



sharing resources...building community

Jill Herold
Assistant City Manager

To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

From: Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager for Human Services

Subject: Response to Council Order #31 dated November 24, 1997, RE: REPORT ON WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO USE THE FAMILY CENTER IN NORTH CAMBRIDGE AND INFO ON OTHER LOCATIONS IN THE CITY WHERE THE SERVICES PROVIDED AT THE FAMILY CENTER ARE AVAILABLE.

Childcare

Commission for
Persons with Disabilities

Date: January 21, 1998

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 Center for Families of North Cambridge was established as a pilot program in 1993 at the Fitzgerald School. The concept of a neighborhood-based and school-linked program that would serve all families with young children in North Cambridge or attending the Fitzgerald School grew out of efforts of the Kids' Council and has been led by a director whose position is jointly funded by the Department of Human Services, the Cambridge Public Health Commission and the Cambridge School Department, reflecting significant collaboration among the three agencies. The Center utilizes a "family strengths" approach and assists all families in the area in finding the resources and supports that will enable them to fulfill their childrearing roles. The operation of the Center is fully funded by a grant from a Massachusetts Department of Education's Family Network grant. Consistent with the concept and design, the grant restricts services to families who live in North Cambridge or whose children attend the Fitzgerald School.

The initial vision of the Kids' Council was that of a number of family support centers around the city, funded with grants and contracts from the state, foundations and other funding sources with extensive leadership and development work by city-funded staff, non-profit partners and parents. The North Cambridge site reflects this initial design.

A portion of the current grant from the Department of Education for the North Cambridge program is allocated for an outside evaluation. The evaluation is being administered by Tufts University and it is expected to be completed by the end of February. With the results of the evaluation in hand, the Kids' Council Center for Families committee will initiate a community process to develop a plan for a second Center for Families in another neighborhood of the City.

Attached is a list of family support services available to parents in Cambridge.



FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Parenting Classes

- Cambridge Guidance Inc. (354-2275; 5 Sacramento Cambridge): workshops on parenting
- Cambridge Prevention Coalition (349-6326; 19R Brookline St.): workshops on prevention of substance abuse
- Fletcher Community School (349-6289, 89 Elm St., Cambridge): workshops and support groups for young parents
- Parent Anonymous (1-800-882-1250): self-help support groups for parents at-risk of abusing their children
- Family Center, Inc. (628-8815; 385 Highland Ave., Somerville): workshops and support groups for parents
- Parents Forum (864-3802): workshops and self-help family support activities for parents and older children
- Families First (868-7687): parenting workshops
- Family Resource Center at MIT (253-1592): parenting workshops

Services for Pre-School Age Children and Their Families

- Cambridge/Somerville Early Intervention (629-3919; 61 Medford St., Somerville): provides a range of child- and parent-focused services to enhance the well-being of children 0-3 who have special needs, or who are at-risk for future problems because of a developmental delay or disability, or as a consequence of growing up in a difficult home situation. Services include parenting support, physical and occupational therapy for the child, support for learning and development of communication skills, etc.
- Cambridge Head Start (491-8011; 432 Columbia St., Cambridge): offers an early childhood educational program for low-income children ages 3-4, as well as parenting education and support for their caregivers.
- Home-Based Programs of the Cambridge Public Schools: provide home visits to promote appropriate early childhood development as well as encourage and support parents in their role as the child's primary teacher. Early Childhood Program (349-6849): for children age 0-3; Individualized Learning Program (349-6850): for children age 3 and 4 who have been identified as having special needs.
- Even Start (349-6363): provides family literacy and parent support services to families who meet the following conditions: (1) children age 0-7; (2) parent/caregivers interested in ESL or Adult Basic Education classes to prepare for GED; and (3) families living in the Fitzgerald, Fletcher, Kennedy, Haggerty, Harrington, or Maynard School neighborhoods.
- Early Childhood Program of the Cambridge Guidance Inc. (354-2275): individual, group, and family counseling and treatment services for high-risk, acting-out children.
- Visiting Moms Program of the Jewish Family and Children's

Services (227-6641): provides home visits by volunteers to women during their pregnancy as well as through their children's infancy up to the baby's first birthday; offers parent support groups, parent education workshop series, drop-in groups for parents and their babies, and social events.

Other Support Services for Families

- Child Care Resource Center (547-9861; 130 Bishop Allen Dr., Cambridge): offers help in finding child care services.
- Multi-Service Center of the Department of Human Services (349-6340; 19 Brookline Ave., Cambridge): provides information & referral, advocacy, and counseling services to families who are homeless.
- Cambridge Public Library (349-4040): offers story hour, films, crafts, and reading programs for children who are toddlers and beyond.
- CEOC (868-2900; 11 Inman St., Cambridge): offers assistance to obtain basic needs for families with low income.
- Community Learning Center of the Department of Human Services (349-6363): Offers literacy classes, GED programs. ESL classes, and other adult basic education (ABE) programs.
- Cambridge Office of Workforce Development (349-6234; 51 Inman st., Cambridge): provides information and referral services to residents interested in learning more about education, employment, and training opportunities.
- Transition House (661-7203): provides information and referral, advocacy, counseling, and temporary placement for families involved in domestic violence.
- Respond (623-5900): provides information and referral, advocacy, counseling, and temporary placement of families involved in domestic violence.

Services Targeting Linguistic Minority Communities

(for: immigration-related assistance, advocacy, information & referral, educational services)

- Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS): 628-6065
- Centro Presente (Spanish-speaking persons): 497-9080
- Concilio Hispano (Spanish-speaking persons): 661-9406
- Cambridge Haitian Multi-service Center (Kreyol speaking persons): 349-6351
- Ethiopian Community Mutual Assistance Association: 492-4232
- Asian American Civic Association: 426-9492
- South Cove Community Health Center (serving the Greater Boston Asian community): 425-2000
- Asian Shelter and Advocacy Project (serving Asians involved in domestic violence): 338-2350
- Cambridge Hospital Interpreter Services: 498-1276
- Community Learning Center (ESL and ABE classes): 349-6363



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL 349-4300
FAX 349-4307



2.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

January 26, 1998

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 2, regarding a report on who is eligible to use the Family Center in No. Cambridge and information on other locations in the City where the services provided at the Family Center are available, received from Assistant City Manager for Human Services Jill Herold.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
attachment

Consent Agenda #2

S-45

Relative to Awaiting Report Item Number Two, regarding a report on who is eligible to use the Family Center in No. Cambridge and information on other locations in the City where the services provided at the Family Center are available.

In City Council January 26, 1998

All items carried forward to be a part of City Council Meeting of February 2, 1998 on motion of Councillor Sullivan.

In City Council February 2, 1998

PLACED ON FILE