



BOARD / COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL

Recommendation Number: 20130416-4b

DESCRIPTION: Recommendations regarding the funding and operation of the Bridge Child Care Voucher program.

RECOMMENDATION: The Early Childhood Council recommends to the City Council that the City undertake efforts to find ways to make the Bridge Child Care Voucher Program services available to families by:

- 1) Recruiting a new provider;
- 2) Finding ways to reduce the complexity of operating the Program;
- 3) Addressing the short and long-term viability of the Program.

BACKGROUND: The current Bridge contractor is projected to expend all funding by the end of May 2013, and is not interested in continuing to operate the Program in Fiscal Year 2014.

The Bridge Program provides short-term child care vouchers to low income families in crisis to assist the families' efforts to stabilize. Most of the client families are homeless or near-homeless (98% this year). Families are referred by social service agencies' Case Managers to the Bridge Program. The Program has provided services for over two decades.

RATIONALE: Bridge Child Care is a critical service to families in crisis who are not eligible for or cannot access other subsidized child care.

Date of Approval: April 16, 2013 at a Special Called Meeting of the Early Childhood Council.

Record of the Vote: Approved by the Early Childhood Council on a 7 – 0 vote.

Attest:

Kyle Holder, Chair