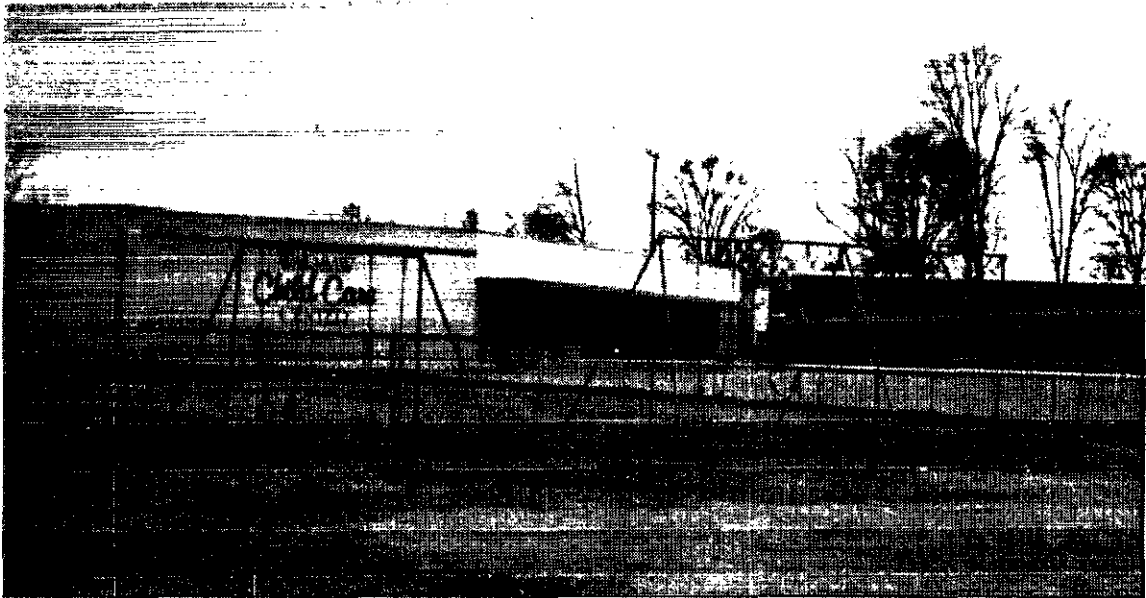


T H E P A S T ,

P R E S E N T ,

F U T U R E O F



C H I L D D A Y C A R E
I N
K O S C I U S K O C O U N T Y

THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF
CHILD DAY CARE IN
KOSCIUSKO COUNTY

BY:
JANET E. BLAKELEY
BONNIE G. NELSON
JOYCE WEAVER

Kosciusko County Leadership Academy
Project Proud
April 25, 1991

THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE
OF CHILD DAY CARE IN
KOSCIUSKO COUNTY

The purpose of this paper is to present the past, present, and future of child day care in Kosciusko county. The history of child day care will include an overview of the establishment known as Warsaw Child Services from 1968 through it's closure on September 11, 1990.

The present will address the limited availability of public and private care for infants and toddlers, including a list of licensed child day care providers in the community and the results of a survey sent to eighteen (18) corporations of various sizes in Kosciusko County.

The future will address who is responsible and how to establish a quality child care center. The ultimate goal of this paper is to challenge the leadership of our community to address the need for a quality child day care center in Kosciusko County.

I.

HISTORY OF PAST CHILD DAY CARE
IN KOSCIUSKO COUNTY

For many years there was a viable and profitable Child Day Care Facility known as Warsaw Day Care Center and later Warsaw Child Care Services. It appears from the information collected

that the individuals involved on the Board of Directors; the people who originally organized the Warsaw Day Care Center; and the staff had a sincere desire to provide the community with a good day care service while trying to maintain a fee that was affordable to the parties requiring this service. As with all operations that are successful there are growing pains. Sometimes the business operation survives and sometimes it doesn't, which was the case in this instance. The purpose of this portion of the project is to enlighten and inform the reader of the history of the previous day care service, and show the residents of Kosciusko County that they should not give up on the concept of a child day care center.

In September, 1968 the Warsaw Day Care facility was opened by Warsaw Community Services, Inc., which was a not-for-profit corporation. It was licensed for thirty (30) children, and was located in the Methodist Church until it outgrew that facility. At that time it was moved to the Bakers Boys Club building located at 802 N. Park Avenue in January of 1980.

Soon after the move to the Bakers Boys Club building, the facility again outgrew its space. As a result of this problem the day care facility developed a waiting list. The names of the families on this list had to wait until the children that were already in place in the service left the program. Most of the time there were at least 60 and up to 135 names of children waiting for day care services to be available to them. Also, by this time the Warsaw Community Services, Inc., Day Care Services, had added two satellite programs, one located at Cardinal Center, and the other, a latch-key program, at Lincoln Elementary School.

As a result of this problem, again the Board of Directors of the Day Care Center began looking for another building that could house the day care facility. Hopefully, this would serve the families requiring this type of care for their children and avoid the waiting list situation. There were no buildings that immediately met the needs and requirements that are placed on this type of facility pursuant to the state laws governing day care centers.

The Board began investigation of the building where they eventually located on State Road 15 South known as the former Warsaw Health Club building. This building had the space needed but required extensive remodeling and restructuring in order to meet the standards of the State for child day care centers. After each inspection performed by the State at different phases of the remodeling, the Board of Directors were made aware of additional changes that were required in order to meet state regulations. Of course these changes meant additional expense and added to the mortgage that was acquired to commence this project.

The intention of the Board of Directors in acquiring the building located on State Road 15 South was that the day care center would also maintain operations at the Bakers Boys Club building. At the time that evening and night time child care services were to be offered, the Board had determined that it would use the Bakers Boys Club building since it was estimated that there would not be enough children to run this operation through the St. Rd. 15 South location. This would cut the overhead considerably while adding additional income to the child day

care center, which would be needed to service the mortgage on the State Road 15 South building. By the time that the day care center was closed, the Board of Directors had closed the Bakers Boys Club building, and was using only the State Road 15 building for all shifts of day care.

During the years that the day care center was located at the Methodist Church and the Bakers Boys Club, the day care organization continually showed a net profit as evidenced by the copies of the Internal Revenue Service forms 990 filed for the years 1984 through and including 1986. The profits were in the range of \$ 13,127.00 to \$ 25,000.00 per year. The only federal funding program that was in place was the lunch program. The organization did receive United Way funds and some private contributions, but did not receive private contributions on a regular basis. The main source of income was as payment for services by the parents, and the determination was made on a case by case basis as to the sum to be charged using a sliding scale so that hopefully more families could afford to use this service.

It appears from the Minutes of Meetings and financial reports that were made available to us that perhaps at the time the organization was established that it was lax in not properly defining the job descriptions and duties of the day care director, the Board of Directors, and did not set up the proper guidelines to monitor the daily operations, income, and expenses of the day care operation.

Finally, due to several problems plaguing the Warsaw Child Care Center it was forced to close its doors for the last time on September 11, 1990, leaving more than 200 children seeking other child day care services.

II.

PRESENT OF CHILD DAY CARE IN KOSCIUSKO COUNTY

The closing of the Warsaw Child Care facility left parents scurrying to find alternative care for their children. With only a few options available to families, the search for this alternative provided additional pressure to an already frustrating situation.

The following is a brief description of the established facilities from which area families can choose.

- ** Lakeland Community Day Care Center, 210 E. Brooklyn St., Syracuse, Indiana, is licensed to accommodate 52 children.
At this time the day care is operating at capacity but the after school "latch key" program still has openings.
- ** Lakeland Loving Child Care Center, Fourth St., Milford, Indiana, is licensed to care for 65 children and at present is not running at capacity.
- ** North Webster Day Care Center, Washington St., North Webster, Indiana, is licensed to accommodate 75 children; the center has room available as they are not at capacity.
- ** YMCA, 1401 E. Smith St., Warsaw, Indiana, will provide child care for school age children only. This facility can now accommodate 50 children with plans to expand the program and will have unlimited space in the future.

As the information was gathered for this paper, it was discovered that Biomet, Incorporated is investigating the possibility of an "in house" facility. This service would be available for Biomet, Incorporated employees only. It appears at this time to be the only corporation investigating this possibility due to the liabilities involved.

Due to scarcity of alternatives, many families have turned to private home care. According to the Kosciusko County Welfare Department there are nine (9) licensed private child care providers within Warsaw and Twenty six (26) located within the county as shown in Exhibit 1, attached hereto. Being aware of the need for child day care, we sent a brief questionnaire to several businesses in the county, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 2. The results of aforesaid questionnaire is attached as Exhibit 3.

At one time, the Warsaw Chamber of Commerce attempted to establish a referral service for local families inquiring about child care. This service would also provide names of temporary child care providers when a regular care taker was on vacation, or when children were ill. This service was eliminated due to the cost of liability insurance.

Throughout this project, the need for quality child care has been made more apparent. We have experienced the personality of our county through the many Kosciusko Leadership presentations, and have been shown that in order to continue to grow we must be able to attract people to our community. This attraction must be accompanied by the capability to provide for all basic needs....one being excellent child care.

III.

THE FUTURE OF CHILD DAY CARE IN KOSCIUSKO COUNTY

We have presented the past and the present concerning child day care in Kosciusko County. Now we need to address the future. Who is responsible and how to establish a quality child day care center are two of the issues to be discussed.

The future of child day care in Kosciusko County will depend on the response of the community to the needs of it's residents. Our community has focused on the development of massive, beautiful buildings to house elementary through high school age children. Now is the time to question where is our priority with the infants and toddlers of Kosciusko County.

Communities in the 1990's must address the issues of a society that has created an important need for external care of it's preschoolers. Single parent homes, two parents working, mental health problems, and an increased number of women entering and re-entering the work force are just a few reasons why a need for quality child day care has become necessary.

The responsibility for the care of these little ones seems to be a debatable issue. Should it be a federal, state, local, or private organization's problem? Should it be an individual, family, friend, or employer's issue? How about a community, civic, or church liability? Unfortunately, each group appears to hold the other as the responsible party. The fact is Kosciusko County does have a problem in meeting the needs of its citizens

with respect to the care of its infants and toddlers. We all should take responsibility and work together to meet this growing community need.

One alternative way to provide an answer for this major social problem is to establish a high quality day care center in Kosciusko County.

Undertaking the project of planning, developing, and operating a quality day care center for preschool children is in no way an easy task. Many factors should be considered:

- I. Federal and State rules and regulations.
- II. Board of Directors
- III. Funding
- IV. Who will the Center serve
- V. Size of center
- VI. Location of Center
- VII. Budgeting

I. Federal and State Rules and Regulations. Include requirements for square footage per child, both in the classroom and out of doors, health and safety requirements, adult to child ratios, and director and teacher qualifications. Each State has specific requirements that must be adhered to. It is advised that you obtain a copy of the rules and regulations of the State before beginning a child day care center.

II. The Board of Directors. Should be responsible for the policy of the center and control the decision making process. Hiring and firing of all staff members should be approved by this

board. Public relations personnel should also be the responsibility of this governing board. All curriculum, materials, and programs should be passed through the Board of Directors.

III. Funding. Funding is an important aspect of a child day care center. Many quality centers have been driven out of business solely because of inadequate funding. A vast variety of funding should be sought in order to run a quality center.

Federal and state funding should be sought as well as funding for day care research and training. Funding for programs such as Headstart and ESEA could be tapped. The National School Lunch Act could help subsidize costs.

Private sources as well as local institutions could be very instrumental in providing additional funds for large purchases.

Parental fees should cover the majority of operational expenses, while fund raising projects help to fill in for occasional extras.

IV. Who Will the Center Service. Who the center will service is a very important question to answer. The number of children must be limited. The age range to be cared for must be established. The days and hours must be determined, and any county residency must be disclosed before a program is established.

V. Size of the Center. The size of the center is key to know before an organization can proceed. Questions like: Do we want a cooperative day care? A large community center? A single location? Or multiple locations? The answers to these questions are crucial to determine the planning and developing of a quality day care center.

VI. Location of the Center. Location of the center is not as simple as picking a place to establish a center. Legal requirements, building inspections, the Department of Sanitation, Fire and Safety Marshals as well as zoning and cost play a very important role in the choosing of a proper location. Any one of the above factors can cause long delays in the opening of a center.

VII. Budgeting. Budgeting must be carefully considered. Improper budgeting can cause great problems in the future if not properly handled from the start. Budgeting is very closely tied to proper funding, and again it is stressed many quality day care centers have closed their doors permanently due to lack of adequate funding.

Salaries, equipment, professional consultant services, supplies, and materials, travel, food, facilities, utilities, and other costs are integral elements of budgeting.

As one can see the undertaking of planning, developing, and operating a child day care center would require initiative, commitment, and hard work. However, it is essential as the problems relating to the absence of quality day care in our community continues to grow.

Therefore, in conclusion, it is our hope to challenge the community leadership, the clergy, as well as next year's class of Kosciusko Leadership Academy to address the issue of establishing a quality child day care center in Kosciusko County.

EXHIBIT 1

Kosciusko County Welfare Department
 Warsaw, IN 46580
 1990 "

LICENSED DAY CARE HOMES

Mary Lou Baxter
 2008 Oakwood Dr.
 Warsaw, IN 46580
 267-8063

Cathy Smith
 1411 W. Winona Ave.
 Warsaw, IN 46580
 269-3126

Brenda Alexander
 R.R.2 802 W. Catholic St.
 Pierceton, IN 46562
 594-2453

Virginia Becraft
 312 Oriole Dr.
 Warsaw, IN 46580
 267-7660

Jean Stavedahl
 505 E. Main St.
 Mentone, IN 46539
 353-7876

Anna Hartle
 2607 Westside Dr.
 Warsaw, IN 46580
 267-2947

Elizabeth Cake
 1408 Chestnut
 Winona Lake, IN 46590
 267-4932

Laurie Weisser
 506 S. Harrison
 Syracuse, IN 46567
 457-5987

Cathy Northrup
 R.R.1 Box 242D
 Milford, IN 46542
 658-9168

Amela Florey
 R.R.1 Box 207
 Mentone, IN 46539
 353-7315

Mary Burchett
 2708 Marion Ave.
 Warsaw, IN 46580
 269-6005

Sherry Zuniga
 Box 4164 N. Allen Lane
 Warsaw, IN 46580
 453-4667

Sharon Fricke
 Box 279
 Pierceton, IN 46562
 594-2173

Nancy Cook
 512 N. Walnut
 R.R.1 Box 12
 Etna Green, IN 46524
 858-2644

DAY CARE CENTERS

Lakeland Day Care Center
 P.O. Box 122
 Syracuse, IN 46567
 457-4983

Musie Hobbs
 1821 Rosemont
 Warsaw, IN 46580
 269-1325

Heather Fiantt
 R.R.1 Box 366
 Syracuse, IN 46567
 457-4498

North Webster Day Care
 P.O. Box 316
 N. Webster, IN 46555
 834-2111

Lucille Kammerdiener
 801 N. Harrison
 Syracuse, IN 46567
 457-4198

Joan Honeycutt
 1503 E. Ft. Wayne St.
 Warsaw, IN 46580
 269-3066

Matti Martindale
 501 S. Main
 Syracuse, IN 46567
 267-3756

Joyce Shouse
 313 W. Carroll St.
 Syracuse, IN 46567
 457-5905

Carolyn Mitterling
 R.R.2 Box 239
 Iron, IN 46910
 893-4198

Jeanie Smeltzer
 513 S. Main St.
 Syracuse, IN 46567
 457-5503

Sherry Ott
 R.R.1 Box 8A
 Syracuse, IN 46567
 457-3493

Julie Snyder
 R.R.3 Box 504
 Pierceton, IN 46562
 594-5874

Jacqueline Plikerd
 24 E. Boston St.
 Syracuse, IN 46567
 457-3555

Marsha Weaver
 R.R.2 Box 106
 N. Webster, IN 46555
 457-2508

EXHIBIT 2

Please circle the most appropriate answer.

1. How would you rate the need of your employees for childcare?

great need some need no need not sure

2. Which would meet that need for your employees?

central location numerous locations

3. Would your corporation be willing to help support a facility? If so, please give estimate of amount.

\$1000-\$5000 \$5000-\$10,000 \$10,000-\$20,000
\$20,000 or more

4. Please circle the appropriate schedule of your gift.

monthly quarterly semi-annually annually

5. Does your corporation offer your employees the benefit of setting aside pre-tax dollars for childcare?

yes no

6. To the best of your knowledge help us determine the most common fee charged for one child at a daycare facility.

\$30-\$40 \$40-\$50 \$50-\$60 More than \$60

7. To best serve your employees would the availability need to be more than the 6:00am to 6:00pm that was offered by the previous Daycare?

yes no

8. Would there need to be a "Latch-key" program for after school childcare?

yes no

9. Would your corporation be willing to support the facility with the appointment of a staff member?

yes no

EXHIBIT 3

In summarization of the questionnaire sent to various county corporations and businesses of various sizes, it was determined that there is "some need" for child care versus a "great need." Further, that this need should be met by numerous locations.

The corporations responding did commit a monetary donation but all were at a low range of between \$ 1,000.00 to \$ 5,000.00. The scheduled contributions were to be made annually.

Less than half of those responding offer an employee benefit of deducting pre-tax dollars for child care.

It is the opinion of the responding corporations that the fee of \$ 50.00 to \$ 60.00 is most common; that the service should be available longer than the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m..

The greatest need made apparent by all reflecting a unanimous need was for an after school "latch key" program.

The surprise of the questionnaire is the fact that out of those corporations responding, none were wiling to support the facility with staff member support.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Andrews, J.D., Ed., Early Childhood Education: It's an Art?, It's a Science. Washington: The National Association for the Education of Young Children, 1976.

Evans, E. Belle; Shub, Beth; and Weinstein, Marlene. Day Care. Beacon Press, 1971.

Fein, Greta G., and Clarke-Stewart, Alison. Day Care in Context. New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1973.

Frazier, Alexander. Early Childhood Education Today. Washington: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, NEA, 1968.

Highberger, Ruth, and Schramm, Carol. Child Development for Day care Workers. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1976.

Kammerman, Sheila B., and Kahn, Alfred J. Child Care, Family Benefits, and Working Parents. New York: Columbia University Press, 1981.

WARSAW COMMUNITY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 3034 00101 4000

Kosciusko Leadership
Academy White Papers
1991

K91-69
1991