

Open Letter to All Children's Board Providers and Community Stakeholders

May 19, 2011

Dear Provider Partners and Community Stakeholders,

Many of you attended the Provider Forum and/or Children's Board Meeting held last week where information was shared regarding three inter-related activities that are currently occurring at the Children's Board: (1) the annual staff review of Provider Performance; (2) an update to the Children's Board Strategic Plan using the Results-Based Accountability (RBA) framework; and (3) planning for the re-release of Children's Board program funding through a competitive procurement process that will focus Children's Board program funding on achieving the goal that "children are succeeding in school by third grade". Each of these activities is proceeding according to a timetable that will allow ample time for planning, discussion, input and transition.

I wanted to provide some additional clarity and direction regarding each of these activities.

(1) Annual Performance Review: This year, as in the past, staff is reviewing performance data that includes achievement of contracted outcomes and service levels (participants), scores on the Children's Board Program Assessment and Rating Tool and other performance data including contract compliance.

- Programs that are not performing adequately will not be recommended for continued funding beyond September 30, 2011.
- These recommendations will be presented to the Children's Board for approval at the June 23, 2011 Regular Board Meeting.

(2) Strategic Plan Update: In 2002 the Children's Board issued the 2002-2010 Strategic Plan. Current activities are being undertaken to update the Plan using a framework called Results-Based Accountability. The Updated Plan will articulate the results expected as a result of our financial investments both as an individual funding agency as well as with our community partners. This plan will also identify our funding priorities over the next five years to achieve these results. The program resources of the Children's Board will be focused on the end results: Children are Healthy and Developmentally on Track; Children are Ready to Learn and Succeed; Children have Supported and Supportive Families; and Children Live in Safe and Stable Neighborhoods.

Each of these results areas was included in the original 2002 Strategic Plan and each has been the subject of recent community meetings to validate and identify specific, measureable indicators of success. Staff will recommend goals, results areas and selected indicators to the Children's Board meeting on May 26th.

(3) Notice of Funding Availability:

By no later than October 1, 2011 the Children's Board intends to release all existing program funding through a competitive bid process. This will result in funding awards that specifically address the results areas mentioned above using research based strategies.

- Existing funded programs in good standing (performing adequately) will be offered a six-month contract extension, extending their current contract to March 31, 2012.
- All currently funded programs and other eligible entities will have the opportunity to respond to the Notice of Funding Availability.
- The anticipated timetable for the funding release and award process is as follows:
 - The Notice of Funding Availability will be available for public comment in late August, with the official release by October 1, 2011.
 - Bidder's conferences will be scheduled and written questions will be accepted until November 10, 2011.
 - Proposals will be due to the Children's Board by December 15, 2011.
 - Funding Recommendations will be considered by the Board at the Regular Board Meeting on Feb. 23, 2012. Contract negotiations will commence immediately and new contracts will begin on April 1, 2012.

Many of you have been and will continue to be our partners in assuring that our community's children are successful. I hope this information provides clarity regarding our intentions and activities over the next year. We intend to communicate regularly as additional details and opportunities for community participation arise. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have additional concerns.

Sincerely,

Luanne J. Panacek, CEO