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November 8, 1991

Hi All,

Attached is a copy of a draft of the concept paper for the Child Development Center Collaborative Project as proposed.

Please review and send back comments to me, FAX 230-2063.

Marchelle

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San Diego City College/San Diego County

LIFE SPAN CENTER

Concept Paper

DRAFT

San Diego City College and San Diego County will facilitate unique partnerships among educational, government, and business entities that will provide the "centre city" community with a Life Span Center committed to the following:

1. the provision of high quality, affordable child care services for children of families living, working or attending college within San Diego's downtown community.

2. the provision of high quality services for older adults.

3. the development of an AA degree gerontology program at SDCC.

4. integration of child care and elder services with SDCC's academic programs.

5. exploration of prevention/solution models for current family life issues.

6. development of innovative linkages between existing educational institutions, governmental agencies, and San Diego's business community to improve delivery of life span support services.

Imagine a Life Span Center (LSC) built on the San Diego City College campus at the corner of 12th and C Streets. The LSC was created to help parents and family members to provide continuity and deal with changes in family life across the life span. It was developed to value the great diversity in today's family units. It builds bridges among community agencies that will assist families with the management of change.

Close-by public transportation (trolley, buses, and carpool parking) provide families with easy access to the Center. The buildings and grounds are low, homey, and set in park-like surroundings. They house child development services, elder services, a family resource library and conference/meeting rooms. Families who work or live in downtown San Diego, or who attend San Diego City College utilize the Life Span Center every day of the week.

Child care services for 100 young children from birth through 5 years are provided in the Child Development Center. Clustered around central reception/administration area are classrooms for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and a kindergarten. The classrooms are small, accommodating small numbers of children with one or two caregivers. Even with 100 children in the facility, one never thinks "institutional." The outdoor playyards are planned for young children. They include small quieter spaces for

infants/toddlers and large spaces for preschoolers and kindergartners to romp and run. There are trike paths which circle the yard. The environment is rich with grass and trees, but also mud, sand and water--lots of room for curious youngsters to explore.

Just off the child development reception/administration area is a conference room for parent meetings and the family resource library. Parent involvement is encouraged. Opportunities for parent educational workshops and seminars that are responsive to the needs of working parents are held early in the morning, at lunch, or late in the day. Professionals from many agencies collaborate to provide families with children or aging parents with connections to the resources that will best enable them to cope with current issues. In the early evening, some parents utilize the Center's Homework Room to supervise schoolage children while parents attend evening extension classes provided on City's campus through City College, SDSU or UCSD. Occasionally, the Center hosts cultural or community affairs sessions of particular interest to parents and families.

Another part of the LSC focuses on Aging Education--meeting the needs of older adults: instrumental needs (practical skills for later life), expressive needs, the need to participate in meaningful ways, and the need to make significant contributions. There are workshops and seminars for mid and later life planning. Elders are encouraged to volunteer in the children's "Grannies and Granpas" program which involves them in the child development program.

Integrated throughout the LSC are San Diego City College's Gerontology and Child Development faculty and students. Professionals from many community agencies interface with the LSC, linking the Center's families to other important family support services.

What does it take to make these scenarios a reality? A number of elements are already in place or will be in the very near future. But many of the major components will require that people of vision within the public and private sectors work cooperatively, creatively and courageously to improve the quality of life for residents and employees within the central city.

DRAFT

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FROM:

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DATE SENT 11/8/91

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