

Kito Reports on Day Care Center Closure

Special report from Sam Kito, Executive Director of the Fairbanks Native Association, concerning the Day Care Operation.

It is with reluctance that I have decided after numerous conferences with the day care center director, the accountant, the president of the Fairbanks Native Association, and the day care advisory group to cease the operation of the day care center at this stage.

To go back to the beginning of the day care center possibility, it was thought possible in June or early May and June that the

day center could go into operation utilizing the Operation Upgrade funds to pay the deficit of the operations.

However, after consultation with the Department of Health and Welfare representatives in Fairbanks and Juneau, the funds can only be used for utilization for Operation Upgrade. The Federal and State requirements for a day care center require that the ratio be one instructor to five pupils. This would mean in addition to Mrs. Bertha Lowe, we would have to hire one full time teacher and another part

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time staff person.

The projected budget for this operation was \$31,000.00 a year. The projected income was in the order of \$23,000.00 which would show a deficit of \$8,000. This deficit I anticipated earlier was to be paid by the Operation Upgrade funds. However, this is not possible. Bertha Lowe will remain on the salary until October 22.

During the final five days of operation, I have asked Bertha Lowe to compile as much information and data that we would need to push for an early spring or early summer operation of a day care center in Fairbanks. During this time, we will need additional funds to be able to go into this operation. The funds that we have now are all allocated and there is no way that we can implement the day care center proposal or project due to the lack of funds.

It is known at this time that State funds are only for Operation Upgrade and what we have to look for in Federal funds is

operational capital, which is probably termed in the terms of a grant in the Department of HEW and we do have one or two contracts within the Lister Hill Foundation which makes grants for the Department of HEW in the field of health and welfare.