1 August 2015
Graduate School Child Care Coordinator Project Status Update
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Short- and Mid-Term Solutions

Babysitting Collaborative

Overview	Create a program wherein parents are able to find, screen, hire, pay and review babysitters. Families can pool together and share sitters as long as specific ratios are not exceeded.
Specifics	- Sitter orientation covers most basics from the Red Cross baby sitter course, provides links to various resources - Parent orientation covers expectations of payment, safety, etc. - Parents required to post a review of each sitter to help the program - Payments to sitters to be made in cash at time of service, at a rate agreed upon in advance
Legalities/ Disclaimers	- Parents and sitters agree to a specified rate chart based on number of children and qualifications - Meeting with Risk Management to solidify disclaimers: VT and the GS are not liable - Parents and sitters commit to an orientation (online slideshow for increased accessibility)
Progress Since Last Report	- Web design in place - flyers created and distributed
Work Outstanding	- Enrollment of sitters and parents to be managed - Online review forum to be created and maintained
Deliverable	This program is in progress of launching as of August 2015. A full review of its effectiveness will occur in July 2016 to determine ways it can be changed to be more relevant to families.

Parent Support Group Luncheon

Overview	Create a monthly gathering where graduate students who are also parents (or expecting parents) can gather to build support networks. At each event there will be a guest speaker invited to guide a discussion on a topic relevant to life as a graduate student with a family.
Time/Location	All luncheons will be in the GLC on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 12:00-1:30pm

Progress Since Last Report	● Last year we had an average of 6-8 attendees at each luncheon ● This year, after changing how we market the event, we have over 30 people signed up for our first luncheon already
Speakers	● September: Laurie Fritsch (HR) will present information on Student Health initiatives at VT that might be of interest to graduate students and their families ● October: Jessica Wirgau, president of Smart Beginnings, will lead a discussion on the importance of quality early care and education, and ways Smart Beginnings might help graduate student families ● November: Anna LoMascolo from the Women's Center will discuss the ins and outs of writing a dissertation as a graduate student parent, as well as programs the Women's Center offers that might be of help ● December: Keli Lichty of NRVCares will provide graduate students with information on the free parenting classes and seminars that their organization will be offering in the winter and spring
Future Planning	● We will survey attendants at each luncheon to discern what topics they would like to learn more about during the spring term ● We plan to hold luncheon events in January, February, March, April and May 2016
Deliverable	This has fully launched and continues to be successful

Long-Term

Little Hokie Hangout

Overview	The Little Hokie Hangout (LHH) is a part-time parent-cooperative care program for the children of Virginia Tech students (faculty and staff are eligible to enroll, but at a higher rate of tuition). This program makes use of parent time to reduce cost and increase involvement, and to encourage student families to network
Goals	● Open a physical facility that houses childcare/preschool for Graduate Student families, serving children 6 weeks to 5 years in age

Needs	• Must conduct an in-depth formal needs assessment this fall in order to plan accurately, and to appeal for appropriate funding • Travel to and survey other Universities with childcare systems following our desired model
Progress Since Last Report	• Little Hokie Hangout is open for business! • Hired two teachers and one program director to manage the program and enrollment • Parent worker module created for mandatory volunteer training • Private Facebook page for teachers and families to post and view pictures and updates
Work Outstanding	• Need to develop publicity mechanism to ensure larger enrollment at onset of term • Hire an additional teacher and open an EVENING session • Waiting on Attorney General decision on overlap between VDSS and Virginia Tech • Will publicize open seats at several upcoming events and in several on- and off-campus locations over the next few weeks • Increase enrollment and become profitable
Deliverable	Will work to increase enrollment to 8 in each day-time session and 5 in each evening session by the end of September

Community Childcare Initiative Group

Overview	This is a group of local business and educational leaders that has met monthly for approximately 2 years to address the problems facing childcare in our area
Goals	• To create a new organization that will act as a centralized hub to streamline the childcare system in the region • The Vision of this group is: to strengthen the early childcare and education infrastructure in our community in order to attract and retain talented people with young children
Progress	• This group has made tremendous strides toward creating one part of what will eventually need to be a multi-tiered approach to addressing the early care and education issue • The group has decided on a course of action and is actively pursuing it under the direction of John Dooley
Work Outstanding	• I have personally been tasked with helping to create a business plan and an investment strategy for the organization that has been envisioned by this group. This strategy will include plans

	for ensuring the longevity of the new organization for a period of at least three years ● There needs to be a voice on the board of the new organization that keeps STUDENTS in the conversation ● I will likely need to go back to UNC Chapel Hill to do more in-person research on how their student-fee-funded group was founded, and how they have evolved
Deliverable	The group is seeking to hire somebody no later than April of 2016 to begin turning the abstract ideas into a reality. I will be part of the hiring committee.