

Dated: December 22, 2003.

Ron Ergle,

Acting Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

[ACYP/HS-2003-01]

Request for Public Comments on the Proposed Merger of Two Head Start Grantees in Rhode Island

AGENCY: Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, ACF, DHHS.

ACTION: Request for public comments.

SUMMARY: This notice is to solicit public comments and statements of interest from interested parties on the merger of two Rhode Island Head Start Programs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 30, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michelle Hastings; Pal-Tech, Inc.; 1000 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1000; Arlington, VA 22209; 1-800-458-7699; 703-243-0496 (fax)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Self Help, Inc., and New Visions for Newport County, Inc. are proposing to merge their federally funded Head Start programs. This proposed merger is expected to bring about a more cost effective and efficient service delivery to children and their families. The Head Start Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), within the United States Department of Health And Human Services has this proposal under consideration and is currently evaluating its effect on Head Start Services for children and families in the community. Under the proposed merger, Self Help, Inc., would be absorbed by New Visions for Newport County, Inc., and New Visions for Newport County, Inc. would provide Head Start services for the community it now serves as well as the community now served by Self Help, Ins.

Mergers of local Head Start grantees usually require the ACF to offer an open competition in the specified service area whose grantee is being absorbed. While this request for a merger, without a competitive review process, is under consideration, public comments are being solicited. Additionally, this notice also serves to encourage and welcome statements of interest from any local public agency, local public school

system, local non-profit agency or local for-profit organization, or local faith-based organization that would want to compete for funding to provide Head Start services in the area now served by Self Help, Inc.

Self Help, Inc., also receives funding to conduct an Early Head Start program. As part of a proposed merger, Self Help, Inc., is proposing that the Early Head Start grant it conducts be transferred to New Visions for Newport County, Inc. after the merger. When an Early Head Start grantee merges with another organization, the grant must usually be recompleted, but consideration is being given to transferring the Early Head Start grant to New Visions for Newport County, Inc. While this request for a transfer, without a recompetition, is under consideration, public comments are being solicited. Additionally, this notice also serves to encourage and welcome statements of interest from any public agency, public school system, non-profit agency, for-profit organization, or faith-based organization that would want to compete for funding to provide Early Head Start services in the area now served by Self Help, Inc.

Please mail or fax statements of support or objection to this proposed merger and grant transfer as well as any request for consideration by January 30, 2004 to: Michelle Hastings; Pal-Tech, Inc.; 1000 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1000; Arlington, VA 22209; 1-800-458-7699; 703-243-0496 (fax).

Dated: December 22, 2003.

Joan E. Ohl,

Commissioner, Administration on Children, Youth and Families.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

Statement of Organization, Functions, and Delegations of Authority

This notice amends Part K of the Statement of Organization, Functions, and Delegations of Authority of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF) as follows: Chapter KB, the Children's Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) (66 FR 30215-18), as last amended June 5, 2001. This notice moves the Data Team from the Division of Data, Research and Innovation, Children's Bureau to the Office of the

Associate Commissioner, Children's Bureau and renames the Division.

This Chapter is amended as follows:
1. Chapter KB, Administration on Children, Youth and Families.

A. Delete KB.10 Organization in its entirety and replace with the following:

KB.10 Organization. The Administration on Children, Youth and Families is headed by a Commissioner, who reports directly to the Assistant Secretary for Children and Families and consists of:

- Office of the Commissioner (KBA)
- Office of Management Services (KBA1)
- Head Start Bureau (KBC)
- Program Operations Division (KBC1)
- Program Support Division (KBC2)
- Program Management Division (KBC3)
- Children's Bureau (KBD)
- Office of Child Abuse and Neglect (KBD1)
- Division of Policy (KBD2)
- Division of Program Implementation (KBD3)
- Division of Research and Innovation (KBD4)
- Division of Child Welfare Capacity Building (KBD5)
- Division of State Systems (KBD6)
- Family and Youth Services Bureau (KBE)
- Child Care Bureau (KBG)
- Immediate Office/Administration (KBG1)
- Program Operations Division (KBG2)
- Policy Division (KBG3)
- Technical Assistance Division (KBG4)

B. Delete KB.20 Functions, Paragraph D introductory material, in its entirety and replace with the following:

D. The Children's Bureau is headed by an Associate Commissioner who advises the Commissioner, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, on matters related to child welfare, including child abuse and neglect, child protective services, family preservation and support, adoption, foster care and independent living. It recommends legislative and budgetary proposals, operational planning system objectives and initiatives, and projects and issue areas for evaluation, research and demonstration activities. It represents ACYF in initiating and implementing interagency activities and projects affecting children and families, and provides leadership and coordination for the programs, activities, and subordinate components of the Bureau. It is responsible for the Data and Technology Team which