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January 14, 2011

Dear CAC members,

I write you to inform you of recent developments within the Burlington Kids after school program.

Dan Cahill, Recreation Coordinator, has accepted a new role within the Parks and Recreation Department. After January 31, he will be the department's Land Steward, working with the Burlington Area Community Gardens program and Conservation Legacy Project. This will be a loss the Burlington Kids program; however, we will be commencing our recruitment and search for his replacement immediately. Recreation Superintendent Maggie Leugers retains full oversight of the program and we trust Maggie's influences and guidance.

I also need to inform you of a recent visit from the Department for Children and Families licensing division on January 3, 2011. The state found that fourteen, third through fifth grade students were left unattended for six minutes on that day. Fortunately, no safety incidents happened. Attached you will find documents that outline in more detail the state's findings as well as our response to these findings.

In light of the difficulties at our Flynn school site, the collaboration management team of Burlington Kids has chosen to slow down our implementation process, concentrate on the pilot at Flynn, and re-visit this after we have the program back the quality standard where we expect it to be. That does not mean that we intend to forego the recommendations to our program's transition; rather it gives us pause and the opportunity to focus and intentionally slow down. We continue to encourage and welcome concerns, particularly from you as a member of the CAC since you have been closest to the situation by working directly with our staff in understanding the program. This is to help ensure ultimate success of this vital program. No specific action on your part is being requested, but we feel obligated to inform you of recent developments. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Mari Steinbach, CPRP, MPA
Director