

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gay Lancaster
FROM: Lisa Sahulka
DATE: April 19, 2011
RE: Urgent Need for Additional Subsidized Child Care for At-risk, Low-income Families

- State and JWB funded subsidized child care slots are available for working families (150% of the Federal Poverty Level) in Pinellas County.
- There are over 3,500 low-income children waiting for child care.
- The Early Learning Coalition recently changed the eligibility criteria for subsidized child care from 0-12 to 0-8. This will result in 500 children losing child care, which potentially will cause parents to be unable to continue working.
- The foreclosure rate in Pinellas is causing 400 families to become homeless monthly.
- JWB participants in the child care executive pool which provides a \$1 for \$1 state match for subsidized child care.
- Pinellas County does not draw all available child care executive pool state funds.
- Waiving the Ad Valorem fees for JWB would allow \$1.8m or 428 low-income children to have child care and allow their parents to work.