

Work First Program Changes Focus of JOBS

BY ALIA SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Job Opportunity Basic Skills Training, the state program to help welfare recipients find jobs, was renamed Work First in August and has a new emphasis on job training for mothers with school-age children, officials said.

The shift comes as part of a nationwide trend in welfare reform with the program's primary goal being job placement rather than education.

"Work First is more aggressive on job training and placement," said Phoen Beal, associate director of employment programs with the N.C. Department of Human Services. "We concentrate on job readiness," she said, adding that other aspects of JOBS, including education, transportation and child care would not receive as much attention.

Gwen Price, Orange County's JOBS supervisor, echoed Beal's sentiments, and said that Work First would be able to help more families than the JOBS program in Orange County.

"The plan is that more people will be placed in jobs. We'll be able to target more people because you won't have the same level of service," she said. Mothers with school-age children do not have the same child care burden as mothers of young children.

Work First, like JOBS, will meet all the guidelines set by the federal government for families that receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Beal said. All recipients are required to sign a personal responsibility agreement promising to look for work.

"JOBS' focus was on education which is a long process," Price said. "Work First should provide quicker results."

Price said it was too early to gauge the success of the program transition in Orange County, especially since certain aspects of the program are still being considered by the General Assembly.

Price said she was optimistic that Work First would be able to serve more Orange County families, but said Orange County Social Services would continue to make teen-age mothers a priority despite the new program. "We want to find a way to serve them," she said.

The new focus on older mothers has prompted criticism that N.C. is abandoning its responsibility to young mothers and other mothers with very young children.

In response to this criticism, Patricia Yancey, director of the Adolescent Pregnancy Coalition of North Carolina, has coordinated a panel discussion to be held Sept. 20. Members of the panel include Beal and Terry Keene, a JOBS supervisor

for the Johnston County Department of Social Services.

Yancey said the goal of the panel would be to determine what effect, if any, Work First would have on teen moms.

Beal maintains that Work First will have no detrimental effect on young mothers and said she hoped to use the panel to allay such fears. Yancey and Price agreed that the program was too new to tell what effects there might be.

"Other resources will still be available to (teen-age mothers)," Beal said. "We want to encourage them to go back to school and Work First is, first and foremost, a job development program."

Beal said that mothers with younger children still would be eligible for family and educational support services. She emphasized that with the reorganization, more N.C. families would be able to receive job training and support.

Day-Care Center Asks For Former Library Space

■ UNC's Victory Village Day Care wants the town to give it the old public library building on East Franklin.

BY SUSAN SANFORD
STAFF WRITER

Victory Village Day Care, the only University-associated child-care service, submitted a letter of interest in the former Chapel Hill Public Library space on East Franklin Street to the Chapel Hill Town Council last week.

Chapel Hill Day Care Center is moving out of the location, and as of yet, it is uncertain who will take its place. The day-care center, which currently shares the building with the Chapel Hill Preservation Society, will be moving out in February.

"We're all looking for a solution that will make everyone happy," said Chapel Hill Town Council member Jim Protzman.

Leigh Zaleon, the director of Victory Village, said the building had already been proven a good area to keep children because of the work put into it and the amount of open space there.

"We are committed to serving the University, and there is such a limited amount of space we thought this would be a good place," she said. "It is already a proven entity with the Chapel Hill Day Care being there."

Dave Worster, a member of Victory Village's board of directors, said the day

care was awaiting feedback from the council. The day care is presently housed in a University-allotted surplus military building on Mason Farm Road across from Odum Village.

Worster said the day care had a wonderful relationship with the University, but the site "was never intended to be our permanent home." Victory Village has been there for several years, but the building is getting too old to warrant more capital investment, he said.

Zaleon said she agreed that the condition of the building was a concern.

"The building is old, and we shouldn't wait for things to happen and then have no place to go," Zaleon said.

A number of other organizations, including several day-care centers, also have submitted preliminary inquiries into the site, said Sonna Loewenthal, Chapel Hill assistant town manager. They include HeadStart, KidScope and alternative sentencing (to imprisonment).

The Chapel Hill museum study committee also has submitted a plan for creating a town museum in the space. The East Franklin Street building could be shared by more than one organization as it is now, said Loewenthal.

"We do not have a process in place to decide what to do with the building," Loewenthal said.

Chapel Hill Day Care's lease ends Jan. 31, and they have the option to renew a month at a time.

The Chapel Hill Town Council will meet Sept. 27 to discuss the requests.

Campus Calendar

WEDNESDAY

1:10 p.m. MUSLIM STUDENTS ASSOCIATION will have Juma's Prayer on Friday in Union 208 and 209. For more information contact Mohammad Benswan at 914-2402.

3 p.m. DISSERTATION SUPPORT GROUP: Help solve problems with support and specific strategies in Nash Hall. For more information contact Glen Martin at 962-2175.

5 p.m. SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS: those who have signed up for this class should meet outside Bingham 107. For more information call 914-2390.

5 p.m. YOUTH ANGST SOCIETY: first in a series of student writers reading their own work at the Bull's Head Bookshop. Mac Rogers, Jonathan Farmer, Jeanne Fugate and Thanassis Cambanis will present their poetry, prose and drama.

5:30 p.m. NEWMAN CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER will sponsor Student Night at the Newman Center, 218 Pittsboro St., behind the Carolina Inn. Come enjoy a tortilla bar for dinner, and then learn how to Salsa and Meringue. For more information

call 942-8471.

6 p.m. SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS will hold their annual potluck picnic in Howell 204. All journalism students (including freshmen) interested in joining SPJ are encouraged to attend. For more information contact Diana D'Abruzzo at 914-1556.

7 p.m. STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COALITION will have an interest meeting in Union 211 and 212. For more information contact Robin Ellis at 967-8760.

7 p.m. EMERGING LEADERS will have orientation today in Greenlaw 101. For more information contact Mark Canada at 966-4041.

7 p.m. UNC RUNNING CLUB will be having two general interest meetings today in Union 218. Feel free to come by and see if this club appeals to you. For more information contact 968-8654.

7:30 p.m. KALLISTH! UNC's Student Pagan Organization, will meet in Union 226 for a discussion on Gender Roles in Paganism. For more information contact Joel Wilson at 968-8592.

BOSNIA

FROM PAGE 1

were wounded when NATO planes bombed Hresa, a village northeast of Sarajevo.

There was no confirmation.

The Western allies also have demanded that the rebel Serbs reopen Sarajevo's airport and land routes into the city, and end attacks on the three other U.N.-declared "safe areas." The airstrikes also were meant to emphasize the West's seriousness before peace talks resume Friday.

The U.N. wants the Serbs to accept a U.S. initiative that would give them 49 percent of Bosnia, compared with the nearly 70 percent they hold now. A Bosnian Croat and Muslim federation would get the rest.

"They cannot win this war through an escalation of a military conflict," Guinness said in Zagreb, Croatia. "They have to sit now at the negotiating table and talk peace."

President Clinton said the NATO airstrikes Tuesday were an "appropriate" response to the Serbs' refusal to end their 3 1/2-year-old siege of Sarajevo. Russia, traditional ally of the Serbs, claimed the Serbs were preparing to pull back when the attacks came, and accused the West of siding with Bosnia's Muslim-led government.

The peace talks are to begin in Geneva on Friday. The three days of NATO strikes began last Wednesday, two days after a Serb mortar shell exploded in a crowded Sarajevo market, killing 38 people. The pause in air attacks was meant to give the Serbs time to accept the U.N. demands.

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