

HLC Growth

UCBDD/World of Wonders Childcare

UCBDD's mission is to ensure supports are available to people with disabilities. Our ability to fulfill this mission is at risk at the Harold Lewis Center. As our community grows, so does the number of pre-school students we support. We have grown by 25% in the last two years. We began preparing for this space need over a year ago.

The Harold Lewis Center is occupied by the UCBDD pre-school and by a private business, World of Wonders Childcare (WOW). In June 2016, UCBDD notified WOW of UCBDD's intent to utilize all of the space at the Harold Lewis Center. Per the agreement between the two entities, UCBDD was required to give 30 days' notice. UCBDD gave over one year's notice.

Here are the facts leading up to this point:

- Original Agreement between UCBDD and WOW (then Children's Inc.) was effective June 1, 1995 with addendum January 11, 1999.
 - This was a collaborative agreement between Union County Board of DD and Children Inc./ World of Wonder (WOW) to create an early childhood center.
 - The intent was to integrate children with disabilities with typically developing peers.
 - The Agreement states that either entity can end the agreement with 30 days' notice prior to the end of the current agreement (June 30th annually).
 - The Union County Commissioners own the building and the land.
- The money to build the space currently occupied by WOW came from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (ODODD), UCBDD, and WOW.
 - UCBDD was awarded an \$835,000 grant from ODODD to construct an early childhood center (70% total cost)
 - UCBDD contributed \$230,000 of in-kind funds in the form of space.
 - WOW raised \$417,000 in donations (30% total cost)
 - Honda \$200,000
 - Scotts \$100,000
 - Goodyear \$50,000
 - Other (banks, businesses, physicians etc.) \$67,000

- Total was \$417,000
- WOW originally requested UCBDD “support” them by purchasing the space they occupy for \$1,100,000
 - UCBDD’s mission is to support people with disabilities.
 - WOW has used the space rent free for 22 years
- Negotiations between UCBDD and WOW lasted 7 months. Negotiations included mediation.
- UCBDD’s final offer contained in a resolution from December 2016 was \$466,500. This amount reflects the \$417,000 raised by WOW and a show of good faith. This was more than the money donated by the community when the original grant was received. WOW rejected this offer.
- In January of 2017, UCBDD authorized the Prosecutor’s office to pursue a legal decision to determine which entity had the ability to enforce the agreement.