DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

MANAGEMENT ALERT REPORT*

Department of Parks and Recreation

February 26, 2001

Charles C. Maddox, Esq.
Inspector General

*** The Office of the Inspector General provides these reports when we believe a serious matter requires the immediate attention of District of Columbia Government officials.**

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Inspector General

Charles C. Maddox, Esq.
Inspector General

February 26, 2001

Mr. Neil Albert
Interim Director
Department of Parks and Recreation
3149 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Albert:

This is a Management Alert Report (MAR 01-I-004) to inform you of serious safety and health issues that have come to our attention during our inspection of the Child Development Centers operated by the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) provides these reports when we believe a serious matter requires the immediate attention of a District of Columbia Government official.

The OIG inspection team (the team) has determined that the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) child development facilities listed in this report have health and safety problems that put both children and adult caregivers at risk of injury or illness. You should immediately address the deficiencies causing these problems in coordination with other District agencies responsible. Of the 20 DPR childcare facilities inspected by the OIG team, 10 were found to have one or more conditions that appear to violate District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR), federal law, the National Building and Fire Prevention Codes as outlined by the Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc., or common sense standards.

Appendix 1 cites only those deficiencies observed by the team. Appendix 2 lists the specific DCMRs or federal laws corresponding to the deficiencies cited. Your department, however, should coordinate with the Department of Health, the Fire Department, and the Office of Occupational Safety and Health to conduct the physical inspections and operational reviews necessary to ensure that all unhealthy and unsafe conditions are identified. You then should immediately abate those conditions that jeopardize the safety, health, and security of children and their adult caregivers at DPR facilities.

Please provide your comments on this report by March 2, 2001. Your response should include actions taken or planned, dates for completion of planned actions, and reasons for any disagreements with the issues and recommendations presented.

Should you have questions concerning this report or desire a conference prior to preparing your response, please contact Director of Planning and Inspections Melvina Coakley at 202-727-5112.

Sincerely,

Charles C. Maddox, Esq.
Inspector General

cc: The Honorable Anthony A. Williams, Mayor
Mr. John Koskinen, Deputy Mayor
Dr. Ivan Walks
Director, Department of Health
Mr. Ronnie Few
Director, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services
Mr. Gregory P. Irish
Director, Department of Employment Services

Banneker Child Care Services
800 Euclid Street, N.W.

Banneker handles 31 children and has 4 adult caregivers. It operates from 7a.m. to 6p.m. daily.

1. There are exposed heating pipes extending from the radiator in the entrance area (Photo 1).

2. The area near the radiator is used as both a play area and storage area for the children's toys (Photo 1).

3. The sink adjacent to the food preparation area is missing a hot water knob. (Photo 2).

4. The emergency exit door is locked from the outside with a sliding bolt that prohibits exiting in the event of emergency (Photo 3).

5. The adult staff uses the same rest room as the children.

Benning Park Child Care Services
51st and Fitch Streets, S.E.

Benning Park handles 35 children and has 4 adult caregivers. It operates from 7a.m. to 6p.m. daily.

1. Ceiling panels throughout the Benning Park center have fallen or are in danger of falling. Employees stated that the panels have been falling for months. Reports have been made to DPR's maintenance facility but no repairs have been made.

Bryan-Payne Child Care Services
15th and C Streets, S.E.

Bryan-Payne handles 20 children and has 3 adult caregivers. It operates from 6a.m. to 7p.m. daily.

1. The fire exit plan in use at Bryan-Payne has not been approved by the Fire Department.

2. The team observed a child with noticeable ringworm sleeping among other children instead of being isolated in an enclosed space as required by the DCMR.

BANNEKER CHILD CARE SERVICES
800 Euclid Street, N.W.

Photo 1

BANNEKER CHILD CARE SERVICES
800 Euclid Street, N.W.

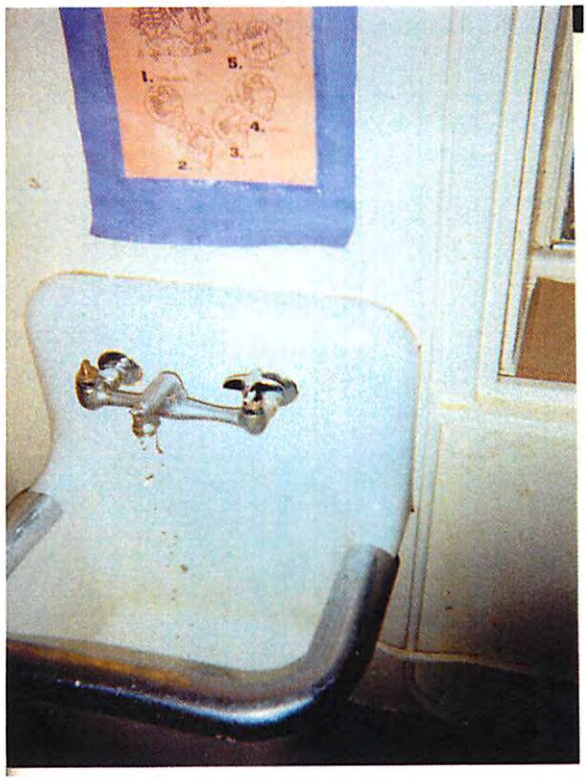

Photo 2

Photo 3

Deanwood Child Care Services
49th and Quarles Streets, N.E.

Deanwood handles 33 children and has 3 adult caregivers. It operates from 6a.m. to 7p.m. daily.

1. The team found the Deanwood carpets and rest rooms very dirty.

2. Toothbrushes used by the children were stored on top of a dirty refrigerator.

3. The team observed exposed electrical wiring on the outside of the building.

4. A smoke detector in the main room of the facility is old and rusted.

Douglas Child Care Services
20th and Stanton Streets, N.E.

Douglas handles 20 children and has 4 adult caregivers. It operates from 6a.m. to 7p.m. daily.

1. The Douglas facility has no windows or other sources of natural light and appears to be in violation of the national building code. In addition, the number of ceiling light fixtures appeared to the team to be insufficient for good illumination of the activities being conducted.

2. The small Plexiglas window on the front door is tinted and covered with a wire grate making it difficult to see visitors standing outside the entrance (Photo 4).

3. The vestibule has exposed wiring, chipping paint, and deteriorating wood paneling.

4. The kitchen was found to be in an unsanitary condition, particularly the inside of the refrigerator (Photo 5).

5. The furnace room ceiling is cracked and collapsing. (Photo 6).

6. Two of the operating heating units (in the furnace room) have disconnected exhaust pipes (Photo 7).

7. The furnace room is being used for storage of cleaning solvents, mops, brooms, garbage cans, and other miscellaneous items that may pose a fire and safety hazard (Photo 8). The staff storage area is similarly cluttered and disorderly (Photo 9).

8. The trash dumpster sitting outside of the facility does not have a lid, and trash and debris spill onto the playground and the surrounding property (Photo 10).

DOUGLAS CHILD CARE SERVICES
20th and Stanton Streets, N.E.

Photo 4

DOUGLAS CHILD CARE SERVICES
20th and Stanton Streets, N.E.

Photo 5

Photo 6

DOUGLAS CHILD CARE SERVICES
20th and Stanton Streets, N.E.

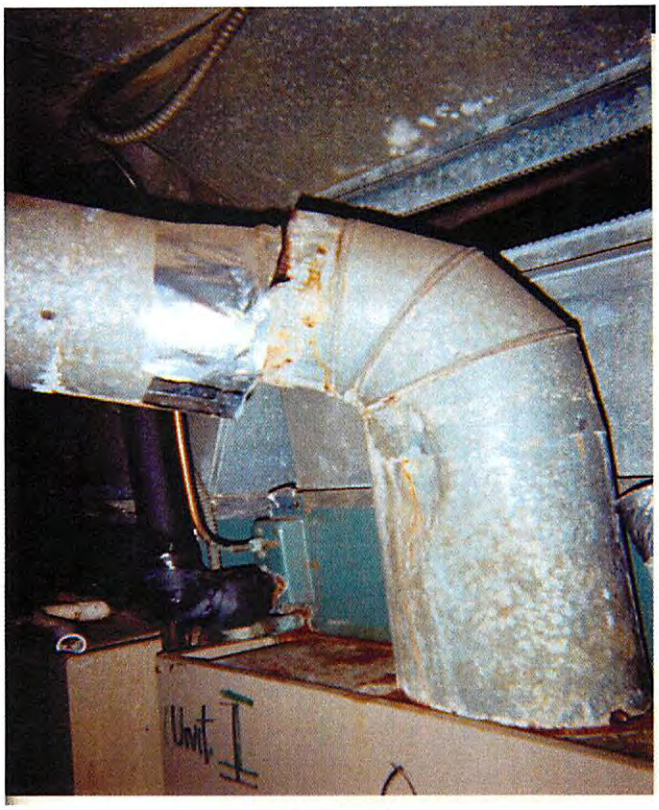

Photo 7

Photo 8

DOUGLAS CHILD CARE SERVICES
20th and Stanton Streets, N.E.

Photo 9

Photo 10

(Douglas--Cont.)

9. The privacy door is missing in the male rest room (Photo 11).

10. Floor tiles are missing and broken throughout the facility (Photo 12).

11. The exterior of the rear and side doors of the facility are not equipped with doorknobs or handles. This may be a fire and safety hazard (Photo 13).

12. The outdoor water fountain has a missing drainage cover plate. This exposes a large hole into which a child or adult might step and be injured (Photo 14).

13. The playground area used by the facility is not a suitable place for children to play. The area is unfenced and adjacent to a wooded area. The ground is littered with trash and debris, including broken glass. These are unsafe conditions for outdoor recreation for children and their adult caregivers.

New York Avenue Child Care Services
First and New York Ave., N.W.

New York Avenue handles 35 children and has 4 adult caregivers. It operates from 6a.m. to 7p.m. daily. The team found the condition of the outside areas in the rear of the building and the playground at this facility totally unacceptable for the use of children and their caregivers.

1. All outdoor areas were profusely littered with trash of all types, including bottles and beer cans. In addition, there were used personal hygiene items and human excrement (Photos 15-19).

2. An abandoned house in the rear of the facility is allegedly used for loitering and drug activity (Photo 20). The team believes this poses a significant security risk to the children and adults in the facility.

DOUGLAS CHILD CARE SERVICES
20th and Stanton Streets, N.E.

Photo 11

Photo 12

DOUGLAS CHILD CARE SERVICES
20th and Stanton Streets, N.E.

Photo 13

Photo 14

NEW YORK AVENUE CHILD CARE SERVICES
First and New York Avenue, N.W.

Photo 15

Photo 16

NEW YORK AVENUE CHILD CARE SERVICES
First and New York Avenue, N.W.

Photo 17

Photo 18

NEW YORK AVENUE CHILD CARE SERVICES
First and New York Avenue, N.W.

Photo 19

Photo 20

(New York Ave.--Cont.)

3. The exit door in the girls' rest room is obstructed with steel plates and the room has an electrical outlet without a cover plate (Photos 21-22).

4. The privacy door is missing from the boys' toilet stall (Photo 23).

5. The kitchen sink has drainage problems (Photo 24).

Powell-Lincoln Child Care Services
16th and Irving Streets, N.W.

Powell-Lincoln handles 26 children and has 3 adult caregivers. It operates from 6a.m. to 7p.m. daily. Powell-Lincoln has cleanliness, hygiene, and safety problems that the team believes can and must be corrected quickly and not allowed to recur.

1. Ladders and sports equipment are improperly stored in the rest room area, which also had urine on the floor (Photos 25 and 26).

2. The three rest room stalls are used by both children and the adult staff. A sign is posted on one indicating adult use.

3. The kitchen is unsanitary for food preparation. Food was found stored on top of a functioning aquarium. Opened cleaning solvents were placed adjacent to food being served. The food preparation area has no hand-washing facilities and no stove (Photo 27).

4. The door leading from the classroom/kitchen area does not have an exit sign (Photo 28).

NEW YORK AVENUE CHILD CARE SERVICES
First and New York Avenue, N.W.

Photo 21

Photo 22

NEW YORK AVENUE CHILD CARE SERVICES
First Street and New York Avenue, N.W.

Photo 23

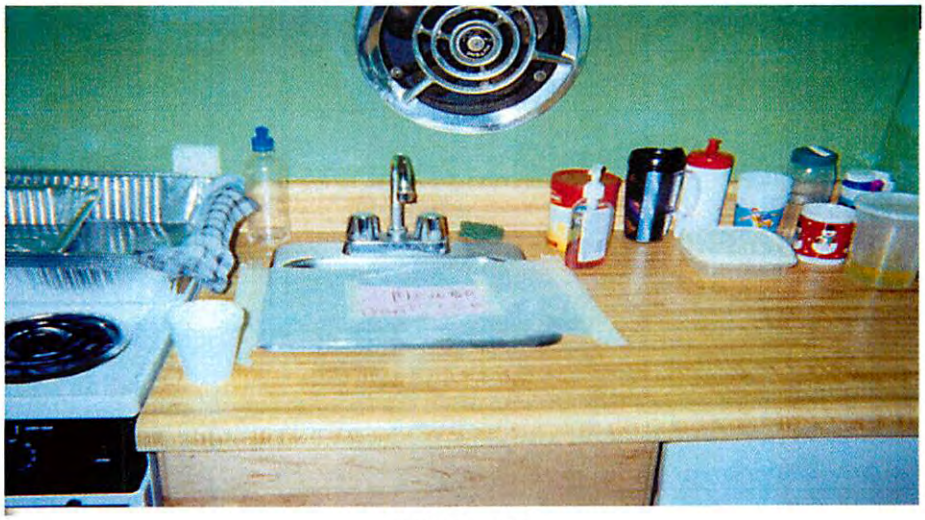

Photo 24

POWELL-LINCOLN
16th & Irving Streets, N.W.

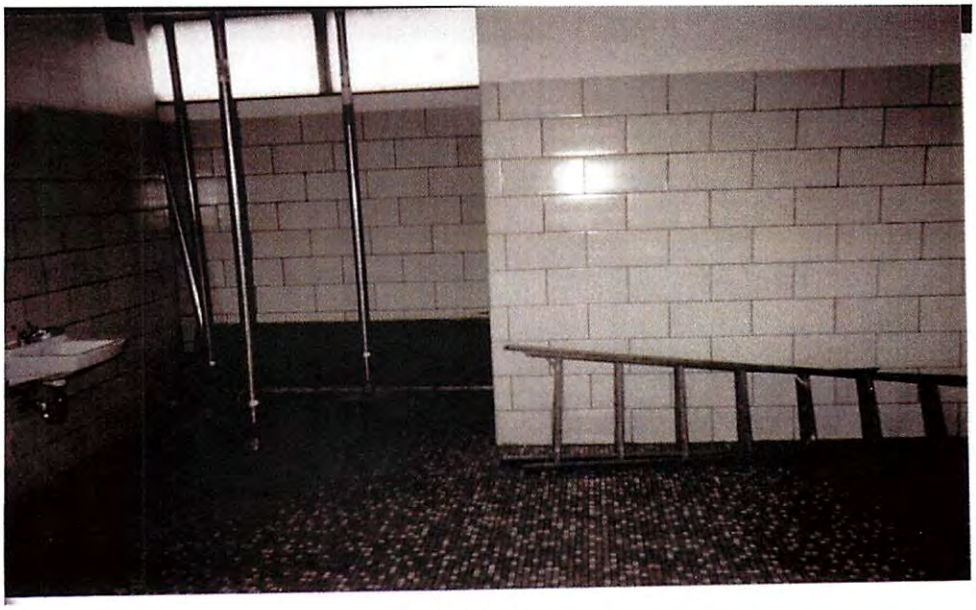

Photo 25

Photo 26

POWELL-LINCOLN
16th & Irving Streets, N.W.

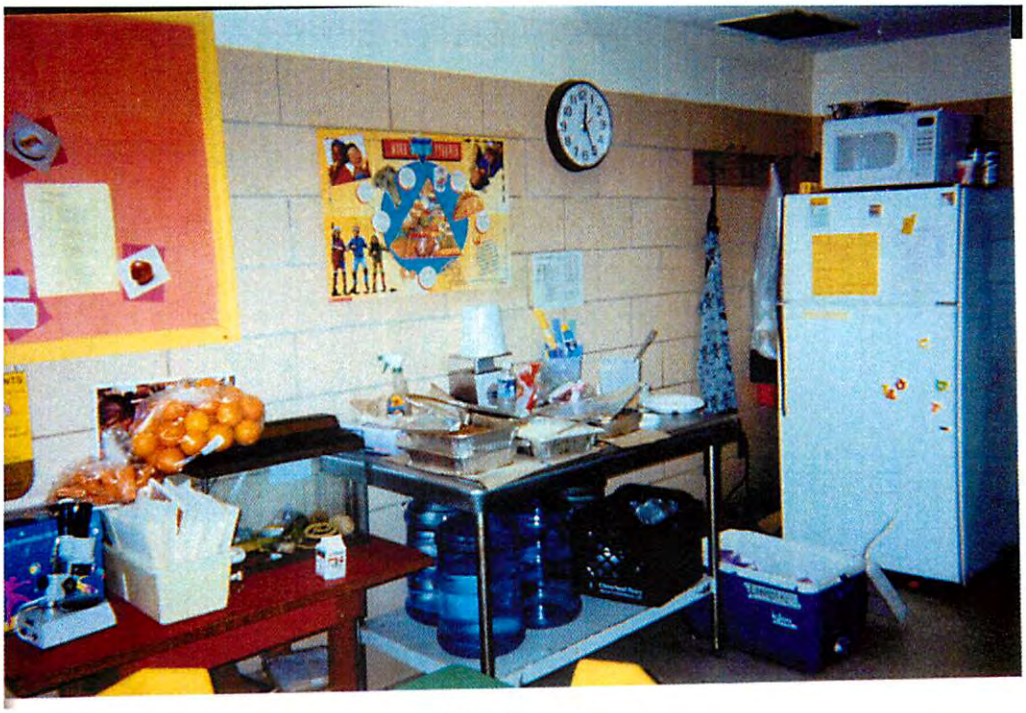

Photo 27

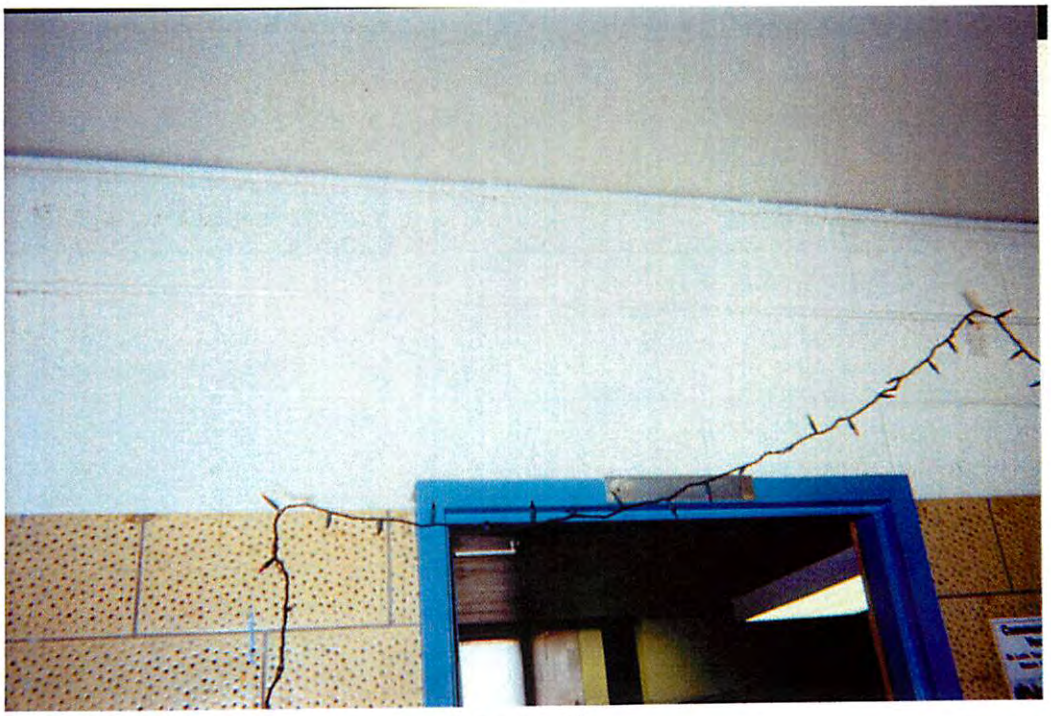

Photo 28

Randall Child Care Services
South Capitol and I Streets, S.W.

Randall handles 33 children and has 3 caregivers. It operates from 6a.m. to 7p.m. daily.

1. The inspection team determined that Randall is in violation of the national building code. In the storage room, exposed electrical wires create a danger of electrocution (Photos 29-30).

Stoddert Terrace Child Care Services
155 Ridge Road, S.E.

Stoddert Terrace handles 26 children and has 4 caregivers. It operates from 6a.m. to 7p.m. daily.

1. There are insufficient flush toilets and urinals at Stoddert to accommodate the current number of occupants. At the time of the team's visit, Stoddert's normal population of 26 children had increased to 73 children because of repairs being done at Douglas and Benning Park centers.

2. There are no separate toilet facilities for adults as required by regulation.

3. Toilets are too high for some children who must be assisted by staff members because no steps or platforms are provided.

RANDALL
South Capitol & I Streets, S.W.

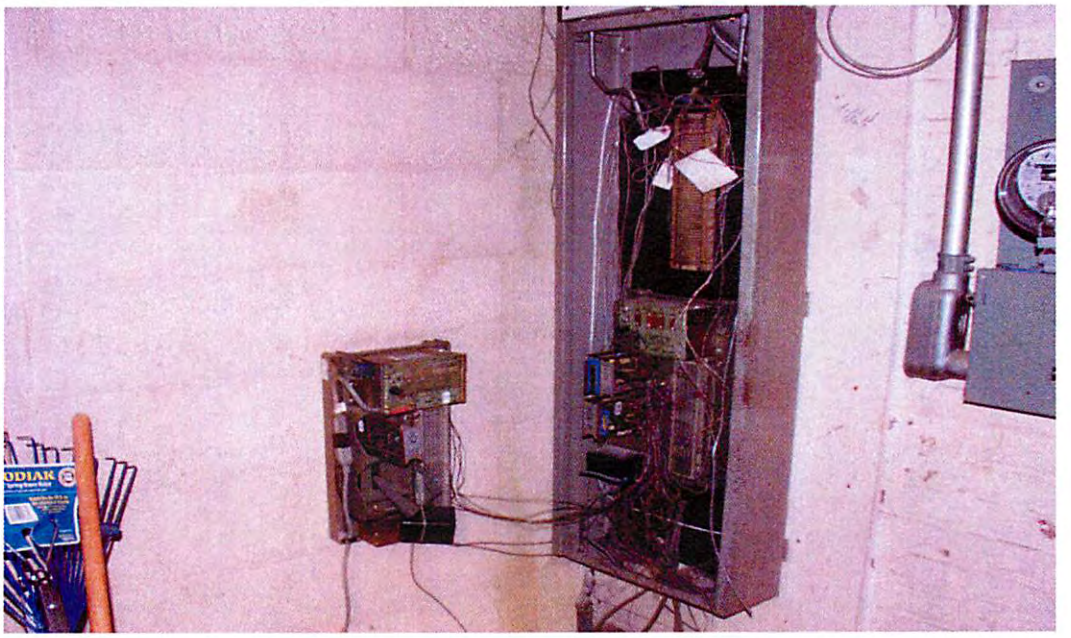

Photo 29

Photo 30

Watkins-Potomac Child Care Services
12th and E Streets, S.E.

Watkins-Potomac handles 30 children and has 4 caregivers. It operates from 6a.m. to 7p.m. daily.

1. Two smoke detectors at the facility need their batteries replaced.

2. There is no panic-release hardware on the doors to allow easy exit during a fire emergency. To demonstrate the problem, the team asked staff members and some of the children to open the three exit doors. They were unable to open two of the three exit doors.

3. The fire exit plan at the facility has not been approved by the D.C. Fire Department.

4. A fire extinguisher located over the stove in the kitchen has not been serviced every six months as required. It was last serviced in September 1999.

Banneker Child Care Services
800 Euclid Street, N.W.

1. There are exposed heating pipes extending from the radiator in the entrance area.

   The BOCA National Building Code Chapter 5 § ES-303.1 states:

   The interior of a structure and its equipment shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and in a sanitary condition so as not to pose a threat to health, safety or welfare of the occupants or visitors, and to protect the occupant from the environment.

   29 DCMR § 327.4 states that:

   All items that children may touch and all interior surfaces of the building shall be maintained, by the operator or owner.

2. The area near the radiator is used as both a play area and storage area for the children's toys.

   29 DCMR § 327.4 states that:

   All items that children may touch and all interior surfaces of the building shall be maintained, by the operator or owner.

3. The sink adjacent to the food preparation area is missing a hot water knob.

   The BOCA National Building Code Chapter 5 § ES-303.1 states:

   The interior of a structure and its equipment shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and in a sanitary condition so as not to pose a threat to health, safety or welfare of the occupants or visitors, and to protect the occupant from the environment.

4. The emergency exit door is locked with a sliding bolt that prohibits exiting in the event of emergency.

29 DCMR § 330.10 states that:

All child development facilities shall have a fire exit drill plan. The plan shall be submitted to the D.C. Fire Chief for review, and shall receive the approval of the Fire Chief before it is put into operation.

2. The team observed a child with noticeable ringworm sleeping among other children instead of being isolated in an enclosed space as required by the DCMR.

29 DCMR § 330.1 states that:

Enclosed space shall be provided for the isolation of children who may become ill.

Deanwood Child Care Services
49th and Quarles Streets, N.E.

1. The team found the Deanwood carpets and rest rooms very dirty.

29 CFR § 1910.22-(a) (1999) states that:

All places of employment, passageways, storage rooms, and service rooms shall be kept clean, and orderly and in a sanitary condition.

2. Toothbrushes used by the children were stored on top of a dirty refrigerator.

29 CFR § 1910.22-(a) (1999) states that:

All places of employment, passageways, storage rooms, and service rooms shall be kept clean, and orderly and in a sanitary condition.

3. The team observed exposed electrical wiring on the outside of the building.

29 DCMR § 327.1, Physical Requirements of Facilities states that:

All child developments facilities shall conform with the building code of the District (DCMR Title 12, as amended by

29 CFR § 1910.37 (f)(1) (1999) states that:

Exits shall be so located and exit access shall be so arranged that exits are readily accessible at all times.

In addition, the National Fire Prevention Code Chapter 6 § F-608.1 states that:

All means of egress doors shall be readily openable from the side from which egress is to be made without a key, special knowledge or effort.

5. The adult staff use the same rest room as the children.

29 DCMR § 329.1 states that:

Adult facilities shall be provided separately from those for children or infants.

Benning Park Child Care Services
51st and Fitch Streets, S.E.

1. Ceiling panels throughout the Benning Park center have fallen or are in danger of falling. Employees stated that the panels have been falling for months. Reports have been made to DPR's maintenance facility but no repairs have been made.

The BOCA National Building Code Chapter 5 § ES-303.1 states:

The interior of a structure and its equipment shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and in a sanitary condition so as not to pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of the occupants or visitors, and to protect the occupants from the environment.

Bryan-Payne Child Care Services
15th and C Streets, S.E.

1. The fire exit plan in use at Bryan-Payne has not been approved by the Fire Department.

the provisions of Reg. No. 74-34), the Health Regulations of the District of Columbia (DCMR Title 22), and all other applicable District rules and regulations.

4. A smoke detector in the main room of the facility is old and rusted.

29 DCMR § 327.1, Physical Requirements of Facilities states that:

All child developments facilities shall conform with the building code of the District (DCMR Title 12, as amended by the provisions of Reg. No. 74-34), the Health Regulations of the District of Columbia (DCMR Title 22), and all other applicable District rules and regulations.

Douglas Child Care Services
20th and Stanton Streets, N.E.

1. The Douglas facility has no windows or other sources of natural light and appears to be in violation of the national building code. In addition, the number of ceiling light fixtures appeared to the team to be insufficient for good illumination of the activities being conducted.

29 DCMR §327.5 states that:

Natural light and ventilation requirements of the Building Code (DCMR Title 12) shall be met in all child development facilities.

2. The small Plexiglas window on the front door is tinted and covered with a wire grate making it difficult to see visitors standing outside the entrance.

29 DCMR §327.5 states that:

Natural light and ventilation requirements of the Building Code (DCMR Title 12) shall be met in all child development facilities.

3. The vestibule has exposed wiring, chipping paint, and deteriorating wood paneling.

The BOCA National Building Code Chapter 5 § ES-303.1 states:

The interior of a structure and its equipment shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and in a sanitary condition so as not to pose a threat to health, safety or welfare of the occupants or visitors, and to protect the occupant from the environment.

4. The kitchen was found to be in an unsanitary condition, particularly the inside of the refrigerator.

29 CFR §1910.22 (a) (1) (1999) Housekeeping, states that:

All places of employment, passageways, storage rooms, and service rooms shall be kept clean, and orderly and in a sanitary condition.

5. The furnace room ceiling is cracked and collapsing.

The BOCA National Building Code Chapter 5 § ES-303.1 states:

The interior of a structure and its equipment shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and in a sanitary condition so as not to pose a threat to health, safety or welfare of the occupants or visitors, and to protect the occupant from the environment.

6. Two of the operating heating units (in the furnace room) have disconnected exhaust pipes.

The BOCA National Building Code Chapter 5 § ES-303.1 states:

The interior of a structure and its equipment shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and in a sanitary condition so as not to pose a threat to health, safety or welfare of the occupants or visitors, and to protect the occupant from the environment.

7. The furnace room is being used for storage of cleaning solvents, mops, brooms, garbage cans, and other miscellaneous items that may pose a fire and safety hazard. The staff storage area is similarly cluttered and disorderly.

The BOCA National Building Code Chapter 5 § ES-303.1 states:

The interior of a structure and its equipment shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and in a sanitary condition so as not to pose a threat to health, safety or welfare of the occupants or visitors, and to protect the occupant from the environment.

8. The trash dumpster sitting outside of the facility does not have a lid and trash and debris spill onto the playground and the surrounding property.

The BOCA National Building Code Chapter 5 § ES-302.1 states:

The exterior of a structure shall be maintained in a good repair, structurally sound and sanitary so as not to pose a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the occupants and so as to protect the occupants from the adverse effects of the environment.

29 DCMR § 328.1 states that:

Suitable space for outdoor play shall be provided. This space shall be free from conditions, which are or may be hazardous to the life or health of the children or infants.

9. The privacy door is missing in the male rest room.

The BOCA National Building Code Chapter 5 § ES-303.1 states:

The interior of a structure and its equipment shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and in a sanitary condition so as not to pose a threat to health, safety or welfare of the occupants or visitors, and to protect the occupant from the environment.

10. Floor tiles are missing and broken throughout the facility.

The BOCA National Building Code Chapter 5 § ES-303.1 states:

The interior of a structure and its equipment shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and in a sanitary condition so as not to pose a threat to health, safety or welfare of the occupants or visitors, and to protect the occupant from the environment.

11. The exterior of the rear and side doors of the facility are not equipped with doorknobs or handles. This may be a fire and safety hazard.

    29 CFR § 1910.37 (f)(1) (1999) states that:

    Exits shall be so located and exit access shall be so arranged that exits are readily accessible at all times.

    In addition, BOCA National Fire Prevention Code Chapter 6 § F-608.1 states that:

    All means of egress doors shall be readily openable from the side from which egress is to be made without a key, special knowledge or effort.

12. The outdoor water fountain has a missing drainage cover plate. This exposes a large hole into which a child or adult might step and be injured.

    The BOCA National Building Code Chapter 5 § ES-302.1 states:

    The exterior of a structure shall be maintained in a good repair, structurally sound and sanitary so as not to pose a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the occupants and so as to protect the occupants from the adverse effects of the environment.

    29 DCMR § 328.1 states that:

    Suitable space for outdoor play shall be provided. This space shall be free from conditions, which are or may be hazardous to the life or health of the children or infants.

13. The playground area used by the facility is not a suitable place for children to play. It is adjacent to a wooded area from which it is not fenced off, and the ground is littered with trash and debris, including broken glass. These are unsafe conditions for outdoor recreation for children and their adult caregivers.

    29 DCMR § 328.1 states that:

    Suitable space for outdoor play shall be provided. This space shall be free from conditions, which are or may be hazardous to the life or health of the children or infants.

29 DCMR § 328.2 states that:

A minimum of sixty square feet (60 ft.^{2}) of outdoor play area per child or infant per session shall provide in an enclosed yard on the premises or in a nearby park or playground, or on a properly safeguarded roof facility approved by the Mayor.

New York Avenue Child Care Services
First and New York Ave., N.W.

1. All outdoor areas were profusely littered with trash of all types, including bottles and beer cans. In addition, there were used personal hygiene items and human excrement.

   The BOCA National Building Code Chapter 5 § ES-302.1 states:

   The exterior of a structure shall be maintained in a good repair, structurally sound and sanitary so as not to pose a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the occupants and so as to protect the occupants from the adverse effects of the environment.

2. An abandoned house in the rear of the facility is allegedly used for loitering and drug use. The team believes this poses a significant security risk to the children and adults in the facility.

   The BOCA National Building Code Chapter 5 § ES-302.1 states:

   The exterior of a structure shall be maintained in a good repair, structurally sound and sanitary so as not to pose a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the occupants and so as to protect the occupants from the adverse effects of the environment.

3. The exit door in the girls' rest room is obstructed with steel plates and the room has an electrical outlet without a cover plate.

   29 CFR § 1910.37 (f) (1) states that:

   Exits shall be so located and exit access shall be so arranged that exits are readily accessible at all times.

In addition, BOCA National Fire Protection Code Chapter 6 § F-608.1 states that:

All means of egress doors shall be readily openable from the side from which egress is to be made without a key, special knowledge or effort.

29 CFR §1910.35 (a) states that:

A means of egress is a continuous and unobstructed way of exit travel from any point in a building or structure to a public way.

4. The privacy door is missing from the boy's toilet stall.

12 DCMR § 12E PM-501.2.1 states that:

The owner or licensee of each residential building shall provide and maintain facilities, utilities and fixtures required by the section which shall be properly and safely installed and maintained in a safe and good working condition.

5. The kitchen sink has drainage problems.

12 DCMR § 12E PM-501.2.1 states that:

The owner or licensee of each residential building shall provide and maintain facilities, utilities and fixtures required by the section which shall be properly and safely installed and maintained in a safe and good working condition.

Powell-Lincoln Child Care Services
16th and Irving Streets, N.W.

1. Ladders and sports equipment are improperly stored in the rest room area, which also had urine on the floor.

29 DCMR § 327.1, Physical Requirements of Facilities, states that:

All child development facilities shall conform with the building code of the District (DCMR Title 12, as amended by the provisions of Reg. No. 74-34), the Health Regulations of the District of Columbia (DCMR Title 22), and all other applicable District rules and regulations.

29 CFR §1910.22 (a) (1) Housekeeping states that:

All places of employment, passageways, storage rooms, and service rooms shall be kept clean, and orderly and in a sanitary condition.

2. The three rest room stalls are used by both children and the adult staff. A sign is posted on one indicating adult use.

29 DCMR § 327.1, Physical Requirements of Facilities, states that:

All child development facilities shall conform with the building code of the District (DCMR Title 12, as amended by the provisions of Reg. No. 74-34), the Health Regulations of the District of Columbia (DCMR Title 22), and all other applicable District rules and regulations.

29 DCMR § 329.1 states that:

Adult facilities shall be provided separately from those for children or infants.

3. The kitchen is unsanitary for food preparation. Food was found stored on top of a functioning aquarium. Opened cleaning solvents were placed adjacent to food being served. The food preparation area has no hand-washing facilities and no stove.

29 CFR §1910.22 (a) (1) Housekeeping states that:

All places of employment, passageways, storage rooms, and service rooms shall be kept clean, and orderly and in a sanitary condition.

29 CFR §1910.141 (1999) (a) Housekeeping /Sanitation states that:

Washing facilities shall be maintained in a sanitary condition.

4. The door leading from the classroom/kitchen area does not have an exit sign.

29 CFR § 1910.37(q) (5) Exit Signs states:

A sign reading "Exit" or similar designation with an arrow indicating the directions shall be placed in every location where the direction of travel to reach the nearest exit is not immediately apparent.

Randall Child Care Services
South Capitol and I Streets, S.W.

1. The inspection team determined that Randall is in violation of the national building code. In the storage room, exposed electrical wires create a danger of electrocution.

   The BOCA National Building Code Chapter 5 § ES-303.1 states:

   The interior of a structure and its equipment shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and in a sanitary condition so as not to pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of the occupants or visitors, and to protect the occupants from the environment.

Stoddert Terrace Child Care Services
155 Ridge Road, S.E.

1. There are insufficient flush toilets and urinals at Stoddert to accommodate the current number of occupants. At the time of the team's visit, Stoddert's normal population of 26 children had increased to 73 children because of repairs being done at Douglas and Benning Park centers.

   29 DCMR §329.1 states that:

   At least one (1) flush toilet and one (1) lavatory shall be provided for every ten (10) occupants of the facility, including staff. Urinals may be substituted for flush toilets on a two (2) urinals to one (1) flush toilet basis, but two-thirds (2/3) of the required number of flush toilets shall be maintained. Adult facilities shall be provided separately from those for the children or infants.

2. There are no separate toilet facilities for adults as required by regulation.

   29 DCMR § 329.1 states that:

   Adult facilities shall be provided separately from those for children or infants.

3. Toilets are too high for some children who must be assisted by staff members because no steps or platforms are provided.

   29 DCMR § 329.2 states that:

   When toilets and laboratories are not of a height to be used by the children without assistance, a block or step shall be provided.

Watkins-Potomac Child Care Services
12th and E Streets, S.E.

1. Two smoke detectors at the facility need their batteries replaced.

   29 CFR §1910.164 (c) (2) (1999) states that:

   The employer shall assure that fire detectors and fire detection systems are tested and adjusted as often as needed to maintain proper reliability and operation....

2. There is no panic-release hardware on the doors to allow easy exit during a fire emergency. To demonstrate the problem, the team asked staff members and some of the children to open the three exit doors. They were unable to open two of the three exit doors.

   29 DCMR §330.8 states that:

   In child development centers, all required exits shall be equipped with panic release hardware or with knob-type hardware that cannot lock from the inside. No other type of securing hardware may be used as supplemental to or in conjunction with this required type of hardware. Doors shall swing in the direction of egress.

3. The fire exit plan at the facility has not been approved by the D.C. Fire Department.

   29 DCMR § 330.10 states that:

   All child development facilities shall have a fire exit drill plan. The plan shall be submitted to the D.C. Fire Chief for review, and shall receive the approval of the Fire Chief before it is put into operation.

4. A fire extinguisher located over the stove in the kitchen has not been serviced every six months as required. It was last serviced in September 1999.

   25 DCMR § 504.1 states that:

   Every fire extinguisher shall be recharged or reweighed annually….