

Oregon Commission for Child Care
April 18th, 2008
D&S Harley Davidson
Medford, Oregon

Attendees: Katie Larive, Lynne Angland, Rosetta Wangerin

Partners and Guests: Heidi McGowan, Teresa Stevenson, Beth Unverzagt, Kathleen Hynes, Kim Cardona, Kim Yasutaki, Gary Taylor, John Thompson, Henry Oliva, Eileen Micke-Johnson, Ronda Miller-Tate, Rene Wold

Forum Reflection

Gary discussed the issue in his group which had the question that when programs do child care as one component and provide other programs such as gymnastics, swimming or camps will all programs have to follow child care licensing rules?

John noted that child care is in a unique fast changing time. How do you regulate the great outdoors? Kim noted that someone talked about taking small steps at a time and hopes the commission will keep an open mind to this process vs. ramping up fast. Field staff would like to achieve consistency as well in response to two programs in the same building that look the same but are not because one is licensed and one is not.

Decision making process would be helpful to understand how rules can change either through administrative rule change or statute change.

Action: Heidi will create a diagram of decision making process for Commission. Include timeline of what has been done to date with options.

The issue came out in the forum but much of this hinges upon the definition of “ordinarily engaged in child care,”

Discussed licensing individuals vs. programs

Discussed the need to hear from communities east of the mountains. There is a strong feeling that the I-5 corridor makes decisions and imposes them upon east side. The challenge is to figure out where to do this and recommended to do several small forums. Kim suggested going to Baker.

May agenda – bring timeline of forum decision making. Address if the Commission wants to conduct a series of forums on the east side and what is necessary to do this.

Gary noted a lack of representation from summer camps at the forum and thought it was interesting. For example, Parks and Recreation who offer some of the biggest summer programs in the area did not attend. Kathleen identified that is why “out of school time” is more encompassing. A discussion occurred about the mailing which did include these folks but if they don’t think it applies to them they don’t attend.

Lynne noted that she was informed that there is a local radio ad says “where else can you find child care for \$1/hr?” Gary explained that he called and the program said that that is for the computer room and they don’t provide child care. It is merely for marketing.

Gary recommended looking at other states that have camp rules to compare what their guidelines for day camps that include a separate set of licensing and fees.

State System Update

Kim Cardona discussed the meeting yesterday about the local small child care program in Grants Pass losing money and inability to meet payroll. The infant toddler program is full and the preschool program is no longer full, in part due to the head start program. Kim reflected that she is hearing this around the state, in particular in rural areas. A solution presented to the Grants Pass CCF partners (Josephine County child care task force) is a wage incentive program to encourage providers to provide infant toddler care, received a stipend and move up on Oregon registry. The local partners were receptive to this solution saying this strategy would meet their prioritized areas.

Kim discussed a couple programs that have been supported by CCF dollars for salaries. The programs are in low income areas and were overwhelmed by DHS and USDA foods program. Despite TA services it is overwhelming. Lynne asked if a reason they are saying it is overwhelming is because it won’t bring a profit which is a reality in child care? A discussion occurred about services such as mentoring and business consultation. Katie brought up that this is an issue about how the rural needs are different.

Heidi reported on the child care quality indicator project and it was agreed that she will provide the Commission an update in June. Heidi also briefly reported on the vision for an on line professional development data base.

Local System Updates

Eileen Micke-Johnson reported on a local initiative that has been operating since 2003 to recruit and advance providers in professional development. See hand outs.

The local Resource and Referral presented on local initiatives that included training and outreach to families.