

Oregon Commission for Child Care  
Feb 22, 2008  
Eugene Mental Health Building, Eugene

**Attendees:** Mike Hillman, Cheryl Reece, Randy Fishfader, Nina Roll, Rosetta Wangerin, Kitty Piercy,

**Partners and Guests:** Heidi McGowan, Teresa Stevenson, Tom Olsen, Kathleen Hynes, Kitty Lake, Sonja Svenson, Dawn Norris, Kim Cardona, Bobbie Weber,

**Minute Review and Action Items:**

The Commission will be adding an action item list to the agenda for review each month. It will be part of the Commission Business/Minute Review part of the agenda to go over these items and ask for a report on any ongoing business.

Rosetta noted that in the January minutes, the question arose as to where the funds came for programs such as Sun schools and community schools. Sonja noted that the funding for each of those are different. Commission would like OCCF to come talk to OCCC about funding (625k) for school age programs for community schools as noted by Rep. Kotek. Lenny from OCCF could also talk about the dashboard when he attends.

Tom sent Rosetta the position paper on criminal history background checks. Rosetta discussed this with Mickey Lansing from OCCF, who said that Partners for Children and Families supported this. Tom clarified this is different then the state commission level of support. Rosetta has not yet followed up with Rep. Kotek on this issue, but will do so because of her strong support.

**Rosetta will invite Laurie Warner to OCCC meeting.**

**Rosetta and Heidi will draft a letter for the local CCF's to inform about OCCC priorities once the final priority paper is completed.**

Kitty P. noted that the online complaint is a good example of what to put in a short newsletter in between doing Governor's reports.

Rosetta followed up with AFSCME regarding issues and compensation of providers will be a top priority for them this session. She asked Cheryl to keep us in the loop as a member of the bargaining team.

Nina asked for clarification in the minutes regarding DHS reimbursement and licensing being connected and asked if we were talking about school age and having to be licensed and said that for her it raises a red flag for her area because they have programs through parks and recreation. She understood and some of the people she has spoken to think that if they are a parks and recreation or housed in a public agency that they can't be licensed. This has become a myth that is out there. Kitty L clarified that child care facilities can choose to be licensed regardless of whether or not they are in a public agency. Nina also

noted that licensing does lead to higher rates from DHS. Kitty P. recommended a fact sheet on this issue to dispel the myths. Kitty L. said if she could get a list of the questions or myths she could put the paper together. It was also recommended that the sheet should list the incentives such as receiving the enhanced rate.

Rosetta noted again the need to go to Eastern Oregon for the forums vs. Bend area. Kim Cardona recommended Hood River or The Dalles because of easier access for rural folks.

**A fact sheet could be created after the forums and survey are completed.**

Rep. Kotek was successful in getting the on line complaints on the agenda of a legislative committee. We were scheduled last week but were cancelled at the last minute. We will most likely be invited again. Randy volunteered to come if we are rescheduled.

A draft letter to DHS in support of the concepts that Vic Todd and Mark Anderson brought to the Commission in January has been written and signed by Rosetta.

### **Summary of Eugene Forum:**

#### **Working Well**

Partnerships/collaborations- grants/money  
40 dev. Assets

#### **Not Working Well**

struggles to stay open  
competition from programs that are subsidized by 21<sup>st</sup> century – takes kids out of neighborhoods  
gaps in child care in some areas, such as children with special needs  
getting and maintaining trained staff – competition to get/keep staff  
lack of training for school age

#### **Should the definition of exempt care change? If so, How?**

some form of standards should exist such as criminal history  
public disclosure – ccd should know, registration  
careful to implement the same standard – every regulation adds cost  
transition plan or grandfather in standards  
perception of parents/program is key characteristic such as sign in/out  
costs money to be licensed  
partner with insurance that requires some standards such as criminal history as part of general liability  
exempt should have incentives to license  
Desire not to put people out of business  
\*how can we do two things at once to have standards but doesn't run people out of business

Mike had more questions, specifically why is this grey vs. black and white? In education, you are licensed or not. Discussion regarding criminal history checks focused on making them mandatory but who absorbs the cost for doing it to educating providers. Rosetta noted a combination of public disclosure to require programs to inform parents to creating a universal criminal history check process. Maybe it is time that someone proposes legislation is to require all people who work with kids have a criminal history check. Alliances would be beneficial to make this happen.

21<sup>st</sup> century grants give 3 yr funding which end up competing with local programs that often stop offering after school programs. There is a concern that after the grants run out there won't be any local programs.

Randy asked if libraries are coming up in conversations because they absorb kids after school. They have not come up in the forums. City of Eugene gives funding to Boys and Girls Club but they don't have any criteria that they need to meet for the funding.

### **OnLine Complaints at CCD**

The online complaint system was presented live from the internet. The intent of the introduction section of the page is to help people understand the difference between compliance and complaint history. The search function enables you to search by provider name, zip code, county, city. The site is intended to encourage people to call CCD for further information, as a complaint is not necessarily a reason to not consider a provider for your child care needs. When people call, they will get a greater scope of information, including positive information and a longer history (prior to 2004). The online complaint system only reports complaints found to be valid. If a person calls, they will also receive information about complaints that are unable to be determined.

There are three levels of complaints:

Complaints – found to be valid by observation or evidence by a licensing specialist

Unable to determine complaints – will report if people call CCD

Unsubstantiated complaints – no evidence of complaint

The online complaint system only reports complaints found to be valid. If a person calls, they will receive information about complaints that are unable to be determined.

Addresses were removed at the request of the union and in consideration of safety.

This is on several television station web sites as a link, and the Statesman in Salem will run an article soon reporting this. There have been 24,000 hits the first week. Randy Fishfader was interviewed regarding this and noted what a great example this has been of citizens coming to the Commission and CCD responding so quickly to concerns.

Rosetta asked if a follow up in six months would be possible. Tom said that was possible and that the Unions are looking at doing some follow up reporting as well.

Rosetta expressed that she feels proud that we can be a place citizens can come and talk to and feel comfortable expressing their feelings.

### **Strategic Planning Results and Workgroup**

Heidi took the work that was done in January and put it into a document format so that the commissioners could work on the next steps for these. Time was spent developing those next steps.

**The Child Care Market** – what parents are doing for child care. - Bobbie Weber would like the Commission feedback and a conversation on what parents face when looking for child care. What do they have to maneuver through, and what does it look like to them? If we understand what they are facing, we are better able to provide supports and alternatives. If we don't understand, we actually can make it harder for them without intending to do so.

The child care market is determined by two characteristics: 1. does it have a price – Head Start does not have price, grandma doesn't have a price typically. 2. no prior relationship between the buyer and seller, price is established at an arms length transaction

There are characteristics of child care that affect the price and create submarkets:

- \* type of care: center, large group home, family child care and family/friends/neighbors (much less data because most don't charge), part time preschools.
- \* Certified Family child care prices are between centers and family child care.
- \*question we have is if legally exempt a submarket – are their prices consistently different?
- \*out of school time needs work because there is not consensus on what after school is to do a market survey –
- \*Rosetta identified that if OCCC can help define after school care it would enable the market survey to survey after school care.
- \*subsidy impacts pricing of the entire market and the future is blended funding.
- \*In Oregon, since 1999, families have been leaving the market, especially at the lower income limit
- \*if people can find solutions outside of the priced market like quite work or use unpaid grandma then it constrains what the market can charge.
- \*public investments of some form infuse the system but don't look at cost and usually pay a portion of price.
- \*the child care workforce is getting less skilled and lower educated and is exacerbated by part of the market such as head start paying higher wages.
- \*Oregon has outstanding child care data on child care prices due to the R&R system and is well recognized nationally
- \*child care is highly correlated with housing prices, next is household income, then percentage of urban/rural.
- \*In Oregon, Portland, Corvallis, Eugene, Ashland reflect higher prices

**Oregon CC System – Sonja**

R&R assessment will be presented to R&R board March 10<sup>th</sup>. Will be shared with commission in April. Sonja will convene a couple meetings regarding the SDA analysis. Sonja attended a region 10 professional development conversation and Oregon is a mature system

Dawn is part of a TA team to review local CCF's comprehensive plans giving feedback into local plans.

OCF has given PSU more money for child care scholarships

Next meeting will finish up.

DHS thanked the Commission for the letter to Dr. Goldberg in support of the policy option package. And Mark Anderson is retiring at the end of March.