

Oregon Commission for Child Care

Jan 25, 2008

Fresh Start Marketplace, Salem

Attendees: Stephanie Swan, Katie Larive, Deborah Murray, Randy Fishfader, Cheryl Reese, Nina Roll, Rosetta Wangerin, Rep. Kotek, Rep. Flores, Nellie McAdams,

Partners and Guests: Heidi McGowan, Teresa Stevenson, Beth Unverzagt, Tom Olsen, Mike Hillman, Faye Zepeda, Merilee Haas, Billie Young, Terry Butler, Kim Cardona, Mary Nemmers, Mark Anderson, Vic Todd,

October minutes – Motion to accept minutes, Rosetta. Second by Randy. Passed.

November minutes – Motion to accept minutes Rosetta, motion to approve minutes as corrected, Randy moved. Deborah second. Passed.

Community forum – Deborah noted that the attendees were mostly from licensed programs and the results reflect this. Deborah noted that one attendee noted that a school age program in her rural community was not able to meet licensing codes in schools and they are worried about latch key kids. There was a request not to make licensing too hard so more programs can exist for kids.

Tina asked if parents attended, and maybe one of the first steps is requiring some kind of identification of what the program is to notify parents about whether the program is licensed or not. Katie noted that education is significant.

Beth noted some clarifications occurred about what programs should be licensed under current rules. She also reflected that attendees mentioned that educators from schools should be attending this because it's such an important issue to schools.

Where are funds coming from Sun? Tina noted that OCCF was given money from legislature to fund a community schools position to coordinate statewide and might be worth having them come and report. 625k goes to OCCF which will give out through an RFP (criteria undecided) and 90K is for a position.

Merilee asked if legislation could be legislation to require programs to disclose info to parents that note if criminal history checks are, along with any other qualifications. Consumer protection initiative may be one idea. Katie said a form that requires parents to sign off that they know what is done or not would take it to another step. Rosetta noted that different programs in the same building create confusion. Want to make sure the plan is incremental.

Legislation could do this. Tom noted this could be done through the licensing process. Possibly on two ends of the continuum: legislation for consumer protection, and then if you are to receive DHS reimbursement that you have to be licensed which is an incentive.

School board association has discussed after school agenda.

Tina said legislation could require schools to provide equal access whether the program is licensed or exempt – if free rent of offered then it should be offered to licensed program (if non-profit).

Cheryl noted that the criminal history was raised as a challenge if there are different systems. Every school district does criminal history checks differently. Tom was asked 2 years ago to chair a group to identify if criminal history checks could be done using the same system. After convening the agencies, there was no agreement. Tom needs a legislator to get involved or this group to identify it as a higher priority than other issues the ECE system from OCCF. Position paper was written and Tom gave it to partners for Children and Families. Need a resource allocation dedicated to state police.

Two potential pieces of legislation focused on consumer protection: 1. public disclosure on licensure 2. criminal history checks coordination - this will save schools and state money even if an allocation was needed to the state police to coordination.

Action: Tom will send position paper to Rosetta, who will write a letter to Mickey and inquire where we are in this work. CC Rep. Flores and Kotek.

Update from CCD – Tom

In response to last meeting and report from Salem parents, CCD will go live on Feb. 11 to post child care facility complaints on line. Complaint history is only one piece, click on site, the complaint is shown. They explain the difference between compliance and complaints. History will go back to Jan 2004. The system will also report if license is suspended. The web site will be reflected within the same day complaint is found valid. Anything pending will not be shown. How does a parent know they should call CCD? It says in many places throughout the website. Tom has notified R&R, union but has memo to send out to partners.

Laurie Warner would like to come to a commission meeting

Action: Email Rep. Flores and Kotek to do an info. on this Feb 11th to a legislative committee

Action: Rosetta noted that we will still be sending a letter to the local CCF's but felt it was better after our planning retreat to share current priorities.

Planning Session:

Think of a child and how the work of the Commission impacted them:

2007 accomplishments:

**OPK – HS dollars

Gov's budget passed

*****DHS policy package

Contribution Tax Credit – CC enhancement

*Working with agency, union, partners was top shelf

Steps toward stability of care for children with challenges

OCCC still exists – great advice, can't buy this kind of advice

Acknowledgement of school age care

12M TANF transfer to CC

The Peninsula Story: Deborah reported that Peninsula benefited 83k from the subsidy package which the board voted to put towards rewards and wage increases for staff who increase their training. Within the last 6 weeks 4 are in degree programs, 12 in /CDA programs. "For the first time it's worth time and training to put training into a training."

A lot to be proud of and the Commission that took a strong leadership role.

What do you wish the Commission would have done better or would like to add to our to do?

- Commissioners feel comfortable meeting with legislators locally before they come to Salem
- Up the Cares priority to help providers improve quality
- Help families with children with special needs
- **Manage passion**
- Tooting the Commission's own horn more and often – not just biennial report to Gov., a one pager of great things getting accomplished such as at last meeting listening to parents and are working with Employment to do web site – something we can put in newsletters or updates of partners such as OAEYC. More newsy and not just minutes and formal report. Shameless self promotion adds to power and influence.
- A one pager for legislators informing what we're working on.
- Work with other commissions to share message would have more power

Strengths:

- Membership and partners coming together – great representation of experience and great minds
- Unique and potentially powerful position in terms of advocacy and if commission can take advantage of within restraints
- Sense of humor
- Work well together
- Get a lot done for being a volunteer commission with only one staff
- Good leader, Rosetta – keeps track of action

Unfinished:

- Cares
- CC Enhancement Project statewide
- Exempt Care discussion
- 15 passenger vans
- Hard to find care – special needs, odd hour, infant/toddler

What is Cares:

- Increased compensation
- Help/support for education based on Oregon registry
- Retention – verbal commitment to remain at child care site
- Statewide

Rep. Kotek is not excited to expand CC Enhancement Project statewide because of the resource issue and the tax credit issue. Just don't know how we would pay for it. Political will and competing tax credits.

Partner Update:

Oregon Ask:

Priority A: coordination of DHS, CCD, Dept of DOE, USDA regarding policies of licensed and exempt.

Inclusive Child Care:

Priority A: Quality:

- Oregon Ask: coordination of DHS, CCD, Dept of DOE, USDA regarding policies of licensed and exempt. How to increase awareness on quality. Clean up grey of exempt.
- Inclusive Child Care – expand child care health consultation (publicize providers can receive assistance)
- AFSME – health insurance to reduce turnover, training and incentives
- OCCF - Work with USDA to increase enrollment – they don't have dollars to promote, only to administer
- OAEYC – some form of Cares: compensation, retention (consider TEACH that is in 20 states)
- Rep. Flores – would like to raise the cap/eliminate the cap for the CC Contribution Tax Credit because it (we had to return 120k who contributed along with many other calls)
- Randy – education of ECE workforce, get professionals educated preservice and goes hand in hand with wage enhancement. We spend resources try to educate people who are working with children all day.
- Heidi - Cares

Priority B: Accessible

- Inclusive Child Care – expand child care health consultation
- Rep Kotek – incentives providers providing odd hour care, maybe pilots (partner with OED and R&R's to get info.)
- AFSME – legislation to address homeowner association preventing family child care businesses
- OCCF – stable DHS and increased
- Cheryl – identify areas with shortage of care and incentives
- Katie – bring funding back for early intervention

Priority C: Affordable

- Rep Kotek – protect policy option package
- AFSME – protect policy option package
- OCCRRN – protect policy option package
- Deborah – steps to support families who stop eligibility of DHS benefits
- DHS – leave 185% as entrance and exit to 250% to deal with cliff issue,
- DHS – update 75% threshold
- DHS – align with TANF to have max age to 12
- DHS - Extend eligibility from 6 mo to 12 mo
- DHS – youth services expansion

Priority D: Safe and Healthy

- Tom/Governor priority: health/mental health consultation: opportunity to impact very high needs stay in least restrictive environments, working with Gov. environment. Trying to child care health consultation to include mental health in stages. Develop web site. Multiple systems are currently funding this so should be a priority.
- Tom pushing Cares informally but we need to talk differently – need incentive for providers to meet training levels to care for Head Start audience. A way to expand universal pre-k in state.
- Tom – Universal criminal history checks
- OCCF – define exempt school age care
- Cheryl – raise training standards for RFCC and CFCC (due to 16 impact ensure training/incentives training access, management tx) Training hrs should be 8hrs/yr and annual inspections.
- Katie – if provider license is revoked they never take care of children again
- OCCRRN – raise licensing standards for FCC

Priority E: Efficient and Collaborative

- Oregon Ask: Work with Or Registry and QI for school age certificate
- Inclusive Child Care - Training/TA support partnerships for early intervention due to Oregon being selected.
- Cheryl: collaborative piece between unions to mentor/assist providers get licensed
- OAEYC – build system of support for training/education: articulation project to get degree
- OAEYC – accreditation – but need education, Cares type incentives, director credential, CFCC certificate
- Nina - State investment in the R&R system
- OCCRRN – investment in the R&R system and other strategies such as Cares, CC health consultation
- Rosetta – help unions work together even though they represent two separate bodies to give providers larger voice
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Top Priority:

Affordability:

1. Support DHS enhancements (4 commissioners and

Quality:

2. Cares: compensation/training package (9 commissioners, 4 partners)
3. Increasing child care tax credit (4 commissioners, 2 partners)
4. CC health consultation (3 commissioners, 5 partner)

Accessibility:

Safe & Healthy:

Universal criminal history check – clean box (5 commissioner, 2 partners)

Consumer protection – 5 commissioners, 2 dots

Increase inspection/training for CC

Effective and collaborative:

1. state funding of R&R (2 votes)

Motion: Deborah motioned that OCCC write a letter to Gov, DHS in support of DHS concepts proposed. Nina seconded. Passed.

Rosetta asked if meeting face to face with Dr. Goldberg would be good process. Vic recommended meeting would be a good follow up.

Next steps: look at plans and fill in gaps and spent time at next commission meeting.

Evaluation:

Discussion group worked well to get concrete. Needed more time to do this.

Usually have meeting at forum location so possibly more information when meeting locations change.

Helpful to have more background material as a partner.

Respectfulness of time and format

Appreciated your engagement of everyone and pulling everyone

We each took more time then we could have lobbying for our own piece – don't know how you balance it

Would have been smoother if sheets were displayed better for room, wall space is important

Appreciate being here, participating