

Commission for Child Care Meeting Minutes January 31, 2003

Members Present:

Lisa Kopetski, John Sandusky, Katherine Criswell, Kitty Piercy, Cheryl Reece, Cynthia Hurkes

Absent: David Barenberg, John DeGroat, Vicki Sarazin, Rep. Monnes-Anderson, Sen. Clarno, Rep. Patridge, Gabriela Downey, Martha Young

Guests: Tom Olsen, Bobbie Weber, Mary Nemmers, Tamara Brickman, Bonnie Chalmers (for Rosetta Wangerin)

Staff: Marcia Martin

Kitty Piercy called the meeting to order.

New Appointments

Cheryl Reece was newly-appointed to the provider/trainer position by Governor Kitzhaber in December 2002. Cheryl is a certified family provider from Milwaukie. She is the vice-chair of Family Child Care Providers Network, and she is involved in the statewide mentoring program.

Martha Young of Roseburg was appointed by Governor Kitzhaber in December 2002 as the Member At-Large. Martha was unable to attend today.

Status of Commission Vacancies

Kitty reviewed the vacancies on the Commission.

Medical – Kitty said that Robi Ingram-Rich has decided to resign.

Legislative Members – Kitty is going to talk with Sen. Clarno and Senate President to request new appointments.

Labor – Marcia will follow up with Tim Nesbitt about suggestions for potential candidates.

Rosetta Wangerin plans on applying for the vacant government position.

Consumers – Marcia has spoken with one parent who may be interested in applying.

Tom Olsen: Update from the Child Care Coordinating Council

Tom reported that he and Kitty are co-chairing an ad hoc task group to review the current Employment-Related Day Care program subsidy policy. The state's waiver to use TANF for child care expires in June 2003, and the demand for the child care subsidy program is expected to increase. It is very likely that the eligibility requirement will drop lower and co-pay requirements will increase. The committee is looking at how the state rations the subsidy. Jean Thorne, DHS director has indicated that she is supportive of reviewing the policy on waiting lists, eligibility, co-payments, market rate, issues, etc.

Lisa: What is the result of the increase in minimum wage on unemployment insurance?

Tom: No information at this time

John: Will the TANF waivers be renewed?

Tom: No, according to what we have heard

Tom indicated that an increase in the Block Grant is unlikely and that there is a proposal to decrease the Block Grant by 3%. He explained that would result in a net loss of 6% (3% less than the cost of living increase).

Tom explained that the Child Care Coordinating Council meets every two months. It is made up of agency staff, parents and providers. A number of committees address the following areas:

Special Needs Care

Provider Training – New Health and Safety curriculum/training was developed (formerly Basics I) and will be offered as two 5-hour modules for providers. The next part will be social-emotional curriculum/training to be ready later this year. Child care resource and referral programs will do the training. The Center for Career Development has completed a train-the-trainer course, and R&Rs will contract with trainers and offer training at local level.

Public Information – The employer tool kit has been rewritten and redesigned and will be published late February. The Oregon Child Care Resource & Referral Network has hired Cynthia Hurkes to present information to employers about how to use the tool kit.

Cynthia then reported on a meeting with Duncan Wyse, Executive Director, Oregon Business Council, regarding the relationship of child care to the economic recovery plan advanced by the OBC.

Data

Health Links – This is a project to fund public health nurse consultants in regions to work with child care providers.

A discussion of tax credits began. Tom expressed the importance of protecting the Working Family Tax Credit which became refundable in 2003, and eventually to tie quality to the employer dependent care tax credit.

Kitty indicated the need to first get agreement on what quality is.

Tom said that there is a new document that defines quality measurements that are research-based, “Structural Indicators of Quality” written by Bobbie Weber. The data group is currently looking into reporting on structural indicators that are based on seven factors. These include turnover rate, group sizes, training and education versus a process which requires observation of the actual programs.

There is a Research Conference in Washington, DC April 11.

Data group decided to advance a common evaluation of compensation strategies.

Tamara Brickman, ED Legislative Coordinator: Legislation Update

Tamara provided an update on bills she is tracking for the Employment Department that relate to child care.

HB 2112 – This would cause individuals to have licenses suspended if they are not paying child support and require agencies to maintain a data base of social security numbers.

Tamara will add Commission members to her electronic newsletter with updates on legislation pertaining to the ED.

HB 2124 has passed the Health and Human Services Committee soon and will be referred to Ways and Means. This bill requires state agencies that provide services to children and families to work with workforce agencies as affected agencies that need to be involved in statewide planning.

Kitty: This bill creates an opportunity to link child care to workforce issues. Kitty suggested that Rep. Monnes-Anderson indicate the Commission's support at the hearing. Kitty will contact Rep. Monnes-Anderson.

HB 2191 implements some recommendations of Task Force on Financing Quality Child Care. The bill will do the following:

- Includes the ED in voluntary early child care statewide systems
- Adds a Child Care Commission member on State Commission on Children and Families
- Involves the local CCR&R programs in planning of the LCCFs
- Amends definition of child to include children with special needs to age 18
- Excludes parent-child cooperatives, teen parent programs, and health club facilities (when parents are on premises) from child care regulation
- Changes "group homes" to "certified family homes"

Kitty and Tom will offer joint testimony when the bill comes up in the House Health and Human Services Committee.

An amendment would change child care provider training requirements (proposed by Rep. Betsy Close) to be satisfied through Internet, Video, television, as long as documented for CCD with time and source. Child care providers are behind it, and it was referred yesterday to HHS committee. ED will send a letter of concern regarding the bill.

Lisa said that from a rural perspective, training is not always available to providers.

Cynthia said that currently, the CCD does allow some hours of self-study of training. (3 out of 8)

SB 274 will allow agencies to suspend state-issued licenses if individual hasn't paid an obligation of local government (such as traffic or parking fines).

The Child Care Investment Tax Credit – A Tax Credit Advisory Committee is proposing that language be changed to establish a pilot.

Mary Nemmers, Oregon Child Care Resource & Referral: Update from One Voice for Child Care

Mary explained that One Voice is a group of several advocates with different areas of focus that share information.

The following are of interest to the One Voice group:

- Oregon Cares – Rep. Kafoury will sponsor legislation on behalf of Stand for Children.
- Budget for ERDC
- Paid Family leave (proposed by Rep. Rosenbaum)
- Student Block Grant – entirely cut from budget – Rocky Dallum is the representative of student association.
- HB 2191 support
- Decrease in the CCR&R funding of 8% loss of general fund (half million dollars lost in last special session)

Tom explained that the Governor is requiring a 30% cut in CCD (General Fund). Earlier General Fund money was cut 50% in one special session.

Child care funding was 4 million and is now totals 3.6 million. Essentially, General Fund supports child care regulation. CCD will not layoff certifiers and family child care specialists and use federal block grant to back-fill, taking reductions in areas not statutorily required for use by the block grant. OCCF, CCR&RN receive federal funds for child care.

John: SDAs are subsidizing CCR&R programs that are affected by defeat of Measure 28.

Cynthia Hurkes: Employer Outreach

Cynthia reported on her efforts to work with regional employer councils statewide. She will be making a number of presentations about employer-supported child care.

Marcia added that ads, news stories and a new Web site will also help promote child care programs to businesses. An ad series is scheduled to begin in Oregon Business Magazine's March issue featuring their annual "100 Best Companies to Work For."

Bobbie Weber, Coordinator of the Oregon Research Partnership, Family Policy Program at OSU: Proposal Regarding Next Steps for the Task Force Recommendations

Bobbie was a member of the finance task force. She outlined a suggestion to continue with the recommendations of the task force by developing a strategic plan. The plan would contain strategies, action steps, and time to get it done, and assign responsibility. She described how the Annie E. Casey Foundation funded the Leadership in Action program in Maryland.

She would like to see a similar effort for Oregon funded with a grant for a 5-year action plan. Recognizing that the Commission needs fiscal resources to develop the action plan, Bobbie suggested that the next step involve finding out how much this would cost. She offered to assist Commission members in preliminary conversations regarding Oregon foundations such as the Oregon Foundation, Hanna Anderson Foundation, Ford Family Foundation. Bobbie will find out what the Maryland model cost.

Bobbie and Kitty will seek a meeting with Tom Thornburn of the Ford Family Foundation and Gun Denhart, CEO of Hanna Andersson (both were task force members) to explore possible funding.

Commission Work Session

Commission members agreed to change the 2003 meeting schedule from monthly to every six weeks on the following dates:

March 14
April 25
May 30
July 11
August 29
October 10
November 21
January 9th

The balance of the work session dealt with the contents of the biennial report which will be based on the recommendations of the task force. Lisa asked that Marcia circulate a draft of the report to all Commission members prior to printing.

Cynthia Hurkes: Update on the CCR&R Advisory Committee

Information from the last committee meeting: Network contracts manager Jeanette Ewald has three (out of 16) monitoring visits of SDAs left to conduct.

Cynthia and Commission members discussed how the committee functions. OCCC Sandi Hadley-White continues to staff the advisory committee. Cynthia chairs the meetings. CCR&R advisory committee is now a committee of the OCCC. Its role is to advise the CCD about the CCR&R system. Currently, meetings are bi-monthly. Cynthia will ask to meet less frequently – quarterly instead.

Mary said that the Network was given authority to determine the funding formula for the CCR&Rs, and in practice the CCR&R Advisory Committee provides valuable feedback

on the formula. She said that issues brought to this group are most often contractual and that the Commission can serve as a mediator if there is a disagreement between the CCD and Network.

The Commission will want to hear from Cynthia the results of the CCR&R contract monitoring.

Bonnie Chalmers: Update on the DHS Market Rate Study and ERDC Program

Bonnie shared the Executive Summary of the Oregon Child Care Market Rate Study, 2002 (full report is currently being printed).

Bonnie explained that Congress mandated that states conduct a study of current market rates for child care every two years and to determine the 75th percentile – or the rate at which 75% of child care slots may be purchased. The state’s study is based on CCR&R data.

Overall, the study concludes: DHS maximum enhanced subsidy rates are adequate to purchase approximately one-quarter or less of market child care slots statewide. Geographically, in approximately half of zip code areas no market rate can be purchased at the DHS subsidy rate.

Other findings include:

- In family child care the hourly rate of toddler care increased 34% since 1994 while in center care the monthly rate increased 37% in the same time period.
- Current market rates are substantially greater than either the enhanced (for providers who meet CCD training requirements) or standard maximum subsidy rates set by the state.
- In 40% of Oregon zip code areas that have rates, no family child care providers can be accessed at the maximum subsidy rates.
- In 61% of Oregon zip code areas that have rates, the maximum subsidy rates are not enough to purchase any center care.
- In about a fifth of zip code areas families can purchase over 50% of child care in the community at a maximum subsidy rate.

Bonnie also provided a list of budget cuts to the ERDC program. The total amount cut from the 01-03 budgets is \$4,003,377. The additional co-pay increase ranges from 0 to \$47. Income eligibility was reduced from 185% of the federal poverty level to 150% of the FPL.

The meeting was adjourned.