

Oregon Commission for Child Care

May 30, 2003, Salem, OR

Members Present: Lisa Kopetski, Vicki Sarazin, Katherine Criswell, Kitty Piercy, Cynthia Hurkes, John Sandusky, Cheryl Reece

Guests: Pam Dunn, Rosetta Wangerin, Tom Olsen, Tamara Brickman

Minutes: Marcia Martin

Chair Kitty Piercy called the meeting to order.

Announcements

Resignation of Cynthia Hurkes: Cynthia Hurkes announced her resignation from the CCR&R position on the Commission. Cynthia said that since she is working for the Oregon Child Care Resource & Referral Network, the position should be offered to a representative of a local CCR&R program. Cynthia has been serving as the Chair of the CCR&R Advisory Committee, so another Commission member will need to take over. Kitty thanked Cynthia for her participation and value added to the Commission.

Status of Commission Appointments: Kitty discussed pending appointments for the Medical and State Government positions. There are vacancies in these positions: two Consumers, Labor (Gabriela continues to serve), Local Government, Local Child Care Resource and Referral, and State Senator. Two new appointments were made by the Speaker of the House, Rep. Pat Farr, and Rep. Wayne Scott. Neither is able to attend today's meeting. Martha Young, At Large, continues to be on a medical leave of absence until approximately August 2004.

Tamara added that the Governor's Executive Appointments Office has not yet made appointments to the Employment Department Advisory Council.

Executive Officer Recruitment: Tom indicated that the recruiting announcement for the Executive Officer has just closed. He invited Commission members to participate in the interview process.

Attendance at the Sunriver Chamber of Commerce and Deschutes County Children and Families Commission Event: Cynthia and Kitty attended a child care conference for employers in Sunriver. Kitty delivered the opening remarks and included a discussion of the role of the Commission for Child Care. She said that a group of people are interested in developing child care capacity in the county. A needs assessment was conducted by the extension service in Deschutes County. Cynthia described her conversations with two area employers that have child care programs, one a small employer with on-site child care and the other, an employer who offers a child care subsidy.

Legislative Update - Tamara Brickman, Employment Department Legislative Coordinator

Tamara provided updates on the following:

HB 2190: Giving ED rulemaking authority for CCD

This bill has passed both chambers and is awaiting the Governor's signature.

HB 2191: Child Care Financing Task Force recommendation regarding child care in comprehensive planning.

This bill passed is awaiting the Governor's signature.

HB 2873: **Summary?**

This was assigned to Subcommittee on Transportation of Ways and Means – no hearing yet.

HB 3066: "Oregon Cares"

This bill in Ways and Means, but is not assigned to a subcommittee.

HB 3184: CCD Tax Credit

This bill passed and will go to Governor for signature.

Bill number?: At-home infant care

This bill is in Ways and Means, but not assigned to a committee.

HB 3564: Subsidy program for income post-secondary students

This is in Ways and Means, but not assigned to a subcommittee.

HB 3638: Regarding county services for mental health and developmental disabilities

This bill is in the Rules and Public Affairs Committee. If passed, it will allow local commissions on children and families to "opt out" of providing services if general funds are not available. This is being interpreted to allow local commissions to dissolve.

Tamara explained that State Commission on Children and Families state agency lost all funding for the planning function.

SB 534: Creates exemption for extended family member

This bill passed the house on Wednesday and is ready for Governor to sign.

SB 718: Companion to HB 3564

This is in Ways and Means and is not assigned.

SB 893: Would allow CCD to deny registration or certification or impose discipline based on conduct outside of scope of activity but which would affect standing

This bill is in Ways and Means.

Next Friday, the Employment Department budget is scheduled to be heard. The Legislature is expected to take \$15 million in interest to backfill the General Fund deficit from the \$234 million in the Supplemental Employment Department Administrative Fund (SEDAF), which is used to keep services at current level.

The Legislature is also looking at taking the \$4 million ending balance of Jobs Plus to help back fill the General Fund deficit.

In the Child Care Division (CCD), the Legislature is expected to take away all General Fund and back fill with federal block grant funds. The CCD is asking to leave the General Fund as is and use money previously marked for 3% cost-of-living allowances.

Rosetta Wangerin, DHS, Co-Chair of the Childhood Care and Education Coordinating Council Training Committee

Rosetta provided an overview of the current training system. She indicated that previously, the "system" was fragmented and roles and responsibilities of various

partners needed greater definition. CCD Administrator Tom Olsen empowered a subcommittee of the Training on Quality committee, which is chaired by Dell Ford, to create a formal system. The subcommittee consists of representatives of the Oregon Childhood Care and Education Center at Portland State University, Oregon Child Care Resource & Referral Network, Department of Human Services, Child Care Division, Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children, and Department of Education, and the Oregon Research Partnership. The subcommittee has developed a 25-page action plan to develop a quality control system. The plan includes common definitions and contractual methods for evaluation and accountability of programs and projects funded by the Child Care & Development Fund.

Tom indicated the committee has been successful in defining roles and responsibilities. For example, the CCR&R Network is responsible for coordinating and delivering training in local communities, and PSU is responsible to develop curriculum to train-the-trainers. Performance is evaluated through contracts with the Child Care Division.

Discussion:

Giving input to the committee

Kitty asked how input can be provided to the committee. Rosetta invited Commission members to be on agenda.

OCET <OCET = Oregon Childhood Care and Education Trainer>

Cheryl asked how this related to OCET certification.

Rosetta indicated that OCET is one form to establish credentials – not the only one.

Cheryl asked how trainers are selected. Rosetta indicated that each CCR&R decides who will deliver training at local level. Cheryl related her experience in providing training via OCET.

Training Availability

Lisa stated that in the Pendleton area the only trainers are those directly connected to CCR&R. She would like to see more tapping of community resources. The CCD certifier contacts Lisa frequently to serve as informal mentor. Lisa would like to see recognition for those who offer help.

Rosetta said that there is the mentoring program that provides stipends. Lisa stated that we frequently hear that there is no funding, so we would have to travel outside the area. Rosetta explained that distribution of training funds are determined by previous participation levels in their areas.

Kitty asked if the Network is communicating with local child care providers about training schedules. Tom said that the next step is to create a clearinghouse of trainers (database). This is in progress. Until then, the Network is coordinating training in an “ad hoc way”. The goal is to first identify all training. Tom said that the Network is now in charge of local training, and the Network should let providers know via local CCR&Rs.

Cynthia stated that there is always a tension in this state between rural and more populated areas. There really isn't enough money in the system at this point to ensure even distribution. In Roseburg, for example, there were no OCET trainers, so it was difficult to become certified and to find OCET trainers.

Invitation to the Network to provide information to the OCCC:

John Sandusky asked about the role of the Commission with respect to training. Kitty indicated that the Commission members need to understand changes are taking place, and our concern and question is "how are CCR&Rs letting providers know if there are training needs or questions?" Kitty would like Network to respond to this.

Lisa wants updated training lists via email. Tom said that eventually the training lists will be online, and CCR&Rs need new software to capture and update this information. Rosetta volunteered to keep the OCCC updated on the development of the training database and clearinghouse.

To Do: Cynthia will ask Mary to report on this to the Commission.

Pam Dunn, Chair Oregon Child Care Resource & Referral Network, Coordinator, Linn-Benton Family Connections

Pam briefed the Commission on outreach that each CCR&R does with providers listed with DHS and not registered.

Kitty indicated greater communication is needed between the education community, health community, parent groups and CCR&Rs. She offered Commission members as partners in facilitating communication. Tom suggested that Commission members meet with the Network Association.

Pam said that the local commissions on children and families' early childhood planning teams are a good place to share communication. Kitty was concerned that not all counties have participation from the education field.

John said that economic and community development and community planners and nonprofit community development corporations need to get the message that child care is a basic component in the infrastructure and that providers should buy into the role they play. John's CDC (community development corporations) runs a CCR&R program, so he sees firsthand that the understanding isn't there that child care is part of community development.

Pam said that many CCR&Rs are working with CDCs. Kitty said that we have had the conversation in the past with Bob Repine. Pam cited the CDC in Harrisburg as an example.

Lisa asked if CCR&Rs work with city officials. Pam said that yes, at one time, her CCR&R had a contract with the City of Corvallis, and they do continue to work with them in certain arenas. John indicated that all cities and counties have planning

departments. Kitty said that we should look to the Association of Oregon Cities as a way to reach municipalities.

Rosetta indicated that DHS contracts specifically with R&Rs to work with listed providers. CCR&Rs send a newsletter, an invitation to join the database, have multi-cultural staff, how to become an enhanced provider to receive the higher reimbursement rate and help with training if providers want to care for more children.

Pam said that at every overview session, CCR&Rs encourage providers to become listed. Pam then described the difference between overviews and orientation. Orientation involves meeting with families in JOBS program about financial assistance to providers, scholarships to become enhanced, and information on training. CCR&Rs also provide equipment on loan and are connected to DHS direct pay unit to help providers find out about payments. Pam indicated that CCR&Rs have worked with centers to help with billing DHS direct pay unit, business assistance, issues of discipline, referrals to families, information on USDA, recruitment, etc. In her CCR&R, one person is dedicated half-time to JOBS families, and one person works with direct pay unit.

Lisa asked about providers and prepayment. Pam said although that is a good business practice, it isn't possible to do with the subsidy program

Cheryl said that 50% of participants do not follow through on doing child care. Do you offer mentoring services?

Pam said that one of the mentors is on her staff, Alice Lyman, Professional Development Associate (former provider for 17 years).

Pam's CCR&R is funded by both commissions on children and families. Her staff follows up with all new and prospective providers to help them get registered and started.

Kitty said she wants to follow through on the joint meeting of the Commission for Child Care and Network Association.

To Do: Cynthia will talk to Mary about arranging a date for the Association and Commission for Child Care to meet jointly.

General Discussion

Tom said that interviews for the Executive Officer will be held June 13th. Lisa wants to participate by phone, and Kathryn and John said they may be available. Kitty will send out a message and invite Commission members to participate.

Tom described a preliminary conversation with Oregon Public Broadcasting to collaborate on provider training using OPB distance learning capabilities. He said the OPB Educational Coordinator is coming to next meeting of the Oregon Child Care Information Partnership.

Strategic Planning Re: Oregon's System of Child Care

Kitty wants to move on it in September. She asked for input about how to get really good participation from the Commission and Task Force members. She proposed scheduling Commission meetings for half of the day, and strategic planning with partners and task force members during the other half, with joint meetings taking place over the course of one year.

Rosetta indicated that in the case of the Task Force, energy was strong in first meeting and then dissipated. She said that it helped to have a one or two day commitment to the planning process with the work group meeting between four all-day meetings. She thought that having it at the Capitol helped set the tone. Involve as many from task force as are willing and representatives from the child care community, such as mental health and inclusive child care projects.

Tom advised using the federal plan as the base of the strategic plan because federal funds are already committed. Then, consider how to we expand the current infrastructure with non-federal funds.

Janelle Welker suggested having one central place to pull all the information together. She said that the Coordinating Council does this around the federal fund, but there isn't another place for the rest, so it would strategic to move this forward within an agenda. Janelle suggested linking the process with the implementation of HB 2191 since the Commission will have appointments on the State Commission on Children and Families.

Sum Up Items

Kitty thanked Marcia Martin for helping the Commission until a regular staff person could be hired.

Kitty asked Commission members to review Tom's handout regarding the "good news" in child care and to give feedback. Janelle said that the document doesn't reflect the local work or the work on the Personnel Development Registry.

Kitty reviewed items on the OCCC action plan. Marcia asked for buyoff or additional changes on the biennial report.

The motion to approve the draft of the biennial report with no additional changes and send it for printing as is was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned by Kitty Piercy.