

Oregon Commission for Child Care

Prioritization of Financing Task Force Recommendations

October 10, 2004

Commissioners present: Kitty Piercy, Martha Young, Nina Roll, John Sandusky, Rep. Farr, Martha Longworth, Lisa Kopetski, Cheryl Reece, Astrid Newell, Glenda Hamstreet (for Rep. Scott)

Commissioners pending appointment: Dee Dee Overholser, Lynne Angland, Elizabeth Jacobs, Kelly Ritter

Guests: Tom Olsen, Gary Burris, Tony Nelson

Staff: Claudia Grimm

I.) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Chair Piercy. Introductions were made.

II.) OVERVIEW OF CHILD CARE SYSTEM IN OREGON

Tom spent an hour and a half giving Commissioners an overview of the child care system in Oregon.

III.) INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY/AGREEMENTS

Claudia introduced Tony Nelson, with Employment Department's Training Section, who would be the facilitator for the day's activities. Claudia asked the group for clarification on the prioritization process. The Commission's elected officials and Commissioners pending appointment are not official voting members. After consulting with Tony, she suggested that everybody be able to participate in today's prioritization activities, with a formal vote of adoption by voting members at the next meeting. The Commission was in full agreement with this suggestion.

Tony led the group in an introductory activity before the lunch break. After lunch Commissioners developed agreements for group process. Commissioners were divided into 4 small groups, led by an experienced Commissioner. Groups were given 2-3 of the Financing Task Force Recommendations, and were charged with developing a poster that addressed how the recommendation would benefit children, families, businesses, and Oregonians. Small groups would report back to the large group, and then Commissioners would get 5 dots, which they could use to prioritize the Recommendations.

Before breaking into small groups, Claudia said that Nina had contacted her with a concern that Recommendation #7 *Improve Oregonians' abilities to locate and make informed decisions about quality child care* was not included in the list of

recommendations given to the small groups. Nina noted that this recommendation included fully funding the Child Care Resource and Referral system. One strategy to accomplish this goal was to reduce the 100% match, but this strategy by itself does not fully fund the entire system. Tom replied that members of Oregon's Childhood Care and Education Coordinating Council and Commission for Child Care have already developed a policy statement that supports the core components of Oregon's child care infrastructure, including resource and referral. With that commitment firmly in place, it seems redundant to prioritize this recommendation. After some discussion, the Commission came to consensus not to include Recommendation #7 in the prioritization process.

GROUP ASSIGNMENTS:

Kitty

Martha L.
Nina R.
Kelly

John

Rep. Scott
Lynne
Rosetta*

Lisa

Dee Dee
Martha Y.
Rep. Farr
Tom

Cheryl

Elizabeth
Astrid
Gary

*Claudia granted proxy privileges in Rosetta's absence

IV.) OUTCOME OF PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

Utilize program and tax expenditures to improve the quality of available child care AND explore the full use of existing funding streams to improve the quality of care. (17 dots; Commissioners agreed that it makes sense to group these two recommendations because they deal with modifying existing policies, programs, laws and/or Admin. Rules. These recommendations do not require an influx of funding to implement).

Providers

Facility accreditation
Training subsidy
Employee retention

Info to Employers

Benefit offering
Revise employer tax credit via Rule; make it more attractive
Productivity and employee loyalty

DHS Co-Pay

Utilize waiting list
Create sliding scale

Parents and Families

Tax credit?

EDUCATION!!

Quality = peace of mind

Tax Credit

Remove barriers

Quality criteria

Use solid data to drive the planning process for child care investments. (13 dots).

Available Info (ie. what's in the pie)

R&R supply and demand

Cost per child

Quality Indicators

Exempt care

Census data (big picture)

System outline and overall cost

Legislation

What's Missing

Children with disabilities

Children with mental illness

Information on children over 10 (school age care)

ESL children

Homeless children in Head Start and Oregon Pre-Kindergarten programs

Child care programs operating in homeless shelters (How many programs? How many kids do they serve? For how long? Family turnover)

Missing Partners

Dept. of Education

Oregon Housing and Community Services

Recommend that the Commission for Child Care engage the business community, higher education and others as partners in the development of united advocacy and planning for a quality child care system AND engage Oregon businesses as allies in supporting families and advocating for public support of child care. (12 dots; Commissioners agreed that it made sense to group these two recommendations together because they both reference engaging partners that have not typically been involved in child care issues).

Potential Partners

Higher ed: how to sell the career of child care

Healthy Start: how to sell the idea of being a provider

Faith Communities—they provide a lot of care
Philanthropic
Business partners/peers

Impact on Oregon

- Broader investment
 - Funding partners
 - Philanthropic
 - State policies
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- Relationship of business and effect of child care on employers
 - Marketing for businesses
 - What is the cost savings for businesses and agencies in Oregon?

Explore the creation of new revenue streams to pilot new ways of financing child care (8 dots).

Money into the child care system will affect the child care system (trilemma of child care) by decreasing cost and driving up quality and supply.

Develop strategies to better inform all sectors of society about the benefits of quality child care (8 dots).

Spotlight on child care and healthy children and families!

Improve the ability of low-income families to afford quality child care (6 dots). Impacts:

Children

- Access to more types and hours of child care
- Nurtured to meet full potential
- Less turnover in child care/ more stability

Families/Parents

- Ability to attend training and employment opportunities
- Improve job retention
- Frees \$ from family budget to meet other critical needs (i.e. decrease hunger)

Business

- Decrease absenteeism
- Improve employee morale, attention to job
- Increase pool of potential workers

Oregonians

- Less dependence on public assistance
- Decrease hunger and social needs
- Increase stability of children during formative years
- Prevention of social problems

Use workforce training and compensation mechanisms to develop a child care workforce that is better able to provide quality care (6 dots). Impacts:

Children

- Better brain development (physical, cognitive, emotional, social) due to high quality care
- Ready to learn/enter public school

Parents/Families

- Receive increased support, information on community resources
- Job acquisition and retention, less absenteeism

Businesses/Providers

- Workforce recruitment/retention
- Development of future workforce

Society/Oregonians

- Raising Healthy human beings
- Less contact with systems of care (i.e. juvenile justice, etc.)

V.) NEXT STEPS

Commissioners agreed to hold a meeting on November, 21 to formally adopt the priorities from today's process. We will also revisit the Commission's Mission, Vision and Goals for 2004. Tony will facilitate this meeting.

Claudia agreed to draft a 2004 meeting schedule and forward it to Commissioners for comment via E-Mail. The second Friday of the month does not work for either Dee Dee or Nina.

John made a motion to accept the September minutes; Astrid second the motion. There was a unanimous approval to accept the minutes.

Kitty adjourned the meeting at 4 pm.

