

# Oregon Commission for Child Care Minutes

1/23/04

**present:** Kathy Criswell, Lisa Kopetski, Rosetta Wangerin, Nina Roll, Martha Young, Cheryl Reece, Vada Salinas, Lynne Angland, Kitty Piercy, Martha Longsworth, DeeDee Overholser

**guests:** Mark Anderson, Bruce Sorte, Cynthia Hurkes, Kathleen Hynes, Kitty Lake

## **I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Vice Chair Lynne Angland called the meeting to order at 9:10.

The group introduced themselves to our newest member, Vada Salinas. Claudia discussed the current vacancies: State and Local Government, Labor (both Speaker appointments) and Senator. Commissioners discussed sending a letter to Speaker Minnis requesting her to appoint Elizabeth to the Labor position. Commissioners decided to wait until after the election to do this. **Note:** *The Speaker has since appointed Frieda Ryan Anzur to the State and Local Government position on the Commission.*

## **II. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

Kitty joined the meeting and resumed the duties of Chair. Rosetta made a motion to approve the November minutes as amended by Martha L. Cheryl second the motion and it passed.

Claudia distributed the revised draft policy recommendation regarding necessary and actual travel expenses, reimbursement of child care expenses and performance of Commission duties. She incorporated Commissioners' comments from the November meeting. Lisa moved to approve the travel policy as written. Kathy second the motion. The policy was unanimously approved. Kitty also requested that Claudia check with Tom and Debbie to see if any additional agency approval is needed to implement the policy. **Note:** *A legislative concept must be submitted by the Employment Dept. to implement this policy.*

Claudia checked with Tom and the only Committee that requires Commissioner participation is the CCR&R Advisory Committee. Currently John Sandusky serves on this committee. Claudia will ask about Commissioner term limits for this committee at their next meeting March 17. Lisa added that new legislation now requires the Chair of the Commission for Child Care or the Director of the Employment Department to serve on the State Board of the Commission on Children and Families (meets quarterly).

Claudia said she usually represents the Commission at child care partner meetings but any Commissioner is welcome to attend any meeting at anytime. The Childhood Care and Education Coordinating Council (CCECC) is the major meeting of partners and it is the group that advises Tom on spending federal Child Care Development Fund dollars. The meetings are every other month; DeeDee attended the last meeting. Claudia agreed to forward agendas and minutes of CCECC meetings to Commissioners.

A facilitator has been secured under contract for the Financing Strategic Planning Group. Kitty and Claudia explained how the facilitator took the Commission's prioritized recommendations of the Financing Task Force and developed a strategy to guide the strategic planning process. Kitty described the role of the Work Group (child care "experts") in relation to the Strategic Planning Group (businesses, advocates and policy makers). Kitty reminded Commissioners that it will be important to participate in the Strategic Planning Group for Financing Quality Child Care. Claudia said there would be a more extensive update in March.

Claudia described the event that the Child Care Information Partnership (CCIP: a subcommittee of CCECC) is planning for later this spring. Details for the event are still in process. Bruce Sorte's child care economic impact analysis will be completed by June. Mildred Warner, a renowned economist from Cornell University, has been invited to give a speech at a City Club of Portland luncheon. Bruce's research findings will be unveiled at this time, and the Commission's strategic plan for financing may play a role in the event. Claudia said that she has spoken with Kitty and would like the Commission to be a primary sponsor of the event.

Rosetta inquired whether Tom had any concerns regarding the Commission taking a primary sponsorship role in this event. Commissioners agreed that the Commission should be highlighted. Lisa said that we're not used to blowing our own horn and we need to do that. Commissioners agreed to work with the CCIP to create a media splash. The City Club luncheon with Mildred will be Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. Claudia suggested we use the March meeting for planning. Kitty reminded Commissioners that all partners need to unite in this opportunity and move in the same direction: Governor's office, Children First, Commission on Children and Families, etc. This should be a coordinated planning effort so that everyone feels they're important and have played a part in putting this together. Rosetta suggested involving decision makers from the State Board of the Commission on Children and Families, since Kitty is serving on that Board representing child care.

**Commissioner reports on activities:**

A.) Rosetta is Chair of the Kith and Kin Work Group of the Training and Quality Committee (subcommittee of CCECC). She would like to have 1-2 Commissioners serve on the Work Group. The group would develop

connections with, and resources for, Kith and Kin Care (informal, family level care, neighbors). *Do we know that children are receiving quality care in these environments?* Rosetta said these care environments may often be isolated, with providers needing connection to resources. Also, a majority of kith and kin providers are exempt from CCD regulation. Cheryl agreed to participate; evenings are better for her to attend meetings. Lisa suggested Rosetta seek representation from the Oregon Family Child Care Network.

B.) DeeDee reported that she is a member of Linn County's Early Childhood Planning Team. There will be a Family Tree Relief Nursery opening in Linn County (funding may also be secured to open Relief Nursery in Benton County). Services for the Linn County relief nursery will be provided in one location, vs. subcontracting with other agencies to provide them. Commissioners asked Claudia to find out how much money is raised by the Child Abuse Prevention check-off box on the State Income Tax form, and where the money is disseminated.

### III. **ECONOMIC IMPACT OF CHILD CARE IN OREGON**

Bruce Sorte, an economist from Oregon State University, introduced himself and his assistant, Jessica. Bruce is going to be conducting the economic impact analysis of child care in Oregon. The study is being funded by Employment Department using federal Wagner-Peyser funds, which are ear-marked for employment services. The Commission for Child Care will be the primary sponsor of the study. Bruce gave Commissioners an overview of the methodology he will be using. Preliminary research results should be available by April, with the final report ready for the June event with Mildred Warner. Claudia videotaped Bruce's presentation. Please contact her if you would like to borrow a copy of the tape.

Since the Commission is a primary sponsor of the study, Bruce asked Commissioners to brainstorm the policy implications of the study (called the "ASK"); what does the Commission hope policy makers, businesses, decision makers, etc. will do as a result of reading the findings?

Leading into the ASK, Commissioners brainstormed a list of questions that the study might answer:

- A.) What does child care mean to me if I do not have children?
- B.) How does child care affect my ability to hire staff?
- C.) What percentage of state domestic product is derived from child care?
- D.) How does the child care industry affect the tax base?
- E.) How does child care affect the economy?
- F.) What affect does child care have on positive child outcomes? *Bruce noted his study will not address this question*
- G.) Will Oregon's growing ethnic populations affect the child care industry?
- H.) How does the economic impact vary by geographic region?

## **THE ASKS**

Rosetta: What is the cost to employers if they lose child care?

Kitty: 1.) Ask Legislators to use this information not to divert federal funding from child care; 2.) Ask business community to be partners in financially supporting child care (employer human resource policy and businesses as partners in financing the child care system)

Mark: An increase in provider DHS reimbursement rates has economic impact.

Lynne: Ask the state of Oregon to change interpretation of employment rules (federal and state government should increase the amount of compensation for employees).

## **IV. EMPLOYER OF CHOICE CAMPAIGN**

Cynthia Hurkes is the Business Liaison with the Oregon Child Care Resource and Referral Network. She is promoting the Employer of Choice Campaign, which is a public information campaign for employers funded with Wagner-Peyser funds. Cynthia began her presentation by stating 96% of businesses in Oregon are small businesses, employing 50 people or fewer. Cynthia began the research for her campaign by asking employers what they wanted to know about child care. Employers want to know the return on investment: how will investment in child care benefit my business? Cynthia has built a power point presentation around this concept.

Commissioners discussed the Employer of Choice campaign. Although the Oregon recognition luncheon is no longer in existence, Commissioners requested Kitty ask the OCCF Board if local commissions could partner with their R&R and recognize one large and small employer in their county. Kitty agreed to move this concept forward.

## **V. CHILD CARE DIVISION UPDATE**

Claudia introduced Kathleen Hynes, CCD's new Licensing and Compliance Manger; and Kitty Lake, Field Manager. The pair gave an update of what is new at the Child Care Division. Certifiers moved to a new data system this month called CCRIS. The system was written specifically for child care by providers. It will facilitate access to information on providers and will facilitate communication between agencies.

All child care center certifiers are now located in field offices around the state. Family child care certifiers are located at the Central Office (Oregon Employment Department in Salem). Central Office staff are grouped in teams and work with providers according to geographic area of the state. The Criminal History Registry is also located in the Central Office. New legislation designating two levels of crime was implemented this month.

The pair reported that CCD has now completed its first two-year cycle of Health and Safety inspections of family child care homes. During the second round of inspections, CCD hopes to reinforce relationships with providers and offer additional technical assistance. CCD has been using a proactive vs. punitive approach in working with providers. This shift in agency direction is now being recognized and acknowledged by Oregon's providers.

**VI. PARTNER UPDATES**

Mark Anderson reported on DHS' Student Child Care Block Grant Program. One million dollars in general funding was restored to this program, however it is tied to the outcome of Measure 30. Students can apply to be on a waiting list for funds until January 30. There will then be a random drawing for 200 eligible students to apply to the program. The application process may be put on hold if measure 30 fails.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.