

OREGON COMMISSION FOR CHILD CARE MINUTES

9/24/04

present: Rosetta Wangerin, Frieda Ryan Anzur, Kathy Criswell, Philip Anderson, Lynne Angland, Steve Kuhn, Kitty Piercy, Nina Roll, Cheryl Reece, Martha Longworth

guests: Randy Westrick, Tony Nelson, Tasha Peterson, Mark Anderson, Patsy Kohout, Carol Wire

staff: Claudia Grimm

I. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A.) Chair Wangerin welcomed Commissioners and guests. Introductions of Commission members and guests were made. The June minutes were reviewed. Kitty made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Lynne second the motion. The June minutes were unanimously accepted.

Claudia passed around a recent roster of Commission members and gave a membership update. Sen. Sheilds was recently appointed by President of the Senate, Peter Courtney. Martha Young has resigned due to health problems; the At-Large position is now vacant. The group discussed cultural diversity as being an important consideration in the candidate applying for the At-Large position. As a Commission we must strive to expand the perspective and voice of child care. Claudia will contact organizations representing people of color and ask for assistance in filling the vacant position.

B.) Mark Anderson gave an update on the State Administrator's conference. Shannon Christian, with the federal Child Care Bureau (CCB), stated that CCB is still waiting for Congress to reauthorize funding. The assumption is that funding will be flat or decreased; there will be most likely not be any new child care dollars. Mark stated that for the past few years, state agencies have been carrying same funding forward. Congress may decide on a welfare reform bill this winter.

A new issue at the federal level is improper payments. CCB is working to develop a plan for addressing fraud or error in child care payments. The report will include a common definition of improper payment, and will describe what states are doing to address fraud. A new section will be added to Oregon's state plan to address the issue of improper payment in the child care subsidy program.

Another new theme was child care leadership, with a particular an emphasis on professional development. Patsy briefly described Oregon's system for professional development and directed Commissioners to the Oregon Center for Career Development in Childhood Care and Education's website for more information: www.centerline.pdx.edu. Joann Contini, Director of the Center, will

make a presentation to the Commission at next month's meeting on the work of the Center and the Oregon Registry: a system of steps toward child care provider professionalism via training and education.

Mark noted that while at the conference, he heard from national partners that Oregon had one of the best Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) systems in the nation. Kitty suggested writing an article to this effect for the state network newsletter. Mark agreed to write an article. Among other conference themes: child care as economic development, quality indicators and tiered reimbursement.

C.) Commissioners reviewed their budget for this biennium (through June 30, 2005). Now that the Commission is under the jurisdiction of the Child Care Division, the Commission does not really have its own budget; the Commission's budget is actually part of the Child Care Division's budget. Claudia stated that we are half way through the budget period, and spending is on track.

D.) Mark led the discussion of the DHS Policy Option Packages (POP) related to child care. The POP that deals with increasing the subsidy paid to licensed or registered child care providers is priority #12 of 40 submitted by the Department of Human Services (DHS). Priority #16 deals with co-pay and income limits for parents. Mark explained that parent co-pay is a formula based on income; the minimum co-pay is \$25. The co-pay increases as parent income increases. Mark stated that he doesn't know if these POPs will pass or not; this will be a rough Legislative Session.

E.) Claudia presented the One Voice For Child Care Advocates agenda for the 2005 Legislative Session. Both Rosetta and Claudia will be attending the meeting on October 4th when different child care advocacy groups and organizations will vote on adopting this agenda as the shared child care Legislative platform. Kitty asked whether the Governor supports this agenda. Claudia replied that she does not know the Governor's agenda until he releases his budget in early December. The group discussed their role of advising and informing the Governor and Legislature in relation to the One Voice agenda. Nina noted that these roles differ from advocacy. Carol offered that Commissions are free to advise, until the Governor's budget comes out. After that time, the Commission cannot advocate or make any recommendations for things that are not in line with his budget. Randy suggested noting that the One Voice agenda is our advice to Governor; we are advising the Governor on what should be priorities in his budget. The Commission supports these concepts as they are presented on the One Voice agenda, however, we cannot support specific legislation at this time. Kitty suggested that these recommendations are in line with the priorities that the Commission has been working on with their financing work. Kitty then made a motion that the Commission advises moving the One Voice agenda forward, with the understanding that it is conceptual at this

time. Nina second Kitty's motion. The Commission unanimously voted to endorse the concepts presented in the One Voice agenda.

F.) Claudia reported that the child care economic impact analysis is almost complete. Mildred Warner, an economist from Cornell University, has offered to conduct a strategy session with a small group of interested partners on October 21. Kathy expressed interest in attending, as did Rosetta. Philip stated that the business perspective is important; he will try to make it if he can. Kitty suggested having one of the Commission's legislators attend. Give them a role: introduction or welcome. **Note:** Tom Olsen, Administrator of the Child Care Division, clarified that this is an informal work session of 15-20 people, who will work with Mildred on how to use the economic impact findings to move the child care agenda forward. It is not the type of high profile business event that the Commission hopes to sponsor when the report is finalized. After speaking with the Governor's office, and the sponsor of the strategy session, Claudia decided that it would probably not be a good use of a legislator's time to participate in this type of informal planning event.

G.) Rosetta talked about the meeting schedule for 2005. Commissioners agreed that the fourth Friday of the month works. Claudia will speak with Tom and Sonja about being able to travel to areas around the state. We could piggyback a Thursday evening public forum or discussion with a Friday morning Commission meeting. Cheryl said she would like to get a Portland-Metro perspective. Philip suggested an April meeting in Bend. Randy suggested Commissioners could tour community child care facilities. Kitty would like to use local cable access channels to videotape out-of-town meetings; the Commission could use the video-tapes for advocacy purposes.

TENTATIVE 2005 MEETING SCHEDULE (to be agreed upon at the Commission's October meeting)

- Friday, January 28; Salem
- Friday, February 25; Salem
- Thursday-Friday, April 21-22; Bend
- Friday, May 20; Salem (this is the 3rd Friday)
- Friday, June 24; Salem
- Friday, September 23; Salem (strategic planning retreat)
- Friday, October 28; Salem
- Friday, November 18; Salem (third Friday)

Rosetta would like to build a Round Table discussion time into Commission agendas. She will work with Claudia on this.

II. FINALIZE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FINANCING QUALITY CHILD CARE

Commissioners approved editing on the second half of the plan. Claudia will finalize for publication and distribution in October!! Claudia will also check with

Debbie Lincoln regarding purchasing project management software to track progress.

III. COMMISSION STRATEGIC PLANNING WITH TONY NELSON AND TASHA PETERSON

A.) Commission Role:

- **Advising** (what's working: green light; what's not working: red light). How do we strengthen this role?
- **Heartlink** to Governor
- **Diverse** group; not tied to a state agency
- **Liaison** to community (employers, providers, general public)
- **Provide context** for child care in Oregon (where we've been, where we are now, future direction).
- **Committed** to accessible, affordable and quality child care for all Oregonians (our Financing Plan). Early education makes the case for later success.
- Method for **checks and balances**.
- Higher **visibility**: give child care a voice!!

B.) Results of Strategic Planning for Commission Work Plan 2005-2007

Subject to review and approval at October meeting

- **Commission Process (internal)**
 - ✓ Orientation to child care system for new members (Tom PowerPoint)
 - ✓ New member notebooks
 - ✓ Commissioners list other committees, boards, etc. that they currently serve on so that we can share knowledge and resources
 - ✓ Link presentations to the Commission to the strategic priorities (affordability, accessibility, quality, safety). Have presenters use a template that shows the linkage, guides our discussion and suggests "calls to action" for the Commission (i.e. next steps)
 - ✓ If we can't get more diverse membership, invite other cultures to meetings for information on their specific child care challenges and what we can do to help.
 - ✓ Visit communities around Oregon to see what is working/not working, or innovative solutions that they have come up with to address their unique child care needs.
 - ✓ Work on specific issues in subgroups.
 - ✓ Need project management software (preferred) or planning matrix to track progress on projects outlined in the financing plan and across the child care system.
 - ✓ Identify barriers and prioritize strategies to accomplishing OCCC Mission.

- **Heartlink to Governor**
 - ✓ More frequent ongoing communication with the Governor.
 - ✓ Method for on-going reports or updates to the Governor regarding our work.
 - ✓ Have the Governor come to a meeting.
 - ✓ Organize a day of recognition with child care partners at which the Governor honors the work of child care providers; make it yearly.

- **Media/Public Relations/Strategic Communication**
 - ✓ Listserv or message board to facilitate statewide communication among partners/providers/consumers.
 - ✓ Put out news releases of when Commission meets next.
 - ✓ Outreach campaign to communities to inform them who the Commission is/what we do.
 - ✓ Create media opportunities for the Commission, to make us more visible.
 - ✓ Ongoing effort to promote public awareness and support regarding the importance of early childhood development and quality child care.

- **Outreach to Business**

Continue to engage business. Use the economic impact data to build public-private partnerships and make the case for business investment in child care (summary of two comments regarding this issue).

- **Interface With Child Care Partners**
 - ✓ Continue to be a central hub for state/community partners. Be a link for communication and support.
 - ✓ Develop a tool kit for ways local government can support/promote child care.
 - ✓ Strengthen our relationship and partnership with county and state Commission on Children and Families.
 - ✓ Become more involved in the Childhood Care and Education Coordinating Council: is federal (CCDF) funding projects/programs assisting in moving Oregon's child care agenda forward?

- **Continue to Promote Provider Training, Compensation and Quality Initiatives**
 - ✓ Continue to explore and support broad compensation and benefit incentive opportunities for providers.
 - ✓ Promote distance learning through technology (part of Financing Plan).
 - ✓ Continue to educate and empower providers to use their advocacy skills to leverage resources.
 - ✓ Create a new Benchmark.

- **Content of Report to Governor**

- ✓ THEME: Quality child care benefits everyone (Martha L)
- ✓ LETTER FROM CHAIR: Continued need for general fund \$ to make the system work
- ✓ OCCC HISTORY: past, current and future direction; Membership
- ✓ CHILD CARE SYSTEM: What is working and not working (red light/green light); references “issues and problems” in statute
- ✓ PROGRAMS, PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES (OCCC rationale):
 - ❖ CARES: Provider scholarships and wage enhancements for increased training
 - ❖ Child Care as Economic Development
 - ❖ Child Care Contribution Tax Credit
 - ❖ Financing Strategic Plan
 - ❖ Quality Indicator Pilot (a tool to measure quality)
 - ❖ Child Care for Children With Special Needs (Inclusion)

C.) **What Commissioners Can Do Between Meetings to Support This Plan**

- a. Personal contacts
- b. Public speaking
- c. Media releases
- d. Child care for kids/families in conflict
- e. Contact your employer to promote child care as a workforce issue
- f. Work with the faith community to strengthen community access to child care
- g. Attend your local Commission on Children and Families meetings