

Oregon Commission for Child Care
10/26/07
Roth's IGA Hospitality Center

Attendees: Rosetta Wangerin, Stephanie Swan, Katie Larive, Kitty Piercy, Deborah Murray, Randy Fishfader, DeeDee Overholser, Cheryl Reece, Rep. Linda Flores, Rep. Tina Kotek

Partners and Guests: Marian McDonald, Heidi McGowan, Teresa Stevenson, Beth Unverzagt, Sonia Worsel, Kim Cardona, Kathleen Hynes, Tom Olsen

Action - September minutes

Motion to accept – Kitty, seconded – Randy - approved

Community Forums re. School Age Exempt Care

Proposed community forums in Portland, January 24th, Eugene, February 21st, April 17th, Medford

Kitty and Deborah recommended contacting CCF Directors to partner. Kitty recommended that we are intentional to partner with the local CCF's on the forums.

Rosetta said she would like to see us push over the mountain. Cheryl said it would be helpful to know what issues are happening in the community. Tom noted that he visited 6 or 7 group homes in eastern Oregon which were facilities that moved from 12 to 16 children. Tom said that most of the push for going to 16 is in the Portland area. In Portland, there is one owner who has 4 to 5 group homes which is creating some licensing issues that we may want to discuss in the Commission. There may need to put some brackets around the issue. There may be zoning issues, for example, Portland requires that someone live in the home but it doesn't have to be the provider/owner. It seems there is an interpretation of what is allowable. Kitty noted the issue is more exempt care vs. if facilities are proliferating, as long as they are quality.

Future agenda item – issues related to multiple group homes.

Follow up for PSA's

Heidi, Rosetta, Sonja and Teresa met with Craig Spivey from the Communications section at the Employment Department. He had suggestions on branching out into radio and print. He recommended we pull together a small group to identify a vision and purpose for the PSA's.

Deborah said this is another issue to partner with local CCF's, and that Multnomah is interested in doing something. Kitty said that Eugene has a local media venue that we could use, as does Bend. Local Chambers have outlets as well.

Rosetta talked about the need for an overarching call to action for the PSA's that we could all support. Rosetta recommended that we look at the Commission priorities that

came out of our last retreat. Tom noted it is good project that can be done with little money because it is difficult to measure the outcome of media outreach. Katie would like to see it be Oregon's first five. Randy asked if she could see them.

Action: Teresa will mail them to the Commissioners.

Kitty recommended taking a look at Lane county success by six, which is all about having a good relationship with media. Priscilla Gould with United Way could give us copies and information. Tom recommended on a future agenda to look at PSA campaign with KATU five years ago.

Representative Flores & Representative Kotek –

Rep. Flores recapped what was accomplished last session. We were able to extend the sunset date on Child Care Contribution tax credit to 2013. We received significant push back from eliminating the sunset date. HB 2811 expanding the amount of money available was another problem which Rep. Flores said probably lacked understanding and there is a philosophical bridge that they had difficulty tracking. Rep. Flores said that though our voice is becoming louder in the legislature, now we need to roar. Another issue in regard to OCCC is safe and healthy, HB 3113 which passed and signed by the Governor in July which had to do with reporting child abuse in child care facilities that brought DHS into collaboration with law enforcement. We want to hear on which priorities we need to advance and begin crafting for the 09 session, with the understanding that the 08 mini session is supposed to be limited to pressing policy issues unless we hear that there are pressing policy issues that we need to advance.

Rep. Kotek is pleased to now be officially on the Commission. There were huge investments in the employment related day care (ERDC) which she was pleased to see how much people understood the issue. Coupled with the investment in head start was significant. One of the things the commission could do that we could help is to draft a message to remind the legislature what they did accomplish in the legislature, reference we're going to be working on these issues for 09 but want to thank you for what you did. It takes while to get things moving so we even need to look ahead to 2013. We'll need to maintain investment in ERDC. Where do we want to be in a decade and what are the policy and investment changes that we need to get there because we're not going to get there in 09. This is a challenge for many issues because we've been hold for several years because of the economy so this is an opportunity but a challenge. This is the time to be talking about 09 to possibly get things into interim discussion in the fall.

Rosetta asked January strategic plan, we typically plan for the next legislative session which I'm hoping we can all start now. When we talk about ERDC, did people seem amenable to moving out the 185th poverty level so the working poor can qualify for assistance? Rep. Kotek didn't hear anything about going above what was proposed. One of the messages was what are other states doing in comparison to Oregon. Rep. Kotek noted that as we've restructured TANF, there are some concerns for families that would good to see some numbers on. Mark noted that there are not a large number of families and the cost per case is not that high but could get some numbers.

Rosetta noted in a meeting with partners – head start, R&R, children’s institute – she expressed the concern for foster children and that they can’t access head start. Not only is there poverty but a history of issues and often foster parents don’t have the experience and education to nurture them. Head Start and quality child care is a good way to nurture that. Katie asked for clarification that if a child is a foster child then automatically children are eligible for Head Start. Rosetta said according to Dell but families are not aware of this. Rep. Kotek noted that it brings in issues that foster parents need additional supports.

Randy just offered support for the issues Rosetta raised. Randy noted that we are in place to put some serious money into the quality issue and know that Cares is the best thing we have to promote quality, especially with the quality indicators. We’ve been at the ground level and we finally have the opportunity to raise up. Kitty said we’ve been working on this for 10 years and I don’t think it’s in the consciousness of the legislative body that we have a research based way to ensure children are in quality programs. It’s a steep learning curve for a lot of folks but we have the indicators as a tool to use on every front. Rep. Kotek noted there is a secret plan to educate because of Rep. Clems, Shields and Cannon’s new babies. Tom noted that the CHIF funding was tied to the QI. Kitty noted that we would really love to have a better conversation with legislators who seem to not be very keen on child care.

Deborah noted that things are coming together and the more we can build bridges such as tying Cares to increased quality to the quality indicators project to the movement of conversation on exempt care. To begin to break down silo’s between head start and child care and misconceptions that exist. There is a lot of discussion in Multnomah ECE Council about if any of the new funding was targeted around support services that go along with head start.

Action: Ask Dell Ford regarding the capacity of local community’s such as local mental health providers to support the expansion of head start. Follow up to the Commissioners and Rep. Kotek and Rep. Flores.

Tom noted there is discussion about how to expand head start into child care. Tom also noted that the Governor would like to put together an ECE plan and Tom mentioned Cares and mental health aspects such as mental health consultation. There is talk with partners such as Dept. of Ed to clip on a mental health and full health to add on to existing programs. Tom is meeting with Erin on the 13th on what a package would look like to put MH consultation in a package for kids. EI Special Ed has been contracting with community based services and will contract with preschools but not child care. Tom is holding a meeting on this next week with partners and Erinn Kelley Seal. Rosetta asked if the Commission can be involved in conversation and at what point to be involved. Peninsula is involved in a 3 yr pilot funded by united way and CHIF that has data.

Kitty brought us back to what we have been trying to do which is to bring up the quality of child care. How do we guarantee preschools have quality and qualifications and building the whole of a system. We have to find ways to make it easy for people to meet the get to high standards.

Tina would like specific suggestions to increase access in rural areas. We've had a small set of dollars go through the local CCF's for access and Rep. Kotek will check in but there is a need for recommended strategies. Do we need more access dollars? It would be a good way to bring in some additional legislators. Linda echoed that we do know it is difficult in rural areas. Kitty noted that the 12 to 16 was one strategy.

Odd hour care. Washington gave incentive pay through ERDC to provide odd hour. Kitty recalled from community forums noted they heard from previous forums was 'why do I need to get more training because nothing will change.' Deborah noted that is where the Cares model bridges the two. Kitty said there is work to be done in rural communities as a result.

Katie requested that we keep children with special needs included. Kim from CCF noted there is a need for zoning issues in some communities that try to go from 12 to 16. Rosetta wondered if a survey could be done through the R&R.

Heidi asked Tom his sense from the Gov's office about Cares. Tom said it was not well known. Tina recommended the evaluation get to Erinn Kelly Seal. Kitty noted that they are probably looking for recognizable and easy to get through. Kitty recommended that we may want to look at what we want to do and packaged that is put together for them.

Include a piece of the letters to CCF to raise awareness about ERDC. R&R has done a media blitz to educate providers and the unions are doing this as well. Mark noted that the advisory committee talked about ERDC changes. How can we educate providers on ERDC changes as well as other opportunities?

Child Care Enhancement Program Evaluation (CCEP) – Sonia Worsel, NPC

2 years into the 3 year evaluation of the Lane County CCEP. See power point presentation.

Rosetta recommended that we need the per child dollar amount which appears less than \$2200 per child per year. Linda recommended that each member of the legislature needs to understand the numbers. We need to communicate that retaining a provider is cumulative.

Tom noted that there will be less money spent on the program to cover the gap between income and 10% because of the change in ERDC. There will be more children served as a result. Tom said there is always the question what is the cost of child care, Tom noted now we can say that we now can spend \$2000 per child and we'll get there. Kitty said packaged with this we have the research combined with this data. In Rep. Flores caucus

she is looked to as an expert in child care. We need a key person in the senate, and both caucuses who can discuss. Then the job of who is in pivotal places.

Deborah noted as we make progress that we make sure we don't sabotage other efforts that have been running parallel and now merging. Multnomah is just in the process of recruiting for this project.

Heidi urged the commission to use this data to establish a vision and a strategy for child care in Oregon and to look toward the January strategic planning retreat.

Deborah recommended Marline from evaluator in CCIP to continue to inform this project from seven years of data. Cheryl noted that CCIP does consultation on developing a business model that includes establishing price. This should be a class or part of an overview. Cheryl also noted three things that CCD can do for a parent inquiring about child care. Tom said it was in at the beginning but had to be cut.

Full report is on the CCD web site.

Civil Penalties – Request for input, Kathleen Hynes (see attachment for rule guidance)

Statute does not include imposing fines for violations to a civil penalty on certified facilities, only registered child care. This legislation would bring the language in alignment for registered and certified child care facility and have an equitable system.

Kathleen noted that this fine is imposed rarely because the idea is to gain compliance not to impose a fine, so CCD works with providers to be in compliance.

Would the administrative rule give how long a provider has to pay it back. The notice of penalty tells how much time there is. If a provider comes up for renewal and there is outstanding penalty fine the renewal would not occur.

If the statutory change went into effect, there would be a rule hearing.

Cheryl noted the amounts are minimal but expressed concern about consistency of it being used. Rep. Flores asked what types of things would be actionable. The number of children then allowed, dangerous set up like a gate that is broken and children can get out, or a 3 yr old is wandering down the street – proper ratio, proper training.

Rosetta asked if the decision would be made by the licensing specialist? Kathleen said the licensing specialists recommend it to their supervisor, the supervisor agrees or disagrees, and then it is reviewed by Kathleen. – at least two levels of review. Providers do have the right to appeal through a hearings process.

CCD wants formal advice from the Commission if this is something that should be done.

Motion

Make a recommendation that CCD move ahead on the statute change. – motioned by Deborah, second by Randy. All in favor.

Tom said they will bring the rule back and inform us when the rule hearings will be.

Friends, Family Neighbors Took Kit – Kim Cardona (see PowerPoint slides)

23,000 unregulated family, friends and neighbors providing child care in Oregon. This is a supplemental piece and the orientation training is the systems piece that is specific to Oregon. R&R staff had training this week at their fall conference on how to deliver the orientation piece and tool kit. Providers will get the training and/or tool kit if they agree to fill out short survey. SEIU will recruit providers to attend the trainings.

OCCF paid for the tool kit and partners who are experts in FFN assisted in project.

Would like to put together a tool kit for school age and children with special needs. In addition, add a hand washing and diapering chart.

Are there any other languages in the tool kit? Only Spanish at this time because of cost but hopefully the FFN committee can find other funding to do so. This is the beginning phase.

After school in Oregon – Oregon Ask, Beth Unverzagt

Child and youth development is continuous, both EC and after school are multi sector arenas, share pots of money, share serving high needs children, found new champions, have similar governance and issues such as quality, staffing.

What children are in child care?

Current stats only reflect licensed and registered providers. Thousands of children are in exempt care with no guidelines. I'm not saying that everybody should be regulated but we should know who is caring for children and they should have background checks and after school programs should be clean and safe. For example, one "program" had 38 children in a locker room with no running water.

Is after school child care? We need clear definitions of exempt care and a definition of after school. Oregon Ask has done a preliminary study of how other states are defining after school (see handout).

We have created a dual system – licensed or registered providers, some who are in school systems. Or we have another entity or non-profit that obtain funding operating non licensed programs. What happens to licensed programs when non licensed programs receive supplemental funds? It complicates the programs when systems are not aligned or if agencies don't talk to each other.

The exempt care programs that are "clubs", there are children under the age of 12 who can sign themselves out.

If after school is not child care, how do we ensure the safety of children and move to quality? The first long term study on after school was released in Washington DC.

Beth would like Oregon to have more discussions on these questions. It is a timely thing for Oregon and we need to embrace a continuum of care through education and ECE that when children are 5 they still need appropriate places to go and reduce unintended incentives that create competition.

Will show 2 videos at our November meeting. The work Beth is involved with is supporting this important work in Oregon and the Commission will work closely with Beth.