



Childhood Care and Education Coordinating Council
Meeting Summary
Thursday April 3, 2008
1:00-4:45
Roth's Hospitality Center
1130 Wallace Road NW
Salem, OR 97304

People Present: Kim Cardona, Pam Dunn, Pam Everitt, Barbara Griffin, Kathleen Hynes, Kitty Lake, Tom Olsen, Heidi McGowan, Lynne Reinoso, Terry Butler, Beth Unverzagt, Rhonda Prodzinski.

In lieu of the scheduled agenda, updates were presented by those attending.

System Updates

Rhonda Prodzinski, DHS – Policy Option Packages have been combined into one. They are moving along. Some details are as follows: They have increased to the 75th percentile of the 2006 market rate study. This POP would change it to the 2008 market rate study which is in progress. Exit eligibility would go from 185 percent of FPL to 250 percent. Extend ERDC eligibility from 6 months to a year. Change age cutoff for ERDC to align with TANF. Make FFN orientation mandatory. Kathleen asked if it would require a statutory change. Rhonda stated that it would require a change to rule 155.150. Narratives and pricing for the POP's are still in progress.

Kim Cardona, OCCF – Commissioners will learn about the FFN/DHS initiative in today's meeting. From now on, for every Commission meeting, Kim will have the opportunity to insert a page to educate the Commissioners as to what is going on in the child care system.

Tom Olsen, CCD– Tom has been added to an OCCF committee called “Emerging Issues”. Kim noted that this was positive as child care was made a focus issue in 7 or 8 of the 36 counties. After school care was a priority in 32 of the 36 counties. Child care is in the spotlight.

CCD is working on four legislative concepts including:

1. The change of the name of the “Criminal History Registry” to “Central Background Registry” due to the unintentional connotation of the current name.
2. DAS to do the collective bargaining for the unions that currently work with DHS and CCD.
3. Civil penalties would be able to be imposed on certified facilities (currently, only Registered Family homes can have a penalty imposed). This will provide interim steps to work on issues with certified facilities before revocation becomes necessary.
4. Prohibit individuals who have had a license or criminal history registry revoked from doing exempt child care. Under the current law, they are able to care for three or fewer children.

CCD is waiting to see if there is a recommendation from the Commission for Child Care regarding exemptions for after school child care. Also, CCD is working on the concept of having a centralized criminal history check system for people who work with children. It would voluntarily place people who have nothing negative in a “clean box”.

Heidi McGowan, QIP– Getting ready to ramp up for statewide rollout of the Quality Indicators Project. This includes getting CCD and R&R staff trained with a planned rollout for centers for January '09, and family child care in January '10. Tom noted that this would make it important to get the online professional development database project into “high gear”. It's important to have the QI Project to work efficiently. There is a need to make enrollment in the Registry mandatory for licensed providers. This may involve a rule change. Beth noted that Michigan has an online professional development system available through their R&R and her office is doing more research on how this is working for them. Tom noted that a centralized system is key to making QIP work.

Terry Butler, Inclusive Child Care– They have been working with a website called “disability compass” which is a searchable website on an array of issues having to do with disabilities and resources. They are working on having a specific area on inclusive child care which would house information from the inventory project, as well as other resources. They are being very clear that this is not a place to search for child care. It is already live, but not being advertised as they would like to have more information on it. Google search “disability compass” to take a look at the site.

Partnerships for Inclusive Child Care Project (PICC) has five contracts in place for communities representing about a dozen counties that are doing this cohort of training. They are holding back on selecting new communities due to a process going on with county early intervention/early childhood special education developing plans for inclusion. They will be focusing on some of those communities where TRAC training and the PICC project could be a really good fit. They do have to wait until those counties are ready for this step. It will bring real opportunities for collaboration.

Barbara Griffin, OCCD – In the process of developing a new curriculum called “In the Mix” for providers of care for mixed age groups that include school age children. The first training of trainers will be held May 15th and 16th in Wilsonville. They have received many applications so this should be well attended.

Pam Everitt, Teen Parents– There are two grants currently out waiting to get the paperwork in. There is a brand new child development curriculum that is being introduced in Southern Oregon and then going around the state. Pam and Janet Price visited a teen parent program that was lost in Canyonville due to having to leave their prior location. They have been reconnected with the system and back on the program that Janet oversees.

Pam Dunn – Family Friends and Neighbors training is going well. Providers seem to be enjoying the experience and appreciate the toolkits. Market rate survey data has been completed and submitted to Becky at the Network office. They are now working on getting ERDC information out to the community, as well as the DHS rate changes.

Lynne Reinoso, USDA – They will soon be entering into a contract with Oregon ASK for focused, targeted outreach for at risk summer programs.

Heidi McGowan, Commission for Child Care – Forum coming up in Medford the evening of April 17th, with the Commission's monthly meeting the next day. This is the last one of the year regarding licensing of school age programs. After this is completed, a survey will go up to gather more feedback from around the state. Beth stated that, in relation to this topic, she has a report from After School Investments that has information on after school care in other states. Beth will email a copy to Heidi prior to presenting to the Commission for Child Care in May or June. Thanks to Billie Young for her assistance.

Peggy Cooksey – OSAC (via email) The Oregon Student Assistance Commission has been developing the Oregon Student Childcare Grant over the past six months. We have organized an Implementation Team that includes Dennis Reynolds from this group, as well as other representatives of the financial aid community, student parents, and the Department of Human Services.

OSAC has developed an Oregon Administrative Rule and now has an electronic application available. Under OSAC's administration, the grant is being disbursed directly to the post-secondary institution as a part of the student parent's financial aid package, rather than to child care providers. The student parent is responsible for contacting their financial aid office to make sure that child care costs are considered part of their student budget.

Those student parents who were receiving the award while it was administered at the Department of Human Services were grandfathered in and money was disbursed on their behalf beginning with Winter Term, 2008. Those who were verified as being on the DHS wait list were contacted and invited to send in their application by the priority due date of March 15, 2008.

To date, we have had over 900 hits to the electronic application, with 340 viable applications submitted. Of those 340, 95 have been identified as actually having been on the DHS wait list. Our goal is to finish the awarding process as close to May 1 as possible so that both post-secondary institutions and the recipients may plan for the award in their financial aid packages.

Based on the amount of money available in the grant, just under \$900,000 through the end of the biennium, it appears we will be able to award between 100 and 120 recipients for the 2008-09 academic year.