



Childhood Care and Education Coordinating Council
Meeting Summary
Thursday February 7, 2008
1:00-4:45
Roth's Hospitality Center
1130 Wallace Road NW
Salem, OR 97304

People Present: Mark Anderson, Kim Cardona, Pam Dunn, Pam Everitt, Jari Giles, Barbara Griffin, Kathleen Hynes, Kitty Lake, Donna Lewelling, Darcy Long-Curtiss, Marilyn McManus, Anita McClanahan, Mary Nemmers, Tom Olsen, Dianna Pickett, Diane Ponder, Kathy Seubert, Diana Stotz, Bobbie, Weber, Barb Young, Andrea Bontemps, Dee Fultz, Cate Wilcox, Lorine Day-Reynolds and Dawn Norris

Parent Voice Update: Shared a story of a single mom in rural Oregon with a 5 month old baby and is looking for Infant care and off hour care. A typical day in order to have child care is the baby goes to 3 different providers and is not eligible for DHS because they do not have one child care provider. This story was shared to highlight the need for odd hour care for some families.

Oregon's Early Childhood Council-Anita McClanahan

Provided a history of the Early Childhood Council:

- 1987 - universal kindergarten began
- 1989 - the state began funding OR Head Start/PreK (\$10 million)
- 1999 – Senate Bill 555 was passed which formed the Commission for Children and Families
- 2001 – House Bill 3659 was passed – legislated a system of services for young children and families in our state.
- 2005 – Amendment House Bill 3659 – further outlines what the purpose of House Bill 3656 and charges the need for a plan and outlines the importance of children as our future, particularly the importance of the first 3 years of a child's life.

The role of the Oregon Commission of Children and Families is to convene a partnership group comprised of the Department of Human Services, Oregon Department Education, Oregon Employment Department, Child Care Division, and Oregon Commission for Children and Families. This group is working with several private partnerships such as, Oregon's Children's Institute, Fight Crime-Invest in Kids, and Leadership Roundtable to work on the highest level to bring together a system for children and families. The Council's responsibility is to forward Oregon's early childhood system. Currently the Council is working on the Governor's Summit for Early Childhood and is covering three major policy areas; Health/Mental Health/Social Emotional Development, Safety and Security and Early Care and Education and how these systems interlink with each other. From these topic areas 5-6 key strategies will be identified followed by a discussion on ways to move these strategies forward. A subcommittee will be created in each area to move the agenda in their community and determine how to measure progress.

The connection between the Early Childhood Council is to use the Childhood Care and Education Coordinating Council as the Early Care and Education subcommittee and possibly add some additional members to broaden the group. A suggestion was made to develop a set of common definitions for the group to use when speaking about the greater early childhood system.

DHS Policy Package:

Four child care packages have passed the first cut.

- Income limit associated with FBL
- Stay current with the Market Rate Survey
- Adjust the age limit to line up with TANF
- Establishes a 12 month eligibility period

Follow up on Progress and Accountability Tracking Tool (PATT) – Bobbie Weber

Bobbie Weber shared the history of how and why the Progress and Accountability Tracking Tool was developed. From the discussion it was suggested to develop a harder measure for the rating scale to make it more objective. It was also noted that there needs to be a process for adding a gap. This document will become part of the state plan in the next biennium and used to establish funding priorities.

Dennis Reynolds sent an e-mail with a concern with the expansion of Pre-Kindergarten and 21st Century Schools and the impact these free programs have on the child care businesses. A suggestion was made to propose this issue as a topic for the SAM Conference and see if this is affecting other state's child care industry.

Next steps for the group is to create a one pager for legislators to highlight our progress. The PATT will be updated annually at the December meeting.

Feedback and/or comments on the PATT can be sent to Dawn Norris at dawn.a.norris@state.or.us.

Updates from Committees

Supply – see attached page

Health Links – Currently working on a Policy Option Package to expand the Health Consultation Model incrementally through the next 2 bienniums. They are also partnering with the OCCRRN to have a section of the new website which will be devoted to Health and Safety information.

Inclusive Child Care – see attached page

Child Care Contribution Tax Credit – see attached page

Child Care Research Partnership- see attached page

DHS Advisory – Meets from 10-12 prior to Coordinating Council and discussed legislative policy option packages and advises on issues that arise within the system. Mark Anderson announced he is retiring very soon and this is his last Coordinating Council meeting.

Updates from Partners

Commission for Children and Families are currently reviewing counties comprehensive plans. Child care is the number one issue communities have identified.

Commission for Child Care – Shared information about the next Community Forum on Feb 21 in Eugene. Feedback from the last community forums can be accessed on the Commission for Child Care website. During the Commission for Child Care meeting they set priorities for work for the upcoming year.

Oregon Child Care Resource and Referral Network – Two new provider networks are beginning in Independence and Bend.

Oregon Center for Career Development – The core body of knowledge is currently being translated

Next Meeting: April 3, 2008 – Discussion around After School Care

CHILD CARE SUPPLY BENCHMARK

Background:

The Oregon Progress Board adopted a child care supply benchmark in the early 1990s. This benchmark (Number 48) measures the availability of child care in Oregon. "Child care slots" represent the number of children which regulated and legally exempt child care providers in Oregon have the capacity to serve.

The statewide target is 25 slots for every 100 children. This target was derived from multiple research studies that indicate that on a national level, about 25 of every one hundred children are in center or family child care. Over the years, the Oregon statewide supply has been as high as 21 slots per hundred children in 1998 and is currently at 17 slots per hundred children. Changes in child care regulatory rules in 2001 make comparisons prior to that time not strictly comparable but it does appear that we have seen a decrease in the number of center and family child care slots across the state.

Problem:

All child care is local. The amount of child care varies widely based on community characteristics. Communities differ in how much center and family child care exists and how families provide care for their children varies widely across counties. In high income, high population communities, child care centers are more prevalent than they are in rural areas where both population and incomes tend to be lower. In some counties the majority of children are in the care of family, friends, and neighbors when their parents are at work or in school. Therefore the target for the number of center and family child care slots in a county needs to take into account characteristics of that county.

Although the current target of 25 slots per hundred children is reasonable at the state level, it is not at the county level. Yet building the supply of high quality care that meets the needs of children and families depends on local efforts. Counties want and need targets for their supply-building efforts, a targeted number of child care slots per hundred children that makes sense for their county.

Proposed solution:

A number of county characteristics are associated with how much center and family child care is needed. The Oregon Child Care Research Partnership will create a formula using the factors that are associated with child care usage and supply. These might include population, labor force participation of women, average education level of women, number of children under age 13, family type, percent urban, household income, and housing costs. The Partnership will test different models of the formula with actual data. Once we have a model that appears to work, we will bring it to a group of county representatives for review and feedback. The formula that emerges from this process will be proposed as the method for estimating county level child care supply targets. Tom Olsen will take the proposal to the Oregon Progress Board. If adopted, the Oregon Child Care Research Partnership will compile county-level data on community characteristics and supply these to counties. Counties will then have a child care supply target appropriate for their county.

Child Care Supply Committee Goals

Purpose: To improve local child care recruitment and retention of child care workforce

Educate

Objective 1:

- Increase community understanding of supply/demand dynamics and what communities can do to impact child care supply birth - twelve

Strategies:

- Define recruitment, retention, supply, other
- Identify roles/responsibilities within the child care system and in the broader family support system. (Logic model, Functions document)
- Develop recommendations to state partners on data reports for better understanding of child care supply
- Develop talking points on economic impact of child care
- Develop speakers bureau

Retain / Stabilize Supply

Objective 2:

- Reduce the turnover or loss of quality child care providers

Strategies:

- Identify effective models, known strategies, etc.
- Develop effective strategies that have high likelihood of increasing retention
- Explore other funding streams, e.g. CACFP, 21st Century Schools

Recruit / Increase Supply

Objective 3:

- Increase the supply of quality hard to find child care
 - Infant and toddler care
 - School age or out-of-school time care
 - Children with special needs
 - Non-traditional hours
 - Sick children

Strategy:

- Explore changes to subsidy program to compensate providers of hard to find child care at higher levels

Benchmark

Objective 4:

- Develop an accurate benchmark and method to determine supply/demand
- Request the new benchmark be adopted by OPB

Inclusive Child Care Committee Updates
Child Care and Education Coordinating Council
February 7, 2008

Parent and Provider Meeting

- The committee's work plan calls for a periodic meeting to learn from parents and child care providers. The group made this a priority focus for the coming year.
- Objectives for the meeting are:
 - 1) Participants will understand the concept and elements of Caring Communities;
 - 2) Participants will identify resources and gaps using Inclusive Child Care Inventory Project findings and other sources;
 - 3) Participants will develop actions/priorities to guide the committee's work plan and to be shared with its partners.
- Parents of children birth to 18 with disabilities, emotional/behavioral disorders or special health care needs, child care/education providers, and members of the Inclusive Child Care Committee will participate in the meeting.
- The committee is considering a strategy of inviting teams of parents and providers from each Child Care Resource and Referral service area. Members are exploring costs and logistics for this model. The committee is also exploring options to coordinate the meeting activities and outcomes with other inclusion-related events and initiatives (for example, Oregon's project with the National Professional Development Center on Inclusion).

Partnerships for Inclusive Child Care Project

- The third project cohort will include follow up supports to providers receiving TRAC training, and a higher level of support and technical assistance to community TRAC trainers.
- Planning for TRAC inclusive child care trainings is underway in 4 communities, representing 11 counties. (Baker, Union, Wallowa, Maheur, Grant and Harney; Coos and Curry; Jackson and Josephine; Lincoln)
- An additional site serving Linn and Benton counties would like to offer TRAC trainings to providers whose first language is Spanish. They are currently seeking one or more Spanish-speaking TRAC trainers and will finalize plans once trainers are confirmed.
- Northwest Regional ESD is exploring options for joint trainings with Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education. The site focused on Washington County last cohort, but may expand to additional counties in the ESD service area.
- New communities will soon be able to apply for TRAC training. The first round will apply to use trainers from Western Oregon University/Teaching Research Early Childhood and Training Department. The second will apply to use TRAC trainers who are available to train regionally or statewide.
- The Inclusive Child Care Program, WOU/Teaching Research, and the Oregon Department of Education are working together to hold a shared TRAC "train the trainers." The focus will be to develop trainers who can train regionally or statewide.

Inventory Project

- Resource information from the Inventory is being placed on Disability Compass Web site. Users will see a specific location for resources that support inclusive child care on the Disability Compass home page.
- Information from the community meetings, interviews and surveys are being compiled into a final report.
- Surveys for parents (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=485823733728>) and providers (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=46913733730>) are still on Survey Monkey. Information will be compiled periodically. Anyone interested in survey information can contact the Inclusive Child Care Program.

Opening Doors Initiative

- There are Opening Doors trainers available. Some can train throughout Oregon.
- The Oregon Institute on Disability and Development at OHSU submitted a proposal to the Bubel/Aiken Foundation to support Opening Doors activities. The foundation is expected to respond this month.

Inclusive Child Care Program (ICCP)

- This month ICCP staff are moving to a new office near downtown Portland. We will be with staff of the Children's In-Home Intensive Services and other state programs serving children with disabilities. We are excited to be together in one place, and deeply grateful to the support and hospitality we have received from staff at the Oregon Child Care Resource and Referral Network. New contact information will be sent to the Coordinating Council list as soon as phone numbers are confirmed.

Child Care Contribution Tax Credit Program

Background:

In 2003, the Oregon Legislature enacted the Oregon Child Care Contribution Tax Credit. Taxpayers who make a contribution to the program receive a 75-cent Oregon state tax credit on every dollar. Proceeds from these credits are used to fund two projects which are designed to address three issues: (1) child care affordability, (2) provider compensation, and (3) child care quality. The project includes subsidies for eligible families to cap their child care expenditures at 10% of family income, wage enhancements for providers who engage in professional development activities, and intensive, individualized assistance to providers aimed at increasing child care quality.

Child Care Enhancement Project: Lane County

The Child Care Enhancement Project (CCEP) is in its third year. There are 12 facilities enrolled in the project and 5 are receiving enhancement dollars. The project has impacted 146 families and 216 children. Year 2 findings show significant increases in professional development activities for providers and improvement in child care quality.

Child Care Community Fund: Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington County

This is the first year of the The Child Care Community Fund (CCCF) and the primary activity has been recruiting providers to participate in the project. The major difference between the two projects is the provider needs to be at a Step 4 or lower on the Oregon Registry to participate. This requirement appears to be making recruitment efforts difficult so the Advisory Board expanded the eligibility to include exempt providers with an understanding they will become registered or certified within 3-6 months. There are currently 11 facilities enrolled in the project. The project has established 3 networks to individualize support for the unique needs of each center participating.

2007 Contributions:

The Child Care Contribution Tax Credit Program received the full \$500,000 in contributions on December 27th and proceeded to refund \$119,847.00. Contributions were received from 43 tax payers and ranged in amounts from \$50 to \$250,000. On December 3 the program began accepting stock contributions and received two contributions totaling \$36,203.69. The program is hopeful this new option will increase contributions and broaden the number of people interested in contributing.

To: Child Care and Education Coordinating Council
From: Bobbie Weber
Date: February 7, 2008
Re: Report of Oregon Child Care Research Partnership

A Framework for Learning from Oregon Child Care Quality Improvement Projects

In order to increase understanding, continuously improve, and increase accountability, the Oregon Child Care Research Partnership has identified a strategy for more effective use of lessons learned from project evaluations. We are also building a catalog of quality improvement project evaluations done since 2000 with funds. We want to capture all projects whose funding came directly or indirectly from the Child Care Division and any other projects that would like to be included. At today's meeting we request feedback on the framework and on the catalog of evaluations carried out to date.

Child Care Supply Benchmark

The amount of child care varies by communities; specific characteristics of communities affects the amount and types of child care. The current Oregon child care supply benchmark works as a state measure but not at the county level. The Oregon Child Care Research Partnership has worked with the Child Care Supply Committee on a plan for modeling child care supply at the county level. At today's meeting we request feedback on the proposal.

Measurement of Turnover in Family Child Care

The field has not yet agreed on a method for measuring turnover in family child care. We cannot reliably answer the question of how long, on average, a family child care provider operates her business. The Research Partnership has begun development of a method.

2008 Oregon Population Survey

We are in the final stages of finalizing the survey instrument for the 2008 Oregon Population Survey. We are working to see if we can tweak the child care question to get more information about 5 year olds (in kindergarten or not) and schoolage care.

National Study of Child Care Market Rate Survey Validity

Oregon State University has a preliminary report on the validity of different market rate survey methods. As Oregon's market rate survey was used, this national study has provided an intensive study of the validity of findings from Oregon's market rate survey. By multiple measures, the validity of Oregon's market rate survey findings has been found to be very high.