

MINUTES
Inclusive Child Care Committee
January 10, 2008

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 12, 9:00 to 12:00

Attending:

Dolores McNee, Community Action Head Start; Dawn Norris, Child Care Division; Pam Deardorff, Western Oregon University/Teaching Research Institute; Melinda Frink, Lorine Day-Reynolds, Terry Butler Inclusive Child Care Program/Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities

1. Work Group and Project Updates

Inclusive Child Care Inventory Project

Lorine provided an update on the Inventory Project. The project will use Disability Compass as the site for its web-based database focused on resources that support inclusive child care. The section will be easily identified and searched from Disability Compass' home page. Information will be searchable by category and by county. Parents, child care providers and other users will be able to create and print resource lists that are specific to their needs. Lorine is providing the first batch of resource information forms to Disability Compass today.

Partnerships for Inclusive Child Care and Education (PICCE) Project:

Six returning PICCE communities, serving 13 counties, submitted applications to be part of the project's third cohort. Terry is developing subcontracts for the returning communities. There may be one additional returning community, serving two more counties.

This cohort of the project will include statewide TRAC trainers, in addition to community trainers available through past cohorts. Statewide trainers will include staff from Western Oregon University/Teaching Research Institute (WOU/TRI). Other trainers will be individuals who became trainers through other projects and a small number of new trainers. New trainers will be developed through a "Train the Trainers" in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Education.

There will be a solicitation and selection process for new PICCE communities. These communities will use statewide trainers. The first solicitation will be for a community to use WOU/TRI staff trainers.

The Oregon Commission on Children and Families provided third project cohort funds for follow up supports for TRAC trainees. Each community will have its own follow up support plan.

National Professional Development Center on Inclusion (NPDCI)

Oregon was selected to receive technical assistance through NPDCI. Pam provided an update on the project. She noted that this project brings together three initiatives to support inclusion of young children in typical child care and education settings. These include the NPDCI project, the Expanding Opportunities Initiative, and an Oregon Department of Education subcontract with Teaching Research (TRI). This subcontract allows TRI to provide technical assistance to Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) and other partners to increase inclusion and services in typical settings.

The Expanding Opportunities group is now the steering committee for all 3 activities. The group is receiving support from the Frank Porter Graham Institute at the University of North Carolina. The group held a summit on November 15th. The summit brought together EI/ECSE contractors, child care resource and referral staff, and Head Start staff from each of Oregon's 9 EI/ECSE regions. Each of the 9 regions is submitting an inclusion plan. Pam is coordinating the effort and providing technical assistance for the regional plans. There will be a larger summit later on to roll out a professional development plan for Oregon.

Delores reported on the working group made up of Head Start disability specialists and EI/ECSE specialists. The group provided ideas for partnerships for inclusion. Also related to the initiative, the Child Care Division and the Oregon Department of Education administrations are looking at child care, EI/ECSE and Head Start policies that support or inhibit inclusion. In part, this is to provide clarity on policies that may be misapplied or misunderstood.

The Inclusive Child Care Committee can support the overall effort by providing input into the process. Steering committee members can bring questions to the committee.

Opening Doors Initiative

The Oregon Institute on Development and Disability (OIDD) at Oregon Health and Sciences University submitted a grant to the Bubel-Aiken Foundation to support Opening Doors activities. OIDD built in evaluation and a process for establishing basic planning information.

There are Opening Doors trainers available to communities. The committee can help by informing communities about the training.

2. Committee Work Plan

The committee's work plan calls for a periodic meeting of parents and child care providers. The group made this a priority focus for the coming year. At today's meeting, the group developed draft concepts for the meeting. These will be refined at a meeting scheduled for February 12, from 9:00 to noon. The draft concepts are summarized below.

Outcome - Parents of children birth to 18 with disabilities, emotional/behavioral disorders or special health care needs and child care providers will receive information gathered from the

Inventory Project and other sources. Work plans for the Inclusive Child Care Committee and its partners will be guided by actions/priorities recommended by meeting participants.

Invitees – Parents, child care and education providers, members of the Inclusive Child Care Committee.

Strategy - Invite teams of parents and providers from each Child Care Resource and Referral service area. Coordinate activities and outcomes with other inclusion-related events and initiatives.

Objectives -

1. Participants will understand the concept and elements of Caring Communities.
2. Participants will identify resources and gaps based on Inclusive Child Care Inventory Project findings.
3. Participants will develop recommendations for future priorities.

Next steps – The committee will add an interim meeting on **Tuesday, February 12th, from 9:00 to noon.** Goals for the meeting are:

1. Lay out activities to meet objectives.
2. Assign tasks to develop activities.
3. Discuss budget (Terry will create a draft budget.)

3. Membership / Contact List

The committee agreed to expand its contact list. The reasons for this are:

1. More people will receive information and be aware of committee's work.
2. People on the list can be involved in specific tasks and activities without coming to regular committee meetings.
3. There will be more statewide involvement in committee activities.

Terry will draft an invitation and explanation for contact list candidates. All committee members are asked to share names and contact information for people who may be interested. This includes individuals from all parts of Oregon.

4. Inclusive Child Care Program (ICCP) update:

Lorine shared the following updates on children served July 1 – December 31, 2007:

- 52 children received supplemental child care subsidies through the Child Care Division Targeted Populations Program.
- 50 children who received child care subsidies through the Oregon Department of Human Services were on the program's active list. This means the child had received an assessment by ICCP staff. Additional involvement varied, but these children are expected to receive annual reassessments.

Percentages of children in inclusive settings were as follows:

CCD Subsidy	Total	Inclusive Care	Percent of Total
July – Sept ‘07	47	35	74%
October – Dec ‘07	43	29	67%
July – December ‘07	52	37	71%

DHS Subsidy	Total	Inclusive Care	*Percent of known	Percent of total
July – Sept ‘07	44	25	76%	57%
October – Dec ‘07	44	21	64%	48%
July – December	50	28	74%	56%

**ICCP staff do not always have the same level of involvement with children served through DHS. Therefore, it is not consistently known if a child starts with a new provider or changes providers after the assessment.*

Lorine also shared information from the program’s redesigned database. Committee members suggested having the way ICCP reports on children’s’ presenting issues and diagnoses as an advisory discussion in the future. This would help align ICCP data with other planning efforts.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 12, 9:00 am to noon. Location to be announced (probably Salem). This meeting will focus on planning the annual parent/provider meeting.

2008 Meetings (all at Legacy Meridian Park Hospital Health Education Center in Tualatin):

- March 13
- May 8
- July 10
- September 11
- November 13