

MINUTES
Inclusive Child Care Committee
May 10, 2007

Next meeting: Thursday July 12, 9:00 to 12:00
Meridian Park Hospital Education Center
19300 SW 65th Avenue, Tualatin

Attending:

Donna Lewelling, Parent Voices and Office of Community College Services; Dolores McNee, Washington County Community Action Head Start; Dawn Norris, Child Care Division; Pam Deardorff, Western Oregon University/Teaching Research Institute; Kimberly Cardona, Oregon Commission on Children and Families; Lorine Day-Reynolds, Melinda Frink, Valerie McCarthy, Terry Butler, Inclusive Child Care Program/Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities

1. Work Group and Project Updates

Inclusive Child Care Inventory Project

Surveys for parents and providers are on Survey Monkey website. Lorine sent emails to numerous contacts that will help inform parents and providers.

The provider survey can be found at

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=Z1Jg%2f6BHz2C0%2fosgS3AsaqzEJ3h2Ks4SswcPwDzXbxI%3d>

The parent survey is at

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=76loSgsrV2bynp07s5B5GM67O0fq19pNYNjb0NoVkek%3d>

Paper copies of the surveys can be obtained from the Inclusive Child Care Program...

The community meetings in Medford, Redmond, Baker City, Tillamook and Milwaukie have been completed. 89 individuals took part in the meetings. The meetings led to further community coordination among participants who hadn't previously worked together.

Individual interviews are still in process. As of today's meeting, 40 interviews have been completed. The project work group is meeting after the full committee to discuss the project report.

The Inclusive Child Care Program staff envisions that maintaining and sharing inventory information will be an ongoing component of the program. They are exploring searchable database options. They also hoped to obtain current data on children with disabilities who need child care. The committee supported a recommendation to match Oregon census data with prevalence data from disability, mental health and special health care needs research. This will be matched by Child Care Research Partnership data on children in paid care. The data will be compared to that from other states.

Partnerships for Inclusive Child Care (PICC) Project

The project's second cohort of trainings is underway. There will be a one-day follow up at Western Oregon University/Teaching Research Institute as the final training component for the new trainers. Trainers from the first PICC cohort will be invited to participate as a refresher.

A work group met to develop an initial budget and draft design for a next PICC cohort. The work group will reconvene when the budget is known.

Information from the project shows that there are benefits to the trainee cohort model. In part, having a cohort of trainees in a community builds in mutual follow up supports. There are still not the levels of follow-up supports through community resources that had been hoped for. This must be examined if there are opportunities for additional cohorts.

The TRAC training continues to receive very positive evaluations from participants. The time commitments of the training limits participation. The committee agreed on a need to explore a balance between the demonstrated high quality and outcomes of TRAC training (as currently designed) and less time intensive and less proven training model that would engage more participants. These are important questions for developing an inclusion plan for Oregon's child care infrastructure.

A goal of the project is to increase capacity for providers caring for children with higher level needs. This led to an interesting discussion. It was noted that Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) data shows no problems with availability of care. Yet, parents repeatedly report difficulty-finding care. There needs to be something, along with CCRR information, that more accurately documents supply for children with special needs. The Inventory Project's parent survey will provide some information on parents' ability to find care.

Pam recommended monitoring and reporting on the number of providers on the CCRR database with training and experience in caring for children with special needs. This would be a monitoring process rather than performance measure. The Committee agreed with this recommendation. Kim added that the Child Care Research Partnership Accountability Committee could also look at this data.

Opening Doors Initiative

The Opening Doors Initiative group is meeting on May 18th. Staff of the Oregon Institute on Disability and Development (OIDD), at Oregon Health Sciences University, will attend the meeting. The initiative fits with OIDD community inclusion goals. The agenda will include discussion of ways of partnering with OIDD, possibly as a "home" for the initiative.

2. Committee Co-chair

Dawn Norris will join Donna Lewelling as the new co-chair of the Inclusive Child Care Committee. Dawn's nomination and acceptance were enthusiastically approved by the committee.

3. Child Care Development Fund Definition

The committee approved the recommended definition of “child with special needs” in Oregon’s new Child Care and Development Fund plan.

4. Inclusive Child Care Committee (ICCP) update

As of the meeting date, the program has served 56 children through the Child Care Division Targeted Population subsidy program. Staff have completed 70 assessments for children receiving child care subsidies through the Department of Human Services (DHS) Integrated Child Care Program.

ICCP staff have made use of subsidies to support inclusion in typical child care settings a high priority. This enrollment priority has been temporarily put on hold due to possible unspent funds for the biennium. Children who would be in individual care had been placed on a wait list, but can now be served. Staff expect to reinstate the priority as of July 1st. When working with individual providers, ICCP staff encourage them to become registered with the Child Care Division.

Lorine reported on a DHS policy change. Eligible children in DHS contracted Head Start slots can now receive the High Need rate if required for appropriate care.

5. Committee Work Plan:

The committee looks at its work plan twice each year in July and January. Some of the work is waiting for information from Inventory Group. Members identified plan issues for further discussion at July meeting. The plan will be reviewed at that meeting.

Donna, Dawn and Terry will prepare a draft from today’s discussion. The draft will be presented at the July meeting.

6. Announcements and Updates

Pam shared information on the application to the National Professional Development Center on Preschool Inclusion. The application is based on partnership of the Oregon Department of Education, the Child Care Division and Western Oregon University. If accepted the Center will provide technical assistance and help support a stakeholders group to increase inclusion in Oregon preschool settings. This is a tremendous opportunity for partnerships between child care and Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education groups.

Follow up note: Oregon was selected at one of the National Center’s sites!!!!!!!!!!

Kim discussed the State level Supply Committee, and recommended that inclusive child care supply issues be taken to this committee.

Next meeting: Thursday, July 12, 9am to noon. Legacy Meridian Park Hospital, Tualitan