

## **CHILD CARE SUPPLY COMMITTEE**

**January 18, 2007 Meeting Notes**

**10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**OCCF Large Conference Room**

**530 Center Street NE, Suite 405**

**Salem, Oregon 97301**

**In Attendance:** Heidi McGowan, Beth Unverzagt, Bobbie Weber, Dawn Norris, Darcy Miller, Kim Cardona, Lynne Reinoso, Marguerite Kenagy, Pam Dunn, Sonja Svenson, Rosy Alejo

**By Phone:** Anne Gill, Jeanne Lemieux, Karren Andrews, Kathy Wadsworth, Kelly Poe, Patsy Kohout, Rosalie Broding,

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

### **Outcomes for Today's Meeting:**

- Continue discussion on ways to integrate definition and strategies into guidance to local communities
- Review and provide additional input on Strategies Matrix

### **1. Introductions and review / revision of minutes**

If there is any revision regarding the previous minutes, it is requested that it should be emailed to Kim.

### **2. Definition of School Age - discussion and Q&A with Beth Unverzagt and Sonja Svenson.**

Purpose of discussion:

- Many LCCFs spend their CCDF quality dollars (\$) on After School Child care Programs
- Not clear on what definition of after School Care is
- Which programs are eligible to receive and should be funded with the CCDF quality dollars (\$)

Key discussion points:

Beth Unverzagt

- After School is a complex issue because there is no clear definition. Oregon ASK executive committee decided to have a conversation with the Child Care Commission to really take a look at this issue and how it will align with the state statutes and policy.
  - The Executive Committee with some people from Department of Education and Oregon PTA will be attending a MOTT by the

end of this month. The issue of definition will be discussed in a national level and hopefully gain some support from the national contingency about how they can help Oregon align policy and take a look at it.

- There is a \$50,000 grant from the;
    - National Governor's Association
    - Chief State School Officers
    - National Legislative State Association
  - Writing of grant proposal should be submitted to get that amount and get some support from the national level
  - Mott is a large foundation putting 100M dollars nationwide into issues around after school at about 34 state networks. Some states have taken money but nobody today has taken on the policy issues. It also partly funding OregonASK.
- The meaning of after school as used during the discussion
    - After School really does usually encompasses before/after school. Lots of times after school, as when school is in session not summer. It could be a program that operates during Christmas or Holidays and provides care. Most important it should be licensed child care.

Sonja Svenson

- There isn't anything in the revised statutes that specifically addresses school age care. Everything that ever talked about school age care is in administrative rules. (Booklet about "Rules for the Certification of Child Care Centers" was passed out. Those who participated by phone will be able to obtain a copy by going to the link from the web site: [www.oregonchildcare.org](http://www.oregonchildcare.org).
  - On page 41, it talks about school age program activities, what the environment should look like. The definition of school age care is not found. Child care is defined as it encompasses 0-12 years old, so it encompasses the school age group. It doesn't specifically talk about 6-12 years of age. No definition either in the Statutes or in the Administrative rules around School Age Care and what it encompasses.
- Basically, those children who are in 1<sup>st</sup> group, First grade are ages 6 – 12, not even that. It talks about ratio, ages and ratio but nothing is said anywhere in the Administrative rules what School Age Care.
  - The Commission for Child Care has been very concerned about; Exempt, Pre-school and After School care. They are really looking at exempt care and the issue about After School care

came up because Child Care Division has been facing dilemmas in trying to identify what facilities should be like and what should not. Kitty came to the commission and suggested we should help in bringing some Stakeholder together to talk about what communities need in regard to that definition

- The request has yet to be discussed at the commission as the issue has really bubbled up into the exempt care and there are complaints came up around Pre-school and unsafe environment.
- That's also fall over into the guidelines for CCDF and after school programs- using after school as generic term for the after school whenever kids are not in school.
- Issue about the clarity on the relationship between how licensing will define After School Care and how it affect the eligibility for CCDF Funding like the local commission.
  - Complaints came up around Pre-school and unsafe environments.
    - These are quality dollars, so CCDF fund should used for a licensed facilities or help facilities to become licensed program or a healthy program to become licensed
    - Or for professional development for people in the field or in the School Age fields
- Aside from the issue of clear and basic definition of terms, another issue is about licensing and the different levels of school age care and how long would be the activity- 10 weeks long, more than 12 hours a week?
- Another issue is the inequity within the licensing piece.
- The issue of B & G Clubs which operate in school system and used by parents for child care, though they are not licensed.
- Issue about the proper use of CCDF Funds-
  - CCDF funds should be used for quality child care or for improving the quality of child care and not the quality whatever parents call child care. This isn't easy!
- Regarding the issue of definition, the group doesn't really know what term should be defined.
  - Beth is amenable that within this field the glossary of terms is used so widely, differently by everyone. However they have a group working for this to try to create some commonality of conversation. This started last summer with Oregon ASK.

Their objective is to have some clear definition about after School Program, After School Care and even down to the spelling...like how do you spell after school? Is it one word or two words?

- This process includes the identifying of the current federal pieces that are coming in and the state statutes that currently exist and try to find some common grounds with in them and hopefully have discussion with Commission on Child Care on the definition of School Age Care and where the licensing piece fit into it. The School Board Association is interested in participating and also Mayor Kitty Piercy of Eugene, the Commission for Child Care, and the Department of Education are also interested in this discussion.
  - Key agency people players will be identified to help put together a proposal to MOTT within 2 months which will fund the conversation.
- There are questions that the participants on the phone line would like to clarify like:
    - The use of CCDF money for some After School Child Care program and the reason why these programs are called child care program though they are located at schools premise because it is consistent everyday to have safe place for the kids to go while parents are at work
    - Marion County is also concerned about the Churches as Neighborhood Centers sponsored by the Leadership Foundation. They provide initiatives, financial supports, guidance and have standards that they follow. They are currently exempt because it is a drop-in kind of program.
- It is brought out that there is a bigger and broader spectrum. Michelle Ganow-Jones, National Expert and formerly of the Finance Project, was contracted to write a funding guide for Oregon for Out-of-School Time programs. If this work can continue it will focus on defining what the Child Care piece of this for CCDF, because the CCDF pot of money is so tiny. We are trying to make sure that funds are going to the child care piece and so it is very important that there are clear guidelines.
  - The hard part of CCDF \$s is when it is used for funding positions or if it is used for scholarships when that is not the intent of the funds.
  - OregonAsk will have a day at the Capitol on April 11<sup>th</sup> asking providers to come and visit their legislature to talk to them about the

importance of OST program for children and youth which is also an issue and never brought to the legislature for discussion.

- Feedback from audience regarding what is considered as Child Care and what isn't in terms of how to spend CCDF is really needed to provide TA once the document reached the local commission.
- Discussion around this issue is to be considered while waiting for the real definitions to come up sometime for CCD.
- There is a need for a consistent definition that will be adopted by CCD. The group would like to be part in this conversation.
- This discussion is not about a rule revision around school age but it is about who should be licensed, about exempt care and maybe tightening it a little bit. "What is" and "what is not exempt care."
- For the record of the discussion, 3 papers were put up each with a description.
  - The first has: "What is Child Care" and "Out-of-School Time (OST)" programming, which is definitely Child Care.
  - The second has: "What Child Care" and "OST is definitely not". This needs examples of existing programs.
  - The third has: "Exempt Care" which is considered as the gray area and something that the child care community is really working on.
- Sonja was asked to facilitate and guide through the conversation.
  - It was emphasized that the purpose of the discussion is specifically around the CCDF \$s as spent by local commission because they received majority of the quality dollars in the childhood system and the quality dollars. There are quality dollars and subsidy dollars. Almost 82% of the entire CCDF money in Oregon is used for subsidy through DHS. Then the Commission on Children and Families received approximately 3.7M dollars which is the majority of 4% of the quality dollars are spent on quality initiatives. Kim: I am really pleased that there are so many commission people that are attending by the phone and in the room today because I really need to have your input. This is very important
  - Please scroll down for the chart.
- There is some confusion about dollars category which Sonja made to clarify.
  - There are Mandatory, Matching, and Discretionary funds. The Mandatory, except for a small part that goes to support our

Information System and goes to DHS. All the Matching goes to DHS. 43% of the Discretionary go to DHS, 57% of the Discretionary goes to CC System which includes licensing, targeted population as subsidies which are done through CCD, Professional Development, R&R, Teen Parent Program through Dept of Ed and the State Commission.

- Another area of clarification is needed to be able to give clear guidelines to local commission and help them in their efforts to do the bigger picture.
- There are two types of dollars; Subsidy and quality funds. The quality \$s are to increase the quality of care as in the Federal regulations. The lead agency, which is the CCD, has wide latitude on how those \$s can be spent and CCD made the decision as a leading agency that quality \$s will go to licensed CC facilities because licensing is the foundation. It is the basement, the bottom line of quality and the quality \$s are supposed to be directed to facilities, professional development or whatever to increase the quality beyond the floor.
- Clarification on what Child Care is and what it is positively not, will help to get in to into the question that MOTT Foundation would probably ask.
  - Wallowa County CCF Director asked: We have that small population that we are serving. Many things that happen after school are greatly supported by volunteers. Is there any kind of tight definition that will probably limit and take us out of running for certain funds and take our small programs out of running for a certain funds? Are these too limiting? Is the definition too limiting?
- It is in the guidelines that in order to be eligible for the CCDF funds, a program should be licensed and CCD is working towards that area of licensing.
  - Issues come up from the counties about licensing that may affect their current programs because they are not qualified as Child Care as per definition. Example: The OARS don't say anything about licensed day care.
  - This is the reason why this conversation is very important to really differentiate child care and a sort of after school recreation program.
  - DHS listed FFN are eligible for CCDF funds because they are Exempt through DHS and they have some form of regulations.
    - Quality dollars will be spent on the Kits for the FFN initiative and distributed to DHS Listed Exempt Child

Care providers. There are about 6,000 DHS Listed Exempt Child Care Providers in the system.

- Licensed School Age Care and Exempt are defined on page 2 of the Rules for the Certification of Child Care Centers book. You can also find this in their web site.
- Bottom line is they are licensed or DHS listed. There are many programs that are DHS listed. An example of one that is affiliated in school run by Park & Rec Dept that receives DHS \$s and is the largest amount of \$s in the state is the Springfield School district.
- Exempt providers are Family CC or Center that is Exempt under DHS guidelines.
- Licensing is the first step and the foundation of quality. OregonASK, CCD and OCCC are working on the definition and criteria on the proposal for the MOTT Foundation. CCDF is used for improving quality of licensed child care and working on licensing programs that will qualify for the CCDF \$s. DHS listed Exempt programs qualify for CCDF \$s.
  - There are really good models in the state such as:. CAP in Albany, Salem Child Development Center is licensed, and lots of Y's and these are licensed and are operating in schools. The B & G Club in Corvallis has a licensed program and a drop-in program. Knowledge Learning Corporations has champions and they are licensed as an After School program. STARS in Corvallis model program in collaboration of organization working together, Parks & Rec is in there.
  - B & G Club; Public schools system; After School recreation and something that has not mentioned like tutoring, volunteers run programs are not considered as CC.
  - B&G Club are exempt because they are drop-in care, because they are not part of STARS

Below is the Chart which will help to differentiate what really is child care and what is not child care, as well as what is exempt care

What CC in OST Is?	What CC in OST is Not?	Exempt Care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe supervised places while parents work</li> <li>• Ages 5-12, K up, groups of 1:15, w/ a maximum size group of 30</li> </ul> <p>(Include research-base with guidelines on ratio etc. quality indicators)</p> <p>Licensing is 1st step in quality OregonAsk / CCD / OCCC working on definition (MOTT proposal- \$50,000)</p> <p>National definition started CCDF – used for improving quality of CC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licensed or working on licensing for CCDF quality dollars</li> <li>• DHS listed exempt</li> <li>• Definition on page 2 of Licensing Regulation book by CCD</li> <li>• Licensed programs in schools;               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-CAP – Albany</li> <li>- Salem Child Dev &amp; Centers, The Y's</li> <li>- STARS-Boys &amp; Girls Club-Corvallis Licensed And Drop-in</li> <li>- Knowledge Learning Corporation</li> <li>- Springfield School Dist.</li> <li>- DHS listed Parks &amp; Rec.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• USDA approved National, State, Local level – licensed or Listed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boys &amp; Girls Club if not Licensed, drop-in, no responsibility ratio</li> <li>• Public school system</li> <li>• After school recreation education, tutoring lessons</li> <li>• Volunteer run programs</li> <li>• Caregiver-not licensed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Places that are providing CC that aren't calling it CC</li> </ul> <p>Reasons to not get licensed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ratio (Accreditation research base)i.e. David Elkin 1:17 for education</li> </ul> <p>National Ratio?</p> <p>Oregon 1:15 / max of 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff qualification</li> <li>• Health / Safety</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.oregonchildcaretraining.org">www.oregonchildcaretraining.org</a></p>

- Ratio is another issue in this discussion. Researched in this area is based around Education. (Bobbie W. Volunteered to look into this)
  - The current ration of Oregon is from K and older which is for Child Care, K-12 is 1-15 with the maximum group size up to 30.
  - USDA came up as one of the issues too. USDA decides who would receive funds. USDA determines the organization eligible for funding are those approved at National level. So for CC it would be the licensing. If Exempt it would go to the process of sanitation inspection.
3. **Feedback about the Strategies and Matrix. Unless it needs an immediate attention, feedback or changes could be email to Kim.**
- EC Cares
  - OregonASk
  - Change of Title
    - Infrastructure / Systems Development
    - Quality Initiatives
4. **Feedback from the previous minutes of the meeting**
- To be sent by e-mail
5. Issues about the phone line reception/connection: Some said that they don't need to dial the reference number; others said they dial the number 7119. The other issue is there are other voices/conversation that they're hearing although their phone is in mute. These issues will be referred to Greg

Next meeting: March 15.