

**Commission for Child Care
Roth's West Salem Conference Center
November 19, 2010**

Attendees: Sharon Reese, Deborah Murray, Patricia Angland-Marshall, Randy Fishfader, Rosetta Wangerin, Carla McQuillen, Russ Crawmer, Nina Roll, Rep. VanOrman, Senator Monroe, Gary Taylor

Guests: Kara Waddell, Teresa Stevenson, Heidi McGowan, Kathleen Hynes, Kitty Lake, Pam Deardorff, Sheridan McCarthy, Stan Nelson, Rhonda Nelson, Dawn Norris, Rhonda Prodzinsky, Ruth Crawmer, Millie Crawmer, Sue Mackey, Rebecca Whitaker, Marcia Mulvey, Merrily Haas, Collette Brown, Janelle Welker

Introductions

Approve September & October Minutes

Discussion occurred related to the September meeting summary and the need for more clarity for the exercise on thinking outside of the box to outreach to Friends, Family and Neighbor care. Randy moved to accept the September minutes. Deborah second. Approved.

Deborah moved to accept the October meeting summary. Patricia second. Approved.

2010 Bi-Annual Governor's Report

Sheridan provided a brief update and thanked the partners and Commissioner's for their involvement. Our deadline is to have it complete by the first of the year.

ECMAC Update

Heidi provided a brief update that the Governor's office will experience a transition in leadership and chairperson for the Council. The Council will continue to work with Dell as Vice-Chair.

Updates from Legislators

Senator Monroe currently is the chair of the education subcommittee on the emergency board. The E-Board makes financial decisions when the legislature is not in session. During the last session, Sen. Monroe chaired the subcommittee of ways and means on education. The E-board has tried to protect critical services like ERDC and Project Independence. They have provided enough funding until March 1st. The Senate will convene in January to organize and begin session in February. Hopefully the House will organize quickly so that the full legislature can get to work on expanding support for ERDC.

The next session will be very difficult. The House is split 50/50 and will likely work an agreement between bi-partisan leadership. Sen. Monroe said that everything is on the chopping block during this session.

Sen. Monroe reported that the federal government blocked an extension of unemployment benefits. The state has tried to pass unemployment benefits where the feds have gaps.

Rep. VanOrman was not re-elected and reflected that corporations are upset about the taxes from measure 66 and 67 and there hasn't been much discussion about children and families. A group was created this last year called MotherPAC that supported Rep. VanOrman and created a video that she advised the Commission see. It's about women, sick leave and child care and talks about the issues affecting child care.

Rep. VanOrman added that there is a need to speak out on behalf of children and families. Rosetta reflected that we need to be ready and prepared to speak out. Deborah asked the legislators if there is anything the Commission can do given that the federal discussion is about reauthorization of the Child Care Development Fund. Sen. Monroe said that the most powerful member of the Oregon delegation is Greg Walden and would have the most influence. Rosetta asked the Commission if they would like the Commission to send a letter or draft some talking points that could be forwarded by individuals looking to find a way to show support. Rep. VanOrman recommended that a white paper about what funding of child care means to Oregon would be useful. Something from the Commission that outlines the issues that we face would be important to get.

The Commission recommended we send a letter with information and note that the Commission is resource to Oregon's federal delegation and she will send information on to Commissioner's if they would like to forward information as a citizen.

Angland Award

Teresa will take in final nominations through the Thanksgiving holiday and inform the Commission in January.

Teresa will send out the information to the Commissioner's.

Child Care Licensing Training Requirements: Professional Development Committee Update - Merilly Haas, Collette Brown, Pam Deardorff

See 2 page handout.

A workgroup was asked to research licensing standards related to training and pre-service. Their role is to provide information and recommendations and recognize that issues such as implementation and resources would need to be addressed. The reason is that Oregon's training and pre-service requirements were identified as a gap in the Performance and Accountability Tracking Tool (PATT). This issue was identified in 2005 and has not made any progress.

The workgroup will take specific recommendations to the Coordinating Council on Dec. 2nd and would like to return in Feb., 2011 for Commission consideration and identification of next steps.

Discussion occurred about the need to balance between resources such as scholarships the need to support the workforce in achieving higher quality. Reflections occurred that raising standards are important but we want to make sure that we don't drive away people in the workforce and that it is important to build the resources at the same time.

Study of Child Care Subsidy Policy Impacts – Ellen Scott

See Powerpoint.

This study looked at the results from the ERDC changes in policy in 2007. A survey was completed from parents to understand the effects. The findings reflect that providers were well aware of the policy changes but not parents. Ellen noted that the ERDC program is the single most important work support.

The study found that parents were not aware of a decrease to their co pay or an increase in subsidy payment to providers. Parents identified that co-pays frequently change so a reduction wasn't noticed as unusual. Parents also reflected gratitude for the ERDC.

The 19 of 44 respondents held more than one job during the study period 26 of the 44 had spells of unemployment during the study period. The key to the parent's ability to respond to fluctuations in work was the child care subsidy.

Economic and Other Forces that Shape Child Care: 2000-2010 – Bobbie Weber

The Research Partnership examined a 10 year pattern of change in child care within the context of economic and demographic information. Oregon has had 2 recessions in the last 10 years. The 2000 recession was longer than 2007 yet the unemployment was deeper. Centers experience a pattern that follows an economic patterns but family child care does not.

From the beginning of the decade, Oregon has had no net gain in employment.

Reasons for Concern: Some recession effects appear to lag actual recession; recovery from 2008 recession market by joblessness (without employment growth we may not see typical post-recession bounce); Impact of ERDC cuts are coming on top of recession effects.

Bobbie would like an economist do some analysis to answer several questions that we have.

Commission Priorities in a Revenue Shortfall – Kara Waddel

Kara provided an overview of the Commission priorities and the presentation of a crosswalk between the Commission priorities and CCD budget priorities. Kara is hoping the Commission can help put together a compelling footprint that reflects our priorities in a practical budget nugget.

The Commission has a role to educate legislators once we have clarity of message and Commission priorities.

Deborah recommended that conversations need to align such as the One Voice legislative agenda that incorporates areas of focus from Children's First and Children's Institute. Lessons from the past tell us that it's essential to have the same answer.

Next step – identify partners and advocates to see where we can align.

CCR&R Advisory Committee Update

Marcia Mulvey provided an update that the Child Care Resource and Referral Network is seeking a new Executive Director. Marcia is fulfilling a role as Executive Director through her role with TACS, an organization that provides consultation services to non-profits. The transition committee is looking to hire a new director by the end of January, identify priorities for the Network that will enhance communication and define roles and responsibilities within the Network.

Heidi reminded the Commission that the CCRR Advisory Committee is a subcommittee of the Commission that is to advise the CCRR system. After the loss of funds to the CCRR system, the Advisory Committee asked the Directors to identify their priorities so that we can speak with a unified language and the Commission can be clear about how best to support the CCRR's.

Nina provided an overview of the crosswalk between the CCRR priorities and the Commission priorities.

See the handout "Oregon Child Care Resource & Referral Care Services and Priorities that support Commission Priorities."

Nina summarized that the core services of the CCRR system are part of the Commission priorities. Deborah asked if the priorities are agreed upon by all Directors and if the scope of work will reflect it. Nina and Sue agreed and that there may be other local priorities but this is system wide and all Directors have participated in it. Sue noted that the local CCRR's bring additional resources to the system because of the base level of services. For example, Lane County SDA obtains almost 50% of a match to the state funds.

ERDC & Budget Impacts – Eric Moore

Eric Moore, CFO of DHS is here to provide an update on budget impacts of ERDC.

The reason Eric is here is to provide a tiny history lesson of where the ERDC policy discussion ended up in September at the E-board, and where we're headed in the next session. The E-board provided direction to the ERDC program to not implement the reduction that was scheduled to take place that would limit the recipients to TANF participants. E-board said to close the program and let it trickle down to 10,000 families through February and prioritize those transitioning off of TANF onto ERDC. Children, Adults and Families (CAF) is entering into the December rebalance, balanced. As of March 1st, the

projection is for ERDC to reduce to 5,000 families which is where the policy discussion will focus on the December E-board.

There is going to be incentive to not kick ERDC recipients off of the program. The agency request for 2010-11, holds the current request but this includes a general fund request as part of CAF general fund request. A large majority of general fund requests are for the self-sufficiency programs. There are significant pressures in ERDC, TANF and the JOBS program. The self sufficiency programs such as ERDC program takes the lions share of the reductions because they are not mandated programs. HB 2469 passed two sessions ago and was a redesign on DHS services that has requirements that DHS will not be able meet it due to the reductions.

The pressure on how to use the CCDF will be a difficult discussion because these appear to be more stable funds. All the programs are going to be fighting for the same pot of money and the conversation needs to be a system wide approach. Eric believes that we need to rethink what services Oregonians need. There is an impact on Child Welfare as a result of TANF and ERDC.

The reduction that did not occur – eliminating eligibility to people who have never been on TANF – needs to be a policy discussion for the next three years. Policy discussion could be related to waiting list, first in first out, time limits, and if TANF members have a priority.

Rosetta asked how the Commission could be involved in these discussions. Having the discussion here to talk about options and have input can be provided through Kara or Rhonda. It also can happen with a new Governor through the Governor's budget recommendations. The legislative session is another venue.

Coordination can occur between DHS, CCD and the Commission and discussion occurred about how the Commission can have input. Rep. Kotek is very involved in these policy discussions. Eric doesn't know where the policy discussion will or should occur.

January Strategic Planning

Rosetta asked the Commissioner's to respond over email if they have ideas or areas that we need to spend more time in January planning strategic session.