

## Commission for Child Care June 26, 2009

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**Attendees:** Jan East, Meghan Moyer, Deborah Murray, Randy Fishfader, Kitty Piercy, Rosetta Wangerin, Cheryl Reece,

**Guests:** Dawn Norris, Kim Cardona, Beth Unverzagt, Kathleen Hynes, Kitty Lake, Susan Frazier-Parker, Teresa Stevenson, Heidi McGowan, Tom Olsen, Rhonda Prodzinski, Dawn Norris, Faye Zepeda, Pam Deardorff, Ron Sohnrey,

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### Introductions

### Updates:

### Legislation –

HB 2988: Clean box bill. This bill ended in committee. Meghan explained that in her view ACLU is fundamentally against a collection of names for reasons that are unrelated to child care - but with a broader view of personal data. The Chair of the Senate committee is Floyd Prodzanski and Kitty recommended we meet with them in Eugene.

### **Schedule a meeting with Floyd Prodzanski in Eugene with Mayor Piercy to discuss HB 2988 and see if we can sit down with ACLU.**

HB 2968 passed which will include mandatory orientations for exempt child care providers participating in the ERDC program. Rosetta asked if DHS had the funding to do an increase in orientations. Rhonda said this will be covered with existing funds.

Employment Related Day Care has been restored to 75% of the 2006 market rate study. Rhonda noted that general funds will be used for this and was probably supported as a result of federal stimulus dollars. Reduction to families leaving TANF to ERDC has been suspended until July but there is significant support from several legislators to restore this and an understanding of the issue. The reduction states that you had to be on TANF for the last 24 months, which is about half the current caseload. Rhonda said that there is uncertainty about next year which is why it is so important to reconvene the affordability workgroup.

The three Employment Dept. bills have passed and are waiting to be signed by the Governor.

Rosetta asked if it would be helpful to have a list of the child care bills and when they go into effect. Deborah noted that it should go to the R&R's because it has planning ramifications for organizations. Kitty noted that we should include a mention of the programs that we will lose due to budget changes so we raise awareness.

### **Heidi will send out a list of bills and their potential ramifications after the legislative session is finished and the Governor has signed bills.**

**CCD Licensing Credential** – Kitty Lake said the purpose of coming to the Commission is to move this credential into the infrastructure that we're building for child care professionals. It is a credential for licensing specialists and CCD has approached Pam Deardorff to include it with the PSU credentials. Meghan asked if there is any other institution that does child care

licensing other than the CCD. Kitty said this credential will only affect people working within the CCD, which is currently about 40 people.

Pam said PSU put it into the framework that had been approved by the Training and Quality Committee. Pam handed out a copy of the Oregon licensing specialist credential description. Kitty L explained that a steering committee worked on the development and focused on how to handle challenging situations licensing specialists address. The focus is to build in attitudes and approaches that work with providers where they are, including diverse populations. One of the requirements is that an individual works as a licensing specialist for 7 years. This is a way to recognize specialists and to identify leaders who can train/mentor. Meghan said that they may need a differential in pay and Tom noted that is a possibility but for now they will recognize individuals through other strategies. Kitty L said the staff has responded very positively. Tom said this increases the professionalism and could give us a hiring pool from outside the agency if the applicant has had some preliminary classes. Some of the curriculum used comes directly from NARA (the National Association for Regulatory Administrators).

**England Award** – May 27<sup>th</sup> the announcement of the award went to the OCCRRN, Chambers of Commerce, Commission on Children and Families. Mid June sent out 384 announcements to TV, radio and media. End of August is the deadline for submission. Cheryl, Randy and Teresa are the workgroup who will review the submissions with one of Lynne's family members. The award is for contributions to child care in Oregon which could be a provider, business, or any organization that is doing good things for child care. Teresa said they are exploring ideas such as donating books to a center in the name of the awardee but it will depend upon the submissions we get.

**Minutes from May** – Kitty P moved to approve and Randy second. Heidi noted that Sonja Svenson was in attendance in May and was added to the minutes. Approved.

**CCDF Transfer from OCCF to ERDC** – Kim explained that the legislature has removed a one time 3.9M of CCDF funds for quality from the Commission on Children and Families during this next session. Kim said that her position has been eliminated and handed out a document describing the impact on the local Commission's and R&R's. One Voice, under the leadership of Merrilee Haas and Mark Anderson, did an excellent job of letting the system know how the impact will be felt because Commission dollars leveraged other dollars in the system.

Tom would like to discuss with the Commission the concept to delay the program part of the EQUIP in order to buy back the Inclusive Child Care Program through contract with the OCCRRN, and for the OCCRRN to sit down with local commissions to determine which programs are needed. Tom recommended we do this because we are not going to be able to do EQUIP without the infrastructure. The Educational award is underway and funded. This will delay the facilities piece of EQUIP to 2010 and instead of targeting 100 programs it will potentially be scaled back. We believe we have overestimated on the educational awards which will probably have carry forward funds. We have until Oct. 2011 to liquidate stimulus funds. President Obama has discussed continuing the stimulus funds ongoing as part of child care. Rep. Kotek has noted this is a one time shift in dollars from the OCCF to ERDC. The trade off is a smaller EQUIP investment on the facilities portion of the program. Tom said they are preparing a letter to the Governor's office but would like to make sure they have Commission support.

Jan asked about the impact on the R&R's and Tom said there is a 1.6M reduction. Tom said we can't send the money back to the state commission as a result of the legislative action but we can put some funds back into the R&R system with the understanding that they support the inclusion program and health consultation. Deborah said there has been deep concern from

the local Commissions because of the impact and how this small amount has leveraged larger funding. It is essentially seed money going away. Deborah noted that Tom's suggestion is excellent and urges everyone to accept Tom's recommendation.

Given this is a one time transfer, Rosetta asked if the money will go back to the State Commission in the future. Tom said no and this will further relationships between the local R&R's and Commissions. Tom said the CCD will have to draw up a set of guidelines which will be performance based and could have some positive results. Rosetta asked if we could show that this works with this model and gain back some funds given there will be less administrative. Tom said 3.85M goes to the Commission system now and the CCD can buy back 2.2M.

Deborah noted that the Multnomah Commission and R&R have been in conversation regarding how these funds are used to improve the system through projects such as the Director's certificate, which has come up from the local community. The local commission was envisioned to be local planners and conveners rather than program providers.

Rosetta asked what the worst case scenario is if we didn't support this proposed use of federal stimulus funds. What do we need to be aware of? Tom said that the only way it wouldn't work is if we don't watch what happens. If the R&R's take the money and use funds in the same way it has been we could lose. Tom said there will be accountability through contracts and if we don't do this then 12 positions that are critical statewide will be lost. Randy commented that she appreciates Tom's creative thinking and it is an excellent proposal.

Cheryl said this can be used as a positive because it can link local entities and if we can empower leaders around the state to steer this. Laurie Warner supports this and would like to hear from the Commission.

**Meghan motioned that we support reappropriation of the federal stimulus dollars to backfill the needed services in the R&R services and identified services. Deborah second. Approved.**

Heidi noted that there is such support of the EQUIP statewide and noted that the Oregon Community Foundation reported this on their front page of the newsletter. There is fertile ground for further involvement from the foundation community.

Kitty P noted that we need to do a post legislature report to bring to peoples attention to keep things moving. She said we have something to talk about to take back to the legislature regarding child care given they know how terrible the session has been. **The Commission will discuss this in September.**

Rosetta thanked Kim for her work with the OCCF and that the Commission will support her.

**Oregon ASK Grant project** – Oregon Ask has been awarded \$50,000 for 15 months from the Supporting Student Success grant, a joint initiative of the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices, the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Council of Chief State School Officers. Oregon was selected as 1 of 5 states to look at the issues. Ed Dennis will work with this from ODE, Tom Olsen from the CCD, Patty Whitney Wyse from the Hunger Relief Task Force, Danny Santos from the Governor's office, Mayor Piercy from Mayors, and a representative from the School Board Association. The Governor's office is requesting 3 interns from Willamette. One of the first issues they are looking at is nutrition because you can't have a dinner program or summer lunch program unless you have an after school program. The end result will be an Oregon After school report for the Governor with recommendations, compiled list of funding streams, and survey.

School age credential is about a year out.

Deborah asked if there is any thinking on expanding the opportunities for more qualified trainers. Pam said our state is going towards training that is more than a one shot training and is an ongoing or series of training. Pam said there is always opportunity to bring issues to the scholarship advisory committee and to contact Pam to get on an agenda.

### **Fall Plan – Community Forms, Affordability Workgroup:**

We'll convene in September, October and November and begin legislative planning in January so want to be sure to provide the Commission with information to support this planning. Billie Young has said she would facilitate the affordability workgroup.

**Community forums to target the preschool population** – Dates were discussed for our next set of community forums which will target the preschool population in light of the recently passed legislation. Teresa proposed that we do a community forum and commission meeting in Central Oregon in Bend. This will align with the announcement of the award. Propose October 22<sup>nd</sup> forum, Commission meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The R&R and CCD have a joint conference on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>. Other dates such as the possibility of Grants Pass in September were discussed.

### **Proposed dates for the forums will be put together and sent out to Commissioners for feedback.**

In September we want to have a conversation about the status of child care. This will set the stage for what kinds of things we want to probe in the community that could lead to legislation. September is an important time to understand the lay of the land and use this to develop a work plan for the year as well as discuss the interim report. January is about what we have learned and what we want to do legislatively.

Deborah said there is a group of school age providers in Portland assessing how they can work with the Sun Schools. Some of the issues are revisiting the issues of legislation and if there is a need for a revised set of rules just for school age care. There are questions about the legislation we just passed but this will open the conversation. Deborah has suggested that some time next year the group could come and talk with us to let us know what kinds of questions, issues and strategies come up. Beth noted that there is also a group of 21<sup>st</sup> Century grantee's who are having this conversation. Tom said he would love to have the Commission involved.

Deborah said part of this was fueled by the city of Portland's funding allocation of CHIF which gave 12M to Sun Schools and none to licensed before and after school providers. Deborah said it has raised questions about taking tax payer dollars and funding unlicensed programs. Kitty P added that there has been a long term romance with the Sun Schools which has wanted to capture the neighborhood involvement and creative programs and has never heard the conversation about "what's best for child care." Kitty P said there is a role for the Commission and asked "how can we be helpful." What can we contribute and think of us as a tool when making decisions. They are trying to do the right thing.

Meghan asked what kind of role we can play, particularly around what quality is for school age and think we have an opportunity as a voice of credibility. Commissioner's agreed.

Rosetta said there is a recommendation to learn what Sun Schools are and speak to how we can help and be a resource - as the Commission for Child Care, and being seen by our leaders as a decision making body, let's work with them. Meghan wanted to clarify what our role

should be where people think license is quality and unlicensed is not, the goal is quality everywhere. That is what our role is and these are the lessons we have about what are quality indicators. We should view ourselves as 'how can we be helpful.' Rosetta affirmed Meghan and using the term quality indicators which this state has approved. Rosetta recommended we bring that back the quality indicators to this body to educate ourselves. Beth noted that Tammy Marino has worked with the quality indicators along with standards and national recommendations.

Kitty P said that CCD has a role to determine if the Sun Schools or 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools should be licensed. Kitty P said that it would be really great if the Commission could help with this.

Rosetta clarified a future agenda item that Cheryl had requested. She would like to see an update, how many exempt providers within counties, how the money is spent on exempt child care in the 07-09 FFN program. Rhonda said that she and Mark can do that.

Meghan said she is interested in a conversation about looking at barriers to child care from a parent such as geographical limitations, swing shifts, alternative work schedules, high needs and any strategies that we might think about. Rhonda can bring information about high needs and parents who apply for odd hour care. Tom said the Coordinating Council works every year on barriers, where we are and how we're doing. We need to bring the logic model to the Commission in September.

### **An update from Unions in September.**

#### **EQUIP Update –**

Pam reported that education awards are going out in phases. The first phase is the people who are currently on the registry. 453 eligibility packets have been processed. Meghan asked what DHS active is and Pam said it is when a provider has received a DHS payment within the last 60 days.

This week they are sending letters to the 200 people who are on the database who may not have been active, telling people to renew and they will receive an eligibility packet for an award. July they will communicate with folks on step 1 and 2. R&R will start doing community meetings in July to support folks get on the Oregon Registry. Renewals occur every 2 years.

In April, 2008, PSU processed 38 registrations and in April, 2009, 238 registrations.

Pam said a provider told her said that her worksite will reimburse her for a class but she can't afford to pay the out of pocket expense so she will use the educational award to pay upfront. Another provider said it is like being reimbursed for all the supplies she bought for her classroom. The biggest complaint is from the people who get \$50. Meghan said that it would be helpful for union organizers to get information so they can spread the word. Heidi will bring this to the EQUIP workgroup and identify how best to do this.

Teresa has taken the lead in developing an EQUIP web site. Aligning with the Oregon's Registry campaign, we're looking at using PSA's or meeting with editorial boards to encourage providers to access educational awards. Dawn reported that an R&R meeting is looking at developing materials for stakeholders to ensure we have consistent messaging between parties.

#### **Professional Development System – Dawn**

Billie Young came to the Training and Quality Committee to facilitate a mapping of our professional development session. The group developed 3 maps which surfaced 3 key themes. Dawn pulled together one map representing the themes.

The map is a high level view of the system as a whole which can be helpful as an orientation for new commissioners. We often learn about pieces of the system but it is helpful to see it as a whole. Meghan recommended that the unions be included in access and outreach because of the role the unions play to increase professional development and access the system. Cheryl said it would be helpful to have the acronyms written out. Meghan noted that a description of the clouds and what they mean would also be helpful. Cheryl recommended including contact list.

Deborah asked who the audience is for this. Dawn said those within the professional development system. This was a process to make sure we're all on the same page. Deborah also discussed the need for an umbrella concept that communicates a comprehensive system that includes all ages and needs.