

Oregon Commission for Child Care
May 16th, 2008
Roth's Conference Center
Salem, Oregon

Attendees: Rosetta Wangerin, Stephanie Swan, Nina Roll, Lynne Angland, Deborah Murray, Mike Hillman, Randy Fishfader,

Guests: Abby Solomon, Kim Cardona, Kitty Lake, Kathleen Hynes, Teresa Stevenson, Heidi McGowan, Sonja Svenson, Beth Unverzagt, Lennie Bjornsen,

Commission Business:

Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Randy moved to accept the January minutes as written. Lynne seconded. Motion passed.

Motion: Nina moved to accept the February minutes as written. Lynne seconded. Motion passed.

Rosetta noted that the Medford Commission meeting held some rich discussion with local partners which are not reflected in two pages of the April minutes.

Motion: Deborah moved to accept the April minutes. Nina seconded. Motion passed

May Agenda changes – Add membership update to commission business. Sonja Svenson will speak during lunch to discuss the state capacity grant.

Community Forums: Heidi reviewed the 2008 community forum results. Rosetta reflected that there was a high level concern for the outcomes of this discussion and wanted to make sure we think about this as we think about next steps. Randy asked what funding streams are supporting school age programs. Century 21st grants, timber money, historically OCCF, Portland Children's Investment Fund – which is up for renewal with Portland voters in November, 2008.

In the discussion regarding timelines, Rosetta asked when a decision would need to be made if legislation were proposed. Rosetta asked Kathleen if there is anything we need to consider regarding timelines. For example, if we recommend that everyone needs a criminal history regardless of whether they are licensed then that could require legislative action which would need to be worked on in the fall.

Kathleen recommended we shift our language to “out of school time” care vs. “after school” care. Mike raised the question about why the amount of time in a day a person works with a child determines whether someone needs a criminal history check. Kitty clarified it is written in statute that less than 4 hours of care for preschool age can be exempt from licensure, and therefore exempt from the requirements. Kathleen noted that the CCD criminal history statute defines who is subject to criminal history background check requirement. Nina noted that philosophically the education world requires criminal history where the child care world has not been held to that standard even though we see this as education. Lynne noted that she strongly agrees with Mike that if people are working with children they should be required to have a criminal background check. Stephanie noted that as a volunteer at schools parents have to do volunteer checks. Rosetta

noted that she volunteers at her granddaughter's preschool but doesn't have to do a background check. The difficulty is that there are so many different facets to this issue. Deborah noted that when people have been out of state the cost for a background check is \$75.00 more because fingerprinting is an added requirement. This is very challenging to programs and individuals. Mike noted that in his agency when weighing costs and liabilities and you consider best practices – this is the cost of doing business when entrusting people to work with kids.

Rosetta recommended that we do a brainstorm of all the things as next steps. Stephanie asked for clarification of the purpose of the community forums. Kitty said that CCD is seeking clarity on the definition of exempt care for out of school care. Kitty said CCD has used some rules of thumb where the statute is not clear. An example is a program offering a karate lesson for a half hour and kids hang out the rest of the afternoon where the program does not say they have responsibility. Kitty noted that there is an exemption for classes such as karate, gymnastics or scouts. Kitty noted we don't want to license scouts or soccer practice but when there are things before and after we don't have anything to rely on to determine if the program should be licensed.

Lynne asked which ORS this is: ORS 657A.

Deborah noted that all of the issues we're discussing such as criminal background checks are subsets of the overall question which is to clarify the definition of out of school care. Some suggestions by the commissioners and guests were:

1. Clarify definition of out of school care
2. Hold a forum east of the mountains
3. On-line survey target people who were not able to attend forums
4. Engage legislators – check with rep flores/kotek when OCCC has draft concepts
5. Develop a small team of 3-5 (Kitty, Beth, Rosetta, Deborah tentative for 2 meeting for an ad hoc group) to develop ideas/potential recommendations for the Commission to react to: clarify definition, provide suggestions for possible change
6. Make rough list of organizations/issues that give CCD most challenge to make decision

Deborah noted that there has been spotty feedback from exempt care providers and that feedback is primarily from licensed programs because exempt programs don't interact with CCD so they don't see this issue as theirs.

If there are any legislative changes regarding out of school care would it make sense to look including any changes to preschool now vs. two years down the road? Abby noted that from her experience it is easier to pass things when the focus is narrower. It also helps when you've done the homework and have buy-in from folks.

Commission Membership: Rosetta

The world has changed in regards to child care. Rosetta noted that we now have two unions and we need to discuss how to represent both unions, AFSCME and SEIU. Short term would be to add a labor position as an ex-officio member and long term, propose statute change to add another labor position. Rosetta noted that our decisions historically have never been decided by one vote

because of the conversations that bring us to consensus. The ex-officio member would enable us bring representation to the table. Randy said it is an obvious good idea and stated her support.

Lynne moved that we get someone to do legislation to add another labor position to the Commission.

Lynne amended her motion to put Abby on as an ex-officio member until legislation is done. Randy seconded, motion passed.

Stephanie said if we are going to do that then maybe we should have an exempt provider as well. Rosetta asked Sonja if we have funding to support an exempt provider and Sonja affirmed that cost is not an issue. Stephanie asked if there is back up care for all commissioners and Sonja clarified.

Nina said we need an update on the member list.

Lynne asked what it means if she votes or doesn't. Rosetta clarified that she would not vote but it provides perceptions that we are representing the environment.

All in favor: Motion Passed.

Rosetta clarified that Mike is going to fill the non-profit position, Gary Taylor from Medford who works at YMCA summer camps is in application for consumer role.

Deborah asked if Heidi has approached the African American chamber of commerce and advised that there is a growing Hispanic chamber of commerce. Several organizations are arranging cultural groups around their businesses and may be have some interest in publicizing Commission openings.

Lynne reflected that in the past, an attorney was great to have on the Commission. The appointment Lynne fills is tax and legal. We should consider this going forward.

Next Step: Clarified that the Speakers office is the decision maker on the labor appointment. Heidi will talk with Rep. Flores and/or Rep. Kotek regarding legislation on this.

OCCF – Lennie Bjornson – Community Schools Initiative and Wellness Dashboard

Background: The last time Lennie was before the Commission was in 1997. He was formerly Director of Oregon Community Foundation and also worked in DHS on integration of services for a decade. Recently taught 8th grade language arts. At the age of 49 he and his wife adopted and their child is now 3.5 years old.

Community Schools Initiative: Community schools have been worked on for ten years as a strategy to bring social services to schools so kids and families can do better.

OCF was assigned \$600,000 to start up community schools. There are 150 community schools around Oregon now. Some are anchored around health, social services or other needs. Susan

Castillo's goal is full day kindergarten and community schools. Community schools are a way to bring on site what kids need in order to do well.

OCF offers grants to those who apply collaboratively as a school and OCF. OCF will award 3 or 4 grants reviewed by a team of 12 – school boards associations, DHS, school administrators, Sun schools coordinator. OCF will only award new funding for a community school. It may be one time funding. There are 11 applicants. The start-up funds are used to bring together resources that result in a braided funding plan. This requires a business plan to bring together long term resources. A small slice of the 600,000 is going to a TA counselor to assist programs in their work.

Lennie was asked what the Commission for Child Care could do to support the work. Lennie responded that there are two things: A Commissioner could join the community schools steering committee (meet once a month usually 3rd Thursday/month and be reimbursed for travel). Also, if members could act as consultants for facilities needing expertise in specific area

Just call lennie.bjornsen@state.or.us if interested in joining the steering committee.

Wellness Dashboard: Two years ago Mickey Lansing saw a need to articulate how deep and broad the needs of kids are. Modeled after a similar model in Baltimore, a one-page wellness dashboard was developed.

Eventually the State Commission for Children and Families will select four or so priorities. They will look to experts for assistance on how to change to improve the selected priority. The OCCF is about leadership, catalytic leadership in a broad sense for kids. Experts can be used to add, shift how resources can be used. Rosetta said that the Commission is sending out a letter with priorities to act as a resource to local CCF's to direct their local funds. Lennie said we may want to do a full presentation to the full Commission's Collaborative.

Some states are taking a run at doing a children's budget. Sonja asked if there is a long term goal that the children's collaborative become a children's cabinet with a budget. Lennie said no, it is about catalytic leadership. Sonja asked how successful the local commissions are at doing this. Lennie said some are very successful and others have dropped off their radar that bringing people together to solve their problems is their job. The money sometimes gets in the way but the bigger calling is to bring together people to solve problems. As the state Commission selects priorities they will look to groups like the Commission for Child Care for consultation.

Lennie clarified what the color indicators in the handout referred to. Rosetta asked how the state Commission will use research – local and national – to guide the work. Lennie said that when an issue is drilled down that consulting the experts would be accessed. Lennie's challenge is where to find the groups to find research and best practice to address the issue. Lynne asked if the groups are extended beyond state government. Lennie said no, local groups and advocates. The Partners for Children and Families has a host of partners on it. Lynne noted that many of the indicators are related to finances and is related to financial literacy. Lynne said there needs to be intervention in that area as well.

Sonja asked where the work will get done and asked that if the work doesn't get done at the local level then it won't get done. Lennie said it will be through the local commissions and partners. Lennie said he didn't know if the local Commissions will be a catalyst for everything. For example, it could be through local health. Further questions ensued about areas getting locally integrated. Lennie said that local integration really comes down to county government. Most of these areas are run through local county government other than DHS. Sonja said you can build a great plan but unless it's implemented at the local level it won't work. Lennie noted that this is a struggle to get local level areas to get what Salem wants them to do.

Kim commented on the TA team that works with local Commissions to help them align with the state plan for CCDF and bringing issues back to the Coordinating council.

State Capacity Grant – Sonja Svenson

The grant application will be on line. Sonja discussed the online data base which will be accessible by R&R's and sponsoring organizations.

Next step: Bring Oregon Registry in Sept/Oct

Quality Indicators Project, see attached document – Heidi McGowan

School Age Care Report – Beth

Beth presented results about programs from other states. When asked about what key things she pulled out of the document, Beth said clarity on duration and hours, ratio (ie...lower ratio before age of 8, and increase ratio after). Some states have created exempt care standards. Without regulating everything just making more of the grey black and white would be helpful.

Sonja noted from the MOTT conference call that Maine is looking at minimal health and safety standards. Kitty identified that having a data base of those that are minimally in existence would be helpful.