

**MINUTES**  
**INCLUSIVE CHILD CARE COMMITTEE**  
**MAY 14, 2009**

*Next Meeting : July 9, 2009 9:00 to noon*  
*Meridian Park Hospital Health Education Center, Room 107*  
*19300 SW 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Tualatin, Oregon*

**Attending:**

Donna Lewelling, Co-Chair, Parent Voice Project; Dawn Norris, Co-Chair, Child Care Division ; Diana Pickett, Office of Family Health; Kim Cardona, Oregon Commission on Children and Families; Nancy Lowry, Office of Children with Special Health Care Needs; Lorine Day-Reynolds, Melinda Benson & Terry Butler, Inclusive Child Care Program, Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities.

**1. Project & Work Group Updates**

**Partnerships for Inclusive Child Care and Education (PICCE) Project**

Terry reviewed information from the most recent PICCE Project site reports. The reports covered information on activities through April 30<sup>th</sup>. Key points included:

- 221 individuals received TRAC training. The included family child care providers, center staff, Head Start and others.
- 16 received training in Spanish.
- Most were trained in the *Foundations* module. Some sites also offered *Supporting Children with Challenging Behaviors*, *Supporting Children with Disabilities*, and *Partnering with Families*.
- There have been interesting approaches to follow up supports. Clackamas County formed providers into an ongoing inclusion support group. Some communities created links with Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) specialists and information. At least two sites offered guidance and assistance on becoming an approved site for EI/ECSE services.

There will be a “refresher” day for TRAC trainers on May 29<sup>th</sup> at Western Oregon University/Teaching Research Institute. Participants will include PICCE Project trainers as well as those trained through other projects. This will be an opportunity to share successes, creative ideas and challenges.

Terry recommended a change in the coordinating agency. The Inclusive Child Care Program has coordinated the PICCE Project since 2003. Now that the

project is established within the training infrastructure, it may be time to transfer the project to a more training-focused entity.

## **Open Hearts, Open Doors (OHOD)**

The original *Open Hearts, Open Doors: Providing Inclusive Child Care* booklet was created 10 years ago. Since then there have been many changes in the way people find and use information. The committee recommended two steps for an updated version: 1) Do one more interim printing so that the booklet is available in the short term; and, 2) Delegate a work group to explore print, web and other strategies for increasing awareness and understanding of inclusion within the child care community.

The committee charged the work group with the following tasks:

- Look at different, multi-media methods for presenting inclusive child care information and values;
- Review and update language used in the original version. For example, the term “special needs” may be used differently now.
- Collect inclusion success stories, as called for in the committee’s Work Plan and the Inventory recommendations.
- Consider using a “tech-savvy” intern to work on the project.
- Donna, Hillary Dawn and Terry will be on the work group. Tom Udell or someone else from the WOU Center on Inclusion will be asked to participate. Terry will convene the group

## **2. Inventory Recommendations and Work Plan**

At the last meeting the committee discussed Inventory Project recommendations assigned to the Inclusive Child Care Committee. Between meetings members offered suggestions for activities to implement the recommendations. Lorine compiled these and shared the results. The discussion produced several ideas for changes in the work plan.

Lorine clarified several of the recommendations and the emphasis on each that the Inventory Project information supported. These include the following:

- For finding care, need to focus on educating parents on effective ways to use child care resource and referral services.
- Expanding access to consultation and technical assistance in child care settings needs to focus on these services for school age children as no other entity is providing focus on this age group.
- Need a more structured approach to sharing information on resources that support inclusive child care.

A work plan review was on today's agenda. The committee postponed discussion of the work plan till the July 9 meeting. This allows time to consider the changes suggested today from the Inventory recommendations. The following steps will help prepare for the discussion:

- ICCP staff will create a new draft of the plan. The new draft will incorporate Inventory recommendations and activities from today's discussion. It will also include suggestions from members who were not at today's meeting. Changes from the current work plan will be highlighted.
- Committee co-chairs will review the revised draft work plan.
- After the Co-chairs have commented on the plan draft, ICCP staff will send it to the full committee for review prior to the July meeting.
- The plan will be finalized at the July meeting.

### **3. EQUIP**

Dawn presented on the EQUIP initiative. This is a public/private partnership to increase quality in child care and education settings. The initiative includes financial incentives for providers to participate in the Oregon Registry professional development system, along with a mechanism for supporting and documenting quality. A more detailed description of EQUIP is attached with the minutes.

EQUIP strategies may help to increase the confidence and comfort of parents who are new to child care or have had difficult experiences with child care. Both of these often apply to parents of children with disabilities or other special needs.

The EQUIP vision includes supported slots for hard to find care. These may be Head Start or EI/ECSE slots in typical child care that meet certain standards. This will be a future goal for the EQUIP initiative.

The committee discussed the following ways that its work fits with the EQUIP initiative:

- The committee can help to ensure that trainings supporting inclusive child care are on the Training and Education database.
- Currently, finding readily available training related to inclusion is a challenge. This can affect a provider's ability to meet requirements for special needs core competencies. The committee can monitor this and recommend strategies to address the barriers.
- The Inclusive Child Care Committee will receive periodic EQUIP updates. Members will consider if there are specific points or proposals to take to the EQUIP advisory group. There are committee members on the EQUIP group.

#### **4. Health/Mental Health Priority Action Work Group (PAWG)**

Diana presented on this new group. The group is working to increase access to individualized consultation in child care settings. Diana pointed out that consultation is a proven strategy for supporting quality and stable child care. It has also been frequently identified as a key support to care for children with more complex abilities and needs. The group will develop a set of recommendations for the Health Matters group formed out of the Governor's Early Childhood Summit. The group will complete its work by October 2009.

The group's members represent child care, Head Start, mental health and health care communities. The work of this group ties in with the Inclusive Child Care Committee's focus on individualized supports.

#### **5. Announcements and Updates**

The Oregon legislature is considering major cuts in the Oregon Department of Human Services Employment Related Day Care Program (ERDC). This would result in significantly fewer families being eligible for child care assistance. Should they lose ERDC, many families of children currently receiving an individualized High Need Rate would become eligible for supplemental subsidies through the Inclusive Child Care Program. This potentially could commit all ICCP subsidy funds for 2009-2011 early in the biennium.

#### **Next Meeting: July 9, 2009**

Agenda:

- Work Plan
- State budget for 09-11 as it impacts the committees concerns and projects.
- Special Quest presentation.