

Childhood Care and Education Coordinating Council
Meeting Summary
October 1, 2009

Attendees: Mark Anderson, Terry Butler, Lillie Carillo, Pam Deardorf, Pam Dunn, Pam Everitt, Megan Grey, Merrily Haas, Donna Lewelling, Nancy Lowery, Heidi McGowan, Dawn Norris, Tom Olsen, Julie Petrokubi, Dianna Pickett, Diane Ponder, Rhonda Prodzinski, Ron Sohnrey, Sonja Svenson, Torry Templemen, Beth Unverzagt, Peggy Veltman, Rosetta Wangerin, Bobbie Weber, JaNell Welker.

Introductions/Announcements

- Tom is retiring; his last day is November 13. Suggested that Rhonda and Mark co-chair CCECC until a new administrator is hired; a good model to follow (a public/private partnership) in chairing this Council.
- OAEYC – Merrily Haas – Fall Conference is next Friday and Saturday – have several tracks including school age and inclusive child care. Having a celebration Friday afternoon recognizing the first credentials from the Infant/Toddler Credential pilot and the Director’s Credential pilot. Will also be honoring Tom for his years of work with the child care community.
- AFSCME 132 – JaNell Welker – union has been able to procure health insurance for our members. No pre-existing clause with the exception of pregnancy; will meet very basic needs for child care providers.
- Head Start – Lillie Carillo – Oregon state-based T&T office is working in conjunction with Department of Education to offer a mid-management leadership institute. Not just open to Head Start, also open to child care partners and CCR&R. Currently, have 60 participants and 11 programs participating. Most exciting is bringing in tribal programs and MSFW programs; working with T&TA specialists. Clackamas Community College will host the event with Patricia McIlveen as hostess. Will start in October and end in April; will include meetings, conference calls, and online work to create a community of learning and support. Community college credit available.
- CCR&R – Mark Anderson – Stacy Liskey has been hired as project manager and will be active on professional development and contracts. She will be at the next CCECC meeting and other meetings in between.

Parent Voice

Donna Lewelling – In rural Oregon, a great deal of unemployment is severely affecting rural Oregon; increased hardship due to a significant loss of ERDC for many families. She and other parents are trying to form informal parent cooperatives to care for children. The quality obviously is a concern, but it is filling a need for parents that cannot afford care or desperately need odd hour care. The challenge of different parenting styles is also a factor; the quality standard is now ‘children are fed, clothed and not injured.’ This child care solution really trumps continuity of care because it is the best most of them can do.

Legislative Updates – Final from 2009 Session

- **Child Care Division** – have an update this afternoon for the Interim Health and Human Services committee on legislation that requires ‘recording’ of after school and pre-school programs. CCD has until July 2010 to implement these two new regulatory items; currently working on rules, modification of workload, and all the behind the scenes activities to make it happen. There probably will be no statutory activity in the interim session scheduled for February 2010; most of the session will concentrate on agency budgets and General Fund.

- **Department of Human Services** – cuts to the ERDC program have been discussed at both the April and June meetings. Anticipating additional cuts in the February 2010 special session based on general fund revenues and outcomes from votes on Measure 66 and 67 in January 2010.
- **Commission for Child Care** – Planning for preschool forums that are ‘after the fact’ based on legislation passed in 2009 session; gathering information on how to implement. Hard population to reach because there are no formal networks like there is for licensed care. Rosetta – what we may see out of this is pre-schools that will want to be licensed because of criminal background checks. We will have the opportunity to build a strong communication network with this population. Tom - could see this as a negative, but the bill originally was introduced to require licensing, so this is a better solution for a whole new customer base.

Partner Updates

- **OregonASK** - Supporting Student Success (S3)/National Council of State Legislators Grant (NCSL) – OregonASK received a \$50,000 national grant from the NCSL, Organization of Chief State School Officers, and National Governor’s Association – five states received the grant. Receipt of the grant changed the focus of OregonASK for the next year as it was a surprise to receive it. The Oregon S3 team includes representatives from the Governor’s Office, state agency directors, legislature, local government, and non-profit advocacy organizations. Kitty Piercy will replace Tom on the committee after he retires. Her advocacy around youth and afterschool programs will be very beneficial to the initiative. Three objectives of the S3 grant:
 - Conduct a complete review and issue report on existing after school programs, federal and state funding streams, and current Oregon statutes that have relevance to extended learning opportunities (ELO)s;
 - Establish data collection processes on ELOs statewide; and
 - Provide recommendations for the After School Nutrition Initiative, coordination of existing funding and services, and how to integrate ELOs into the state system of education and education priorities.

The Department of Education has opened up their database to OregonASK to complete the necessary data collection. Carolyn McVicker is the facilitator for the project; Dr. Mary Shea will write the final report to be ready in November 2010 in time for the 2011 session.

Question: Is the goal consensus on what an ELO is? Part of the S3 workplan is looking at what research says works for children in both academic and enrichment environments outside of school time.

Question: Is there agreement on what ELOs are? We will look at several models as many programs are built to fit community need.

Question: Is this different than what APHSA is already doing? The project is rolling up everything we have done in Oregon regarding funding, programs, and models to build a policy platform. Ex: we have 500 schools that qualify for USDA food programs, but fewer than half are accessing this program when we know that children are hungry. We want to make the food program accessible, and in some cases required as part of federal grant funding.

Question: In relationship to ELOs, are you going to look at rural areas that do not have after school or ELOs and children that don’t have access to programs? We are collecting all that data and will have it available for discussion by the policymakers on the grant team.

Question: The grant overview says you will focus on health and wellness issues – how will you do that? We have both Patty Whitney Wise, Hunger Relief Task Force director, and Joyce Doherty,

USDA food programs director, on the grant team; we will fully discuss and problem solve on why schools and after school programs don't take advantage of the food programs.

Other activities include:

- Bridge to Afterschool and Back – keynote speaker is Dr. Fred Doolittle, Director of Policy Research and Evaluation at Manpower Research and Development Corporation (MDRC).
- Oregon Afterschool Hall of Fame has been launched in conjunction with national Lights on Afterschool activities.
- National *Oregon After 3* survey data will also be available in time for the Bridge conference; CCD provided funding to survey an additional 250 families in Oregon.
- In partnership with Oregon Recreation & Parks Association, offering Oregon Afterschool Conference on November 21st for frontline staff. All the materials have been sent to partners to send out (UPDATE: the conference is sold out at 150 capacity).
- Core competencies state forums –market and facilitate discussions and finally approve the standards and competencies for use by programs.
- Department of Human Services/ERDC – Rhonda Prodzinski provided a summary of the automation improvements to child care billing and attendance tracking. Two centers are participating in the subsidy billing project. For the JOBS attendance improvements, have two pilots in Salem and Woodburn. Parents and clients are using swipe cards and a Point of Sale (POS) machine – doing both for the pilots. Purpose:
 - Improve a very paper heavy process for both billing and JOBS attendance.
 - Cut down on duplicate entry of information.

Stakeholders group met a couple of weeks ago to explain the project and how the pilots will work. Understand that these tracking methods would not work for every provider, but will work for the bulk of them if the POS and swipe cards work. The attendance piece will save hours of manual tracking for our programs, plus verification with DHS. The concept we described is working in two states – Wisconsin and Indiana. Have been working with both the unions to get input. Welcomed anyone to come to one of the stakeholder meetings.

Reports

- National Registry Alliance – Dawn Norris, Pam Deardorf, and Patsy Kohout attended the Alliance meeting in Mystic, Connecticut. There are 25 states that have functioning professional development registries and all are different; another 11 states have registries in development. Several state registry's had starts and stops based on funding, policymaker priorities, and revisions. Many states use their registries as the overall data collection for their child care workforce; these states call their workforce practitioners, not providers. Workforce practitioners is the agreed term that researchers use. Overall observations:
 - Many different examples of how registry's were being used outside of the child care system.
 - Many issues around the 'voluntary' aspects of registries.
 - Alaska is using their registry with home care providers in addition to child care since it was already established for that workforce.
 - National effort going on to collect workforce information; several states have been invited to do data transfers to have a national look at this workforce. Much of the information is only available if you are a national registry alliance member. Not a lot of data is available yet. They do have a set of core data elements establish.
 - Considerable discussion on the Early Learning Challenge Grant and how to collect data to position states. Took notes that would help our work with the Oregon Registry and TED – was apparent that Oregon is right on track for the childhood care and education workforce.

One day was similar to the Researchers Roundtable; confirmation that states with registry's have a resource to really push policy formulation. Question was asked if it was appropriate to sell data to researchers to fund registry's, talking about other states, not our state.

Bobbie – read that Hawai'i is the only state that requires mandatory participation on the prof dev registry for licensed programs. Tom - that is where we are headed. Dawn- some states require it only for CCDF fund programs. Dawn – Ann Mitchell was the keynote, not often my favorite part of conferences, but she was outstanding. She talked about Early Learning Councils and Early Learning Challenge grants and how integral the registry's are to tracking of professional development and workforce training and education. Tom – Governor's Office is actively working on this issue for Oregon; federal legislation hasn't passed out of either house yet, then there is work on regulations and rules for states. It will be awhile before we see anything. Pam – I came away with 'your registry should be easy enough to explain to the childhood care and education system.'

- Training Quality Committee – Proposal was developed, discussed, and approved to restructure the TQC, which reflect the professional development system outlined by the National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center (NCCIC). Much of the work was done in April – June. Bobbie, Pam Deardorf, and Dawn have started writing a framework on Oregon's professional development system, which reflects activities encompassed on the 'tree' (see handout). TQC will change its name to Professional Development Committee with three subcommittees: Quality Assurance; Access and Outreach; and Qualifications, Credentials, and Pathways

One recommendation is to move the Family, Friends, and Neighbors subcommittee out of TQC as the scope of work is much larger than professional development. Mark – a major focus of that group is not just the DHS subsidy providers, it also does outreach to FFN providers that are not part of the 'formal' child care system. Bobbie – Where does it fit? We want to reach all the FFN; we have money to reach the DHS/FFN providers, but not the entire universe of FFN providers. The other issue: Kim Cardona staffed it and made it run, can DHS staff that committee? Rhonda – we have been asked and we are going to do it because it is important to us. We don't really want to put it with DHS Advisory, but a committee that report directly to CCECC. Pam – why does that population have its own group, but not other targeted populations. Terry – is training the focus of that group? No, there is much more than professional development. Terry – that is where the FFN providers are different from regulated providers; there is an array of different interests. Sonja – the seven high level outcomes are the focus of FFN subcommittee, which encompass all the areas of the Logic Model. Mark – we have done a disservice by only looking at the training issues. We have made an issue of just looking at them through the provider lens, rather than what the relationship does for the whole family.

Bobbie – I have been writing on this issue, the measure of quality in FFN. It is the major way in the U.S. that families care for their children. When we look at them through the lens of professional development, we are missing key components of care. We need to know about these families, what distinguishes them. What distinguishes them is not just caring for children, it is that they have a prior relationship, they know the family of the children before they provide care. They are not willing to care for other children. There is just so much we don't know. The FFN provider may not be everything that the child needs – we also want children in these care situations to be part of out of the home programs. Rhonda – There is also a huge culture piece. Pam Deardorf – it sounds like it should be its own committee under CCECC. It might touch Supply, or Professional Development, or other pieces of the system. Mark – where we house it doesn't matter because the work will still

go on. Tom – the R&R and DHS are the two logic places for staffing. Mark – not sure it even fits with the CCECC. Diane P – based on the purpose, where does it fit? Tom – we get hung up on the fit, language gets in the way. Maybe we should just say, hey, this group will go off and do its work and come back when it has something to say. Merrily – I think it fits well as a committee of the CCECC and staffed by DHS.

Diane – Question on the Quality Assurance subcommittee. Are you just focusing on professional development; there are other QA issues? Dawn – this is our first look at the language for the committees, it is the Quality Assurance in regard to professional development. We will flesh out much of the language as the committee moves forward. Lillie – applaud you for doing this work – was at the first meeting where the system mapping occur and the group really did a lot of work. Excited to see all the work articulated to the current structure.

- **Partners in Inclusive Child Care and Education (PICCE) / Opening Doors**
The PICCE project has been advised by the Inclusive Child Care (ICC) program since its conception. ICC really looked at their mission and decided they are not a training entity. The project is now established with a large cadre of trainers. CCD is working with Western Oregon University, Teaching Research Institute (TRI), authors of the TRAC curriculum (used in the training), and will include within the PICCE framework the Opening Doors curriculum. Terry Butler, Tom Udell, Torry Templemen, Dawn and Sonja met and discussed how to keep PICCE funded, support the current cadre of TRAC trainers, and move Opening Doors out further into the child care system. Terry – exciting to see this training is now part of the child care system infrastructure. Opening Doors provides another option around training for providers regarding inclusion of children with special needs. TRAC focuses on younger children, while Opening Doors addresses inclusion for school agers. Great to have the Center on Inclusion (future name of TRI) take on both of these training efforts.

EQUIP Initiative Updates and Progress Reports

- **EQUIP Steering Committee** – this small group moved forward on quality initiatives so quickly that it really had to look at itself and determine its roles and responsibilities. Historical information:
 - Small group of people got together to talk about how to strategically invest in child care quality. What could we do in Oregon that works and is scalable. The literature review done by OSU formed the foundation for the work. Decided that a two pronged approach would work for increasing quality – education awards and model facilities. The group agreed to call itself EQUIP Steering Committee (SC). Confirmed for the child care system that the Commission for Child Care is the policy body; CCECC membership implements policies and programs. Confirmed that as the child care system moves forward on quality activities, we will ensure that we all work together.
 - Overall, EQUIP SC is a group of sustainers and advocates for the childhood care and education system. Lillie – when I was at the meeting around the challenge funds last week, this group (CCECC) and EQUIP was a very natural fit for what the feds are looking for an Early Learning Council. Heidi – Joan Lombardi has asked us to present information on the conference call with the feds next week. Bobbie – EQUIP is an umbrella investment program that invests in quality. Tom is a partner in EQUIP, which means that all the quality dollars that come through CCD are part of EQUIP. This also means that all the scholarships from OCF are also part of EQUIP. Conceptually, it is an opportunity to think holistically on how we improve quality in Oregon. The quality work continues, we now have a name for the overall umbrella.

- Training and Education Database (TED) – With the information gathering for the Child Trends article it became evident that TED and the Oregon Registry are the anchors for the professional development system. Four key areas of TED – data collection methods, training and education data (gather for workforce), staff qualifications for QI, data information for researchers. A full issue brief on TED is available; leads have been identified from CCD, CCR&R, OCCD. Training Calendar – became apparent how this is critical to provide the consistency on where and how providers access and receive training and education. Leads are looking at the policies and system implications for TED and then write the policies and procedures for implementation. Six months to get this work done. Programmers are working on TED and using input from these lead groups.
- Education Awards – Pam shared latest reports on number of providers receiving awards and the amount. Data is collected by zipcode and reported by county. Increase in Oregon Registry of 1,934 and 431 are above Step 3; this is information as of June 30. We will have a June 30 report on the Oregon Registry numbers at the next meeting. Mark – the CCR&Rs are working directly with providers to increase the number of providers that know about the Registry and the Education Awards. Julie – do you collect data on school age programs? Pam – only what is self-reported. Mark – before this level of education award was possible, mentoring to providers was provided by R&Rs for them to see the value of the Oregon Registry. As of July 1, there is a concerted effort through the Oregon Registry campaign to increase the number of providers significantly; the cash awards have helped. Many center-based staff are not on the Oregon Registry and we will be focusing efforts on those facilities. Pam Dunn – we have a point person in the R&R that schedules time with providers and invites them to training to talk about the benefits of the OR and work sessions for providers that need help with their paperwork. Some get started, but don't finish and we are going to provide more support to help them to the finish line. Some are easy to assist; those that already have degrees, plus those that have kept or documented all their training certificates. Pam Deardorf – having a degree will help with documentation and the provider may not even have to provide certificates if they have a college transcript. Pam Dunn – the key is that some of them have to hear the information many times before it makes sense to them.
- Oregon Program of Quality (OPQ) – Torry Templemen – started this work in Mary and working at a dead run to get the work done by May 2010. We have an OPQ Advisory Group with which we work very closely. Working on six standards with at least two or more indicators with criteria and evidence to demonstrate how the criteria are met. We tried to make criteria clear and concise so that we could make it mostly yes – has met, no – hasn't met. The four models programs are in the process of being selected. We have a budget to work within, so they need to be fairly close to WOU. We will have enough people in the pool of applicants to get through the pilot and the initial rollout to programs; pilots will include selection from each of the licensed facility types. We are working to make sure the process of selection itself is not a barrier; selected facilities will have about six to seven weeks to put together a portfolio. Tom – we have a tight timeline because we need to go to the legislature in 2011 and change the Contribution Tax Credit program. Need to take the cap off and have about \$2 million a year to keep this program going no matter what happens with the federal and state budgets. We need to have something in hand that shows a sustainable model, something that works and makes sense.
- Director Series Training – Merrily – we have mailed cards and put information on the OAEYC website – have already had two applications. Most of the calls are from the Metro area, but have had calls from the Marion/Polk areas where we did not have funding from the local Commissions on Children and Families. Applications: deadline is October 20; application is fairly simple with demographic info and two short essays. Pam Dunn – with all the different scholarships, can a director get the whole training covered. Merrily – we are asking them to contribute a small amount. We are not screening for that information, but if someone needs help beyond release time for work,

we will work with them on funding the training. This training is a step toward the Director's Certificate. We try to have 20 in a cohort, but it is partly up to the screening committee.

- Infant/Toddler Mental Health Certificate/PSU – 10 fully-funded scholarships will be available for the 2010 class. Applications for scholarships will go out prior to the program application deadline of February 1.
- BUILD – Mark and Rhonda attended a conference in September sponsored by a group of foundations that collaborate on holistic quality issues. Mark – we forget that providers are part of an extended family, they just don't do child care. Other states are using Healthy Start to do home visits with families and they include the family's child care provider in those visits. It is looked at as a holistic social system. Oregon, generally, is focused on just the provider aspect. Bobbie – family, friend, and neighbor care is hard to reach regarding training and education; most are grandmothers who say this isn't about me, that's not what I am doing – I am being a grandmother. We have a lot to learn about seeing the world through the eyes of the people who provide this type of care. There are several people in this room right now that provide that type of care. Is this a federal initiative? No, it is a national privately funded initiative. One of the initiatives is a Play and Learn Group that focuses on the whole family and the provider – rather than how we look at it – what can we do to help the provider. We have talked about this at the DHS Advisory – getting children ready for school. Rhonda – there is a contractor for Washington State that is working on this. We were invited to a conference call – there are great resources available (not financial).

State CCDF Plan/Final – Planning for PATT update in December – Sonja will send out the PATT prior to the December meeting to give partners a opportunity to review and make assessments on progress in the seven high-level outcome areas.

Updates from Committees

- Training and Quality Committee – already reported.
- Supply Committee – no report, not sure of the status of this committee.
- Health Links/Health Consultation – Dianna Pickett – brought some influenza information, both seasonal and H1N1. Making this info available through several venues; making the info easy to find and easy to read. There are links to www.flu.oregon.gov and a hotline number the public can call. There is info on may state gov agency websites and she is trying to link all those websites. She added additional websites for pregnancy and flu, children and flu, and comparisons of allergy, cold and flu symptoms. Stressing that children six months and under need to be vaccinated. Anyone from six months to 24 years is a high risk group. There is enough vaccine for anyone that wants a shot. People with immune deficiency problems are also high risk. Nancy – when you are looking at statistics at children that have died from the flu, most of them have chronic illnesses or diseases that lowered their resistance. The Priority Action Group, part of the Health Matters group of the Early Childhood Council, has been working on a logic model and will make recommendations on competencies for the ECC. Will report back in December on the finished product.
- Affordability Workgroup – Rhonda requested the Commission for Child Care to reconvene this group. The TANF levers will be implemented July 1, 2010. DHS may face more reductions to ERDC based on revenue forecast. Billie young will facilitate the October 26 meeting. Will be discussing alternatives to the ERDC reductions. Hoping that it will be more than just one or two meetings; what to think about improvements and future planning, policies for ERDC. We have teen parent, school age, odd hour care issues that need to be discussed. With the subsidy improvements we made for 07-09, we don't want to go backwards, especially with what is happening with the TANF levers. Will keep moving ahead to try and make improvements in spite of the reductions.

- Inclusive Child Care – have completed our workplan with measureable and achievable goals. Really looking at statewide representation and options for participation. Would like to increase participation of stakeholders without having to physically attend all the meetings.
- Child Care Contribution Tax Credit – advisory group is meeting in October to discuss next steps regarding the enabling language. More information at the December CCECC meeting.
- Child Care Research Partnership – Profiles that OSU does in collaboration with the CCR&Rs are now completed. Information is available by county; also includes how to pull down information on the website for each county. Great resource for decision-makers, grant writing, or other entities that need data for their program or organization. All the information is available on the website. The Researchers Roundtable is October 7 and the focus is on ‘what research tells us about quality investments.’ The day will also include additional research on childhood care and education. Currently working on a study of the effects of subsidy policy. Talking to people that were on the subsidy program before and after the subsidy increase in 2007 and reductions in 2009. Expanding the study with CCD funding, but have just gotten federal funding from DHHS/Administration on Children and Families to study administrative data.

Next meeting: December 3, 2009, Roth’s West Salem, 1 to 4:30 p.m.