

**Childhood Care and Education Coordinating Council**  
**April 2, 2009**  
**Meeting Summary**

**Attendees:** Terry Butler, Barbara Christiansen, Kim Cardona, Sam Davila, Pam Deardorf, Pam Everitt, Joe Grosso, Merrily Haas, Kathleen Hynes, Marguerite Kenagy, Patsy Kohout, Kitty Lake, Nancy Lowrey, Heidi McGowan, Dawn Norris, Henry Oliva, Tom Olsen, Julie Petrubi, Dianna Pickett, Rhonda Prodzinski, Dennis Reynolds, Ron Sohnrey, Diana Stotz, Sonja Svenson, Shannon Vandehey, Peggy Veltman, Bobbie Weber.

**Announcements**

Dennis Reynolds – Oregon University System will have a change in representation at CCECC. Dennis is retiring as of April 15. Will spend four weeks in South Africa will be volunteering for a non-profit organization. Won't be able to follow through in the short term applying for a position on the Commission for Child Care. After his volunteering stint, will be serving as a ministerial intern at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Port Townsend, Washington, which leads to his next career. Dennis stated, "Has been very cool to watch this process and the progress made. I started with the child care system interagency group back in the very early 1990s." Peggy Veltman will be the OUS representative after Dennis retires.

Shannon Vandehey, Child Care Information Systems, CCR&R SDA 3 – May 30 is the CCIS Child Care Provider Appreciation Night at The Oregon Garden, Silverton. The 'fancy dinner' evening event will be preceded by a day of training. CCIS invites anyone to attend; please RSVP to her office for a dinner count. The CCIS lending library will soon be on the Web, enabling child care providers to check out equipment, materials, and books online. The Marion County Commission for Children and Families is providing CCDF dollars to assist with costs.

**Legislative Updates**

Pending the May 15 state economic forecast, most agencies are planning for at least 30 percent cuts in General Fund revenues for the 2009-11 biennium. Some agencies have experienced significant program cuts in the current biennium that will most likely be carried into 2010 and 2011.

• **Employment Department, Child Care Division – Tom Olsen**

The division introduced three bills; all three started out simple and two have gotten very complicated.

HB 2207 – changes name of criminal history registry to central background registry, a housekeeping measure. *5/19 update: Amended in House to include Metro Zoo employees and volunteers as subject to enrollment in the Central Background Registry. Passed house; passed Senate committee. It is expected to pass Senate floor and the Governor will sign.*

HB 2205 – allows the division to levy civil penalties on certified family child care facilities. The division has always had the ability to levy penalties and fines for RFCC, but not CFCC. *5/19 update: Amended in House to specify how fines may be imposed. Passed House; Passed Senate Committee. It is expected to pass Senate floor and the Governor will sign.*

HB 2206 - Prohibits providers from providing exempt care if their license has been suspended or revoked. *5/19 update: Passed both houses and awaiting signature.*

- **Commission for Child Care – Heidi McGowan**

Commissioner, Rep. Tina Koteck, is carrying the following bills on behalf of the Commission. HB 2987 – related to exempt school age programs – legislation is the result of forums conducted around the state. Requires three things: 1) employees or volunteers to get a criminal records check, 2) program notify parents they are not licensed by CCD, and 3) enroll by mail with the division to let them know they are present. *5/19 update: Passed the House, awaiting referral to Senate committee.*

HB 2988 – child care ‘clean box’ for criminal records checks; allows a provider to get a criminal records check through CCD which can be used for multiple agencies; eliminates need for a criminal records check for each state agency. *5/19 update: Passed the House, awaiting referral to Senate committee.*

HCR 8 – honors Commissioner Lynn Angland – would like to have it passed by mid-April in time for the reception on April 20 in Lynn’s honor. Heidi will get notice out to child care partners that would like to attend. *5/19 update: Passed both Houses.*

All three measures are moving. The school age bill has had good response, and support from legislators; lots of questions on why pre-schools are not included. The Commission decided not to include pre-schools in the bill because forums for community input had not been conducted on that issue. *5/19 update: HB 3487 introduced by Rep. Boone would make preschools subject tracking much like 2987. Passed House committee.*

- **One Voice for Child Care – Mark Anderson**

This advocacy group has a lobby day scheduled on May 12 from 1:30 to 4:30 – will have registration forms available soon for stakeholders interested in participating.

- **Department of Human Services, Employment Related Day Care – Rhonda Prodzinski**  
Stakeholders would like mandatory orientations for exempt family child care providers – would also like DHS listed providers be required to attend the orientation that is currently available for the Family, Friends, and Neighbors orientations project. Hearing on this issue will occur in a work or two; DHS supports the concept.

DHS/ERDC rebalance for 07-09 – three issues: 1) the \$25 copay will be increased, 2) families that are self-employed would not be eligible (185 cases) and 3) limit subsidies only to legally documented applicants. The federal DHHS, Child Care Bureau issued an opinion said that number three could not be implemented as it is not allowed under Child Care and Development Funds regulations.

The new General Funds reductions list should be released in the next week or so. Hopefully, no more reductions in ERDC for this biennium. ERDC and TANF JOBS have been the two programs with the most cuts. Have had calls from self-employed clients voicing their concerns; have given the Commission for Child Care as one option so they can share their concerns in a public venue.

- **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus funds) – Tom Olsen**  
We still don't know anything about the child care stimulus money, which provides approximately \$22.5 million; \$19.5 for subsidies and \$3 million for quality initiatives. The Governor's office is interested on how the funds will be spent. We expected notification this week, but have not heard anything thus far. Other programs within Employment know what they will be receiving, but have not heard from the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

### **EQUIP Initiative and Project Updates – Dawn Norris**

The Education and Quality Investments Partnership (EQUIP) initiative was created through a public/private partnership linking professional development to quality improvements. The partnership advisory group, called Strategic Investments, includes the Oregon Community Foundation, Children's Institute, Child Care Research Partnership, Child Care Division, Department of Human Services, Head Start Collaboration/Department of Education, Commission for Child Care, and the Oregon Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

The Commission for Child Care has listed EQUIP as a priority and will provide oversight of the overall initiative. First overarching piece is The Oregon Registry, Training and Education Database, from which there is two pronged approach for professional development and quality improvement: equipping individuals and equipping facilities. This isn't a pilot – it is an investment into the childhood care and education system.

An overview of the EQUIP initiative can be found at:

[http://www.employment.oregon.gov/EMPLOY/CCECC/popularity\\_boxes/EQUIP\\_Summary.doc](http://www.employment.oregon.gov/EMPLOY/CCECC/popularity_boxes/EQUIP_Summary.doc)

The facilities side of EQUIP initiative is in development; we have the infrastructure already in place for the individual education awards. This initiative gives the 'why' for people to get on the Oregon Registry; eventually, CCD would like to make enrollment on the Oregon Registry a licensing requirement.

Questions and Answers:

**Q: Will dollars be available to bring a facility up to the standard?**

A: Depends on what needs the facility has, but yes based on yet to be established criteria.

**Q: How does this relate to the Center for Career Development/PSU? Is their work imbedded?**

A: The Center/PSU, which houses Oregon's professional development registry, is a key partner in the initiative. Education Awards to individuals will be issued through the Center in a similar process to scholarships.

**Q: "Partner Ready" designation, how is that different from accreditation?**

A: In Oregon, we know there are not many programs that are accredited; this number drops every year for a variety of reasons. "Partner Ready" designation is much higher than licensing and incorporates the structural indicators of quality (QI) and builds on the QI project with additional high-level criteria (standards). The other key piece is the benefits – if facilities meet the standards, it will be very easy for Head Start to partner with them, or Oregon PreK, and/or

CCD could purchase infant/toddler and school age slots. We will be using the Head Start standards and EI/ECSE placement criteria to design the model. This will be a very pragmatic model design, very simple, that can be sustained over time. CCD is contracting with Western Oregon University/Teaching Research Institute to develop the 'partner ready' facility designation – naming it is one of their deliverables.

**Q: Do Education Awards and 'partner ready' designation apply to centers and family child care?**

A: Yes to both. To receive an Education Award, the provider must work directly with children or supervise staff who work directly with children. Center/PSU is the lead and has a detailed workplan established. Looking at May 15 to start getting the first round of Education Awards out, which is the primary use of the stimulus money. Because these dollars will be spent on their facilities, professional development, or other needs within the provider's community, this is the fastest, most effective way of injecting dollars into the local economy.

**Q: So only retro and one time? Will there be an ongoing piece?**

A: The initial Education Awards will be awarded to everyone currently on the Oregon Registry at Step 3 and above. There are additional criteria, but this ensures that providers who have worked hard to move up the steps will be rewarded for their professional development efforts. The Education Awards model can be sustained long after the stimulus dollars are gone, which was a key goal of this component of EQUIP.

**Q: What about the impact on someone that is graduating in May and is not yet working? Is there a way for them to get the award?**

A: There is a May cut-off date for current Oregon Registry participants and Education Awards will go to those that meet criteria. For providers that are not yet working, there is a mechanism for them to get an EA once they are working in the field. As this group is probably pretty small, the Center/PSU will work with them on an individual basis if necessary. There are many ways to make sure qualified providers receive their Education Award. To emphasize, this is an individual award, not a program award; the first checks will be awarded retroactively to the child care workforce currently on the Oregon Registry based on step.

**Q: After Step 7 it is harder to find training; is there a plan for higher level training?**

A: Yes, we will start moving toward the creation of some relationship and skills-based sessions with coaching components. It is a huge undertaking and will take time to develop. We will look at how training is delivered overall and move some two-hour blocks of training to training that has more substance and is relationship-based. There will still be plenty of two-three hour training sessions available, but the goal is to provide training that demonstrates a change in provider behavior. A Training Gaps Subcommittee survey was done in earlier this year of OAEYC, OACCD, and CCR&R training and the level of sets. The survey showed over 200 hours of Set 2 community-based training statewide, which doesn't include hundreds of hours of community college training. Higher level training is available, but may be geographically limited.

**Q: Does this mean that the Statewide Mentoring program is no longer going to happen.**

A: We are moving the funds that supported that program to Oregon's Registry Campaign. The current mentoring program as it is structured simply does not meet the needs of providers or the professional development system. It has been 'in transition' for some time since it was 'revamped' due to Unemployment Insurance issues. Oregon's Registry Campaign utilizes the Oregon Registry as a professional development tool. Through a contract with the Oregon Child Care Resource and Referral Network, targeted work for the CCR&Rs will move it forward. It will be up to the individual CCR&Rs as to how they implement the campaign.

### **State Child Care and Development Fund Plan – Sonja Svenson**

The state CCDF plan is about two weeks behind schedule; some partners have asked for an extension of time to submit their sections. The first draft of the plan should be posted by April 17. Comments, corrections, or other edits can be submitted to Sonja at any time. The 2010-11 plan is being connected for the first time to the Child Care System Logic Model and Program and Accountability Tracking Tool. Sonja has been asked to present the Logic Model and PATT plus how it connects to the CCDF plan at the Region 5 State Administrators Conference in Chicago on April 22.

### **Commission for Child Care – Heidi McGowan**

The full report and executive summary of the 2009 Commission for Child Care Report to the Governor and Legislature is available both in hard copy and online at the Commission website. Sheridan McCarthy, Meadowlark Communications, was the writer/designer and she did a wonderful job of capturing partner input and developing a crisp, to the point report.

The Commission's strategic planning session in January produced priorities for the 2009-11 biennium. A SWOT analysis, which is reflected in the report and executive summary, was conducted by Commissioners and child care partners. At the top of the list: maintain the Employment Related Day Care program. The EQUIP initiative was also a priority; Commissioners are very engaged and look forward to providing an advisory and oversight role.

Updates:

- School age exempt programs measure has passed the House.
- Looking at impact of ARRA funds for child care in Oregon and leverage it to the maximum level.

Bobbie spoke to the Commission on child care data. Data sources are always collected at the time of the economic downturn and it is hard to see the trends. Some data is only collected annually, so it is hard to get fast measures of change. Kitty Piercy suggested more forums to get direct input from constituencies, then report perceptions of decline in slots and availability of care. Commissioners want to hear what is happening directly from facilities, families, and how it impacts children in care. Bobbie stated that anecdotal information can get pretty far off of what is happening, so need hard data along with the information gathering.

Nancy Lowrey suggested the Commission look at types of referrals that are happening, what happens when the schools release for summer to school age kids. Diana Stotz – we could look at prior year data and look at the magnification so we can put it out to our communities. Bobbie – the problem is that our data collection started in the early 90s and the last severe recession was in

early 80s. Diana – but what we saw was the number of providers went up because people decided to stay home and provide care, but the number of families needing care dropped. Then when the economy recovers, people go back to work, providers leave the field, and child care needs increase.

An ad hoc work group has been established to develop an award in honor of Commissioner Lynn England – she was a very strong advocate for business involvement in child care. The Commission would like to honor businesses that invest in child care for their employees. Heidi will update partners at the next CCECC meeting.

Looking ahead: the last two years the Commission conducted forums on exempt school age care. These forums worked very well so next two years will include forums on pre-school care. Do preschools need to do at least a criminal background check on employees and volunteers? Most states license all preschools; Oregon has about 500. Looking toward the 2011 Legislative Session, Commissioners would like to lift the cap on the Child Care Contribution Tax Credit; will base the legislative concept on what we have heard from legislators, what we have learned from the pilot programs, and what we are doing with the funds in the EQUIP initiative.

### **Structural Indicators of Quality, Presentation – Roni Pham and Julie Ann Smith**

Roni and Julie presented an overview of the Structural Indicators of Quality (QI), which is Oregon's answer to a Quality Rating System. The main components are the collection of data by Child Care Division Licensing Specialists, submission of data to the Oregon Child Care Resource and Referral Network for cleaning and analysis, and then transfer of data to Oregon State University which develops the QI reports for centers (and eventually family child care). Roni and Julie are presenting this information all over the state to center directors and operators and other stakeholders. Reports provided to centers are confidential and release to the public is voluntary on their part. The training and education information on the reports will also be submitted to the Center/PSU to the T & E database – eventually will produce Training and Education Summaries for child care and early education providers.

### **Updates from Committees**

- Training and Quality Committee – engaged fully in the EQUIP initiative; moving toward an RFP for a First Aid/CPR curriculum that is child care provider focused; working on articulation of community-based training recognized by community colleges to four year schools.
- Supply – next meeting is April 21, 1:30 to 3:30 – Kim Cardona sent out a survey to local commission using the PATT – will give them a chance to look at where their community priorities lie and how to connect it to the Supply committee workplan. This will enable them to plug into what is happening with EQUIP. Hope this information will also inform our new Interagency Agreement with CCD; look at strategies and add in additional gaps that we may not have identified, which helps them work on the high level state outcomes.
- Health Consultation – next evaluation report is coming out in May.
- Inclusive Child Care – working on new goals and in process of implementing and incorporating them into the ICC program. The inventory recommendations will also be implemented in the next biennium – follow up on the priorities identified by CCECC at the February meeting.

- Child Care Research Partnership – the new USDA funded research project on nutrition, exercise, and obesity is underway by Steward Trost. He will be at the May 6 CCRP meeting to make a presentation. He will solicit feedback from people on questions like which child care providers should be targeted for control and project groups. We have a problem with family child care providers that enter and exit frequently and how do we incent them to stay in the project. What is of value to family child care that won't increase their exercise and nutrition (control group)? Researcher's roundtable in October – group has decided that having a theme for presentations works better. We need to get the topic right; policy relevant and of interest to a wide group of people. Areas in which we need research to inform us and is widely relevant – last year was professional development. Survey on impact of subsidy program increases on families – data is being analyzed. Amazingly, parents want to talk to the research team and DHS did not get one complaint call on the survey.

### Updates from Partners

- Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children (OAEYC) – Spring Conference on April 24 and 25. Conference in Pendleton on April 18, Institute Conference on April 25. more info on Spring Conference available on the website. Newsletter has gone out with more training information. Half the sessions are Set 2. Stephanie Feeny will present a three-hour session on Saturday afternoon. Five hours of set 2 training will be available on designing environments. The Grand Articulation Summit (GAS) is on April 24 – part of the Training and Quality Committee/Articulation Subcommittee workplan – will include Virtual Degree information and planning/work session and celebration on how far we have come in articulation. Getting credit for community-based training and moving those credits from community college's to four year schools is starting to move forward. Have some four year schools participating this year at the GAS. We are working with CCD to provide financial support to child care providers to attend GAS, which will be Set 2 training for six hours.
- Oregon Commission for Children and Families (OCCF) – day at the Capitol for local commission on April 21, for a Kids in Common rally.
- Oregon Center for Career Development in Childhood Care and Education/Portland State University (OCCD) – besides writing checks for ARRA funds – developing new curriculum for school age providers called *Discovering Potentials* – TOT is June 18 and 19. A report on trainer program survey is now available on the Center website. Revised the steps doc for the Oregon Registry; no substantive changes to the steps policy-wise, just formatting and clarification to make it easier to read. Two new credentials – Infant/Toddler and Director - being field tested currently. Directors Credential framework went to NAEYC and is now a state-approved credential for documentation toward NAEYC accreditation.
- Oregon After School for Kids (OregonASK) – collaborating with the Oregon Alliance for Art Education on their summer institute called Arts without Boundaries, June 21-23. This is the first time that it will include after school teachers with public school educators and teaching artists. The institute will grant PSU credit and all workshops are Oregon Registry approved. Information will be on the OregonASK website. Currently in discussions with the Oregon School Boards Association for Links to Learning webinar training. This is the initiative funded by the Mott Foundation and CCD to promote after school programs as part of the extended school day. Beth and Tammy Marino are part of the Bridge to Afterschool and Back Conference planning team – this is the sixth year for the national conference; Oregon Registry approved workshops and certificates will be given. After school program

standards and workforce core competencies are completed and will go out for review late summer and early fall – OregonASK will use child care partners as part of the review process. Once approved, they will be submitted to the National Afterschool Alliance for recognition as the standards for NAA accreditation in Oregon. The Programs and Technical Assistance Committee recently completed a set of common definitions for after school professionals; will go out for review this summer and early fall. The OregonASK-sponsored Day at the Capitol for After School programs is April 14 from 10 to 3. After school programs from all over the state are expected to attend.

**NEXT MEETING:** June 4, 2009, 1 to 4:30 p.m., Roth's – West Salem