

Oregon Child Care Research Partnership  
June 4, 2008  
Minutes

**Attendance:** Bobbie Weber, Deana Grobe, Becky Vorpapel, Art Emlen, Kim Cardona, Tom Olsen, David Mandell, Beverly Briggs, Dawn Norris, Diana Kruse, Rhonda Prodzinski, Shiela Carter

## **I. 2008 Market Rate Survey**

Deana provided preliminary statewide and trend price results from the 2008 Market Rate Survey (see handouts). The group felt the following additional analyses would be of interest:

- Look at change in facilities since 2004 by type of care.
- Adjust for value of the dollar in trend charts of prices by type of care; also consider adding a line for average wages over that same time period.

The group also talked about ways we might improve upon the Oregon market price study based on the guidance of the national MRS project: (a) definition of currency, (b) assigning geographic units by using statistical programs to establish clusters, (c) understanding more about the part-time preschool programs, etc. In the fall, a workgroup will be formed to discuss ways to improve the Oregon market price study in 2010 based on the guidance recommended in the national MRS project.

### Next Steps:

- In the next week or so, Deana will convene a work group consisting of Rhonda, Becky, and Bobbie, via conference phone, to discuss specific zipcodes that Deana needs assistance in assigning to a rate area.
- In the fall, Bobbie will form a workgroup to discuss changes to the Oregon market price study process.

## **II. Brief overview of proposal to Office of Policy Research and Evaluation (OPRE)**

Bobbie briefly discussed the two main focuses of the proposal submitted to OPRE (see handout of the abstract). We won't know if the project is funded until the end of September. Bobbie did have a thought about the Qualitative Improvement Initiative piece. She felt this Initiative will be building a system where all providers can say out loud what their intentions are, or where they fit in the child care workforce. It will be important during the enrollment process to support everyone. We don't want them (e.g., Grandmas) to meet certain standards when this isn't what they plan on doing for a career. It would be good to tailor different support, training, and expectations based on where the providers feel they fit.

## **III. Professional Development Studies**

- a. *INVESTING FOR SUCCESS in Oregon's early childhood education, Children's Institute* – David's report Investing for Success is in the final stages of production. The document is targeted towards policy makers with the goal of helping with decision making. The report indicates that this topic is important because you can't invest in children if you don't invest in their caregivers. Two of the bigger framing issues are: (1) because there is a diverse population of child care providers, diverse strategies are needed, and (2) because the majority of the degree programs are within the community colleges, they need to be better supported. The group talked about the disconnect between the 2-year community college degrees and the 4-year university degrees

(especially the AS degree given at community colleges). One of the questions raised was whether we should be pushing early child care providers to receive 4-year degrees when many end up going into teaching elementary.

- b. *Effective Investments in the Early Childhood Profession, Oregon State University* – OCF came to OSU and asked them to do a literature review on professional development. Molly T., a graduate student, will be working on this project during the summer. They want answers to particular questions to inform decision-making around future investments. The final report should be completed at the end of the summer.

Next Steps:

- David will send his references to Bobbie for use in their literature review.

#### **IV. 2008 Researchers Roundtable**

*Date:* Wednesday, October 1, 2008

*Where:* McMennamins Edgefield

*Topics:* The group brainstormed about a variety of topics. What was decided on was the following:

- Ask Karen Tvedt to present in the morning. Her topic is on the generosity of subsidy policies and the relationship of these policies across states. Bobbie will be the discussant.
- Pull together a panel on Professional Development during the afternoon with the goal of working as a group to figure out what research questions Oregon should explore? The panel will consist of the following and will inform the group on what we know and don't know about professional development both nationally and in Oregon:
  - Shannon Williams – QI Project (need to determine whether this project fits)
  - NPC Research – CCEP project
  - OSU graduate student - literature review for OCF (will be completed this summer)
  - Bobbie Weber – Logic model that was proposed in OPRE grant proposal
  - Moderator: Dave Mandell

*Sharing Time:* The plan is to have sharing time prior to and after lunch. We will ask participants to bring a short summary of what they plan to share along with their name, organization, project title, and web link if available. We will also ask participants to be thinking of research questions they would like answered and to share these during the sharing time. Finally, Becky suggested that it might be worthwhile to record the sharing time so that we don't miss important questions or discussion.

Next Steps:

- Bobbie will talk with Karen, NPC Research, and Shannon about presenting at the Roundtable.

#### **V. Updates**

*Oregon Population Survey 2008* – contract is signed. Not sure when they will be in the field.

*Percent of CCDF eligible served* – [waiting for data from Deb. Tremmel]. Tom will talk with Deb to see how the data fixes are going.

*OCCF Evaluation of Family, Friend, and Neighbor Project* – the evaluation has just started. Kim designed a postcard reminder indicating that a post survey will be arriving soon. The R&Rs will also be sending a letter with the post survey. The letter will indicate that when they return the survey they will receive a \$5 incentive (to either Target, Fred Meyer, Bi-Mart, etc.).

*Measuring turnover in family child care* – [on hold]

*PATT (system accountability work group)* – The group needs to convene to come up with a process to annually review the system.

*Framework for learning from Oregon program evaluations* – [Bobbie needs to get together with Clara Pratt to set this up]

*Child Care Supply Benchmark formula development* – [waiting for OPS data from Bobbie]

*Child Care Tax Credit projects evaluation* – Lane County finished their 3<sup>rd</sup> year and NPC is working on their final report for the entire project. The next step is to determine how to move forward. Where is the tipping point for the different aspects of the project, and can the project be sustained with less investment dollars. Multnomah/Clackamas/Washington are in the beginning stages of their project and are currently collecting baseline data.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, July 2, 2008 – 9:30am-12:00pm