

Bend Forum Summary 4/21/05

Bend Issues

- DHS subsidy reimbursement rates for provider and parent:

Parents get a small salary increase and become ineligible for subsidy
Child care provider often is stuck with an unpaid bill
Parent co-pays are too high.
- Health Insurance and Benefits for providers
- Non traditional child care hours (evening and weekend) and sick child care.
- Need Family Child Care Support – such as the FCC Networks.
- Concern and confusion about the Unions.
- High growth population and cost of living in Bend.

Successes

- Providers feel successful, that they are giving quality care to children.
- Oregon Registry and Child Care Resource and Referral: Good training, more choices available, well attended, Oregon Registry process is a smoother progression.
- Central Oregon is getting the word out to employers about child care

Changes

- Increase DHS Subsidy reimbursements rates and inform parents about the subsidy does not cover the cost of a child care providers fee
- Respect for profession – value from public

Higher wages – CARES statewide
Benefits and Insurance

- Change CCD regulation about group size and age consolidation in family child care and centers
- CCD to license all child care
- More quality part-time care slots to support parents working in part-time jobs or non-traditional hours (evening and weekend)
- Educate employers to help fill the gap
- Pass HB 2950 – prevent sunset of dependent care tax credit
- Establish and maintain funding source dedicated completely to child care.
- Passage of HB 2999 – increase limit of children in Certified Family Child Care from 12 to 16