

Oregon Commission for Child Care

April 25, 2003, Salem, OR

Members Present: Lisa Kopetski, Vicki Sarazin, Katherine Criswell, Kitty Piercy, Cynthia Hurkes, Gabriela Downey, John Sandusky

Guests: Rosetta Wangerin, Tom Olsen, Tamara Brickman

Minutes: Marcia Martin

Chair Kitty Piercy called the meeting to order.

Briefing and Discussion: Legislative Update - Tamara Brickman, Employment Department Legislative Coordinator

HB 2191 will be amended to exclude the regulation of school-sponsored child care programs. Opponents cite voluntary compliance as sufficient. To date, 78 programs have voluntarily sought licensing, and six have not. The bill is scheduled for a hearing on Monday, the 28; the Committee will not be taking testimony.

<p>Action: The Commission members agreed that compliance is in the best interest of the children in care. Kitty will discuss the issue with Patty O’Sullivan, Jim Sager, and Joanne Miksus.</p>
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HB 2445 allowing child care providers to view videotapes in lieu of training died in committee.

HB 2783 is a House Judiciary Committee bill that recently passed the House and referred to Ways and Means Committee. This bill would require CCD (and all licensing agencies and boards) to record social security numbers on applications. This would affect registration and renewals of child care providers, and may be in conflict with federal legislation restricting use of social security numbers.

HB 3066 “Oregon Cares” is currently in Ways and Means.

HB 3072 would affect CCD to verify tax compliance of registrants seeking licenses

HB 3184, the clean-up bill for the CCD child care investment tax credit, was referred to the House with a do pass recommendation from the Revenue Committee.

HB 3411 would establish a subsidy for an at-home infant child care program. The Employment Department is working with sponsors on amendments to allow a limited number of ERDC clients to stay at home and receive a percentage of subsidy that would ordinarily help pay for child care while they work. This is subject to receiving a federal waiver and continued federal funding. There is also a TANF portion of the bill to create a

pilot program in the Department of Human Services to allow parents 180 days (versus the current 90 days) at home to care for a newborn. The bill would require individuals to participate in child development/parenting programs. If an individual does not work for employer complying with the Family Leave Act, there is no job protection.

HB 3564 would reinstate the student block grant program (when money becomes available).

Action: Commission members unanimously supported a motion to request a budget note proposing that the Commission for Child Care participate in prioritizing child care measures which are passed pending the infusion of new funds. Tom and Tamara will provide a list of affected bill numbers and assist Kitty in drafting a letter to Co-Chairs Schrader and Miller and Revenue Officer, Ken Rocco.

SB 534 proposed exempting a child care provider from licensing if the provider was a relative or individual with a special relationship to the child. CCD worked with the bill's sponsor to amend it to allow anyone related to the child by marriage or a person who has been determined to be a member of the child's extended family (as determined by CCD on case by case basis).

SB 718, student block grant bill, is in Ways and Means.

The Governor's Appointments Office reports that individuals will not serve multiple terms of more than 8 years.

Briefing and Discussion: Child Care Division Update - Tom Olsen, CCD Administrator

Executive Officer for the Commission for Child Care: Tom announced that CCD will dedicate a permanent, fulltime position to the Commission for Child Care. The salary range will be a range 25, versus the previous 23. Tom expects to post the position announcement within the next week, and he will provide Commission members with a copy. The employee will report to Tom. Commission members are encouraged to be involved in the interview process.

Registered Child Care Providers: The number of registered providers has declined from 10,500 to nearly 50% to the current total of 5,380. Tom indicated that part of the decline in numbers is probably the result of merging CCD data with DHS and child care resource and referral databases. He said that CCR&Rs regularly call providers in database for a more accurate number. He also cited increased regulatory requirements and recent revision of administrative rules, factors which may have led to some providers opting out, with the remainder he described as "intentional" and professional.

A discussion occurred about the advances and initiatives which have had a positive effect on child care quality. Examples include the growth of the CARES program throughout the state, Health Links pilots (public health nurse and CCR&R collaborations that offer consultations to providers), provider training through the Inclusive Child Care Project,

the revision of the former Child Care Basics curriculum, and Child Care Information Partnership publications and products.

Rosetta suggested creating a “good news” article or newsletter that will inform partners and others about these initiatives.

Kitty suggested the creation of an electronic or print publication created by the Commission Executive Assistant with updates for “the larger world” of legislators, businesses, etc.

Gabriela identified a need for a “who’s who” in child care. Rosetta said a good place to start was with the membership of the Child Care Coordinating Council. It was also noted that the Commission needs an orientation notebook.

Child Care Research Partnership: Tom reported that the group is working on an evaluation for organizations involved with CARES with the goal that every child care program gather and report information. Tom distributed copies of the latest “Data for Community Planning.”

Kitty asked members to brainstorm how the Commission for Child Care will solicit information about child care when the Commission does not regularly travel to communities and hold community meetings (due to budget constraints).

The following suggestions are from that discussion:

- Lisa said to invite Jeanie Suihkonen or Cheryl Reece (vice chair) of the Family Child Care Network to give an update.
- Rosetta offered the results of a parent survey (pilot) conducted by DHS. For example, the survey indicated that children’s stays with a provider are on average, five months. She suggested that a similar tool may be developed for use by the CCR&Rs to obtain provider input.
- Cynthia suggested linking to some local events already occurring and working with CCR&R programs. Some examples are the Provider Resource Organization’s conference, the Oregon Association of Child Care Directors’ conference in May. Cynthia said she will work with Network Executive Director Mary Nemmers to for ways to create more linkages between the Commission and CCR&Rs.
- Lisa said to revisit having a booth at the State Fair.

Federal Child Care Plan: Tom said that the plan will be available on the Web next week and will e-mail Commission members the link to the site. He does not expect additional federal funds. The major differences in the plan are changes to reflect DHS budgetary issues and the President’s children’s initiative.

CCR&R Network’s Web Site and Quality Indicators: Tom reported that the Network has updated its Web site and parents can search for providers online at www.OregonChildCare.org. Tom said that the Child Care Division will encourage the CCR&R Network to participate in a pilot program to report provider information based

on the seven structural indicators of quality: group size, adult-to-child staff ratio, education and training of the caregiver, turnover rate of staff/teachers, compensation teachers and providers, number of substantiated complaints, and licensing and accreditation. The plan is to start with a pilot, and eventually, conduct a statewide roll-out. This requires changing current methods of data collection and reporting. The results will be used in consultations with parents for comparing child care programs.

Discussion: Long Term Planning Group

The Commission members agreed to take this up when the legislative session is over. In the fall of 2003, the Commission will form a group of members from the Child Care Financing Task Force and the Commission to take the task force recommendations one step further. Prior to planning, the Commission will need to consider how much this will cost and what process will be used. Rosetta volunteered to ask former Commission member Judi Johnson to facilitate the session pro bono.

Kitty reported that Dell Ford contacted her about the Commission for Child Care taking on the recommendations from last year’s summit on mental health. Marcia will invite Dell to attend the next Commission meeting.

Action Item: CCR&R Advisory Committee Recommendation, SDA 2 – Cynthia Hurkes, Committee Chair

Cynthia presented a written memo outlining a recommendation from the CCR&R Advisory Committee regarding Service Delivery Area 2, Metro CCR&R and provided copies of a memo from Network Executive Director Mary Nemmers to the Child Care Development Service (CCDS), lead agency for Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington.

Currently, the Network contracts with CCDS, and CCDS subcontracts with two other agencies to provide service to Washington and Clackamas Counties. One of the subcontractors, Washington Community Action Organization, has requested to contract directly with the Network as the lead agency for Washington County.

Discussion:

Vicki said it was critical that the change be “transparent” to parents and providers who currently deal directly with Washington Community Action Organization

Kitty asked whether CCDS had an opportunity to respond. Cynthia stated that CCDS had been given an opportunity to respond to the original request from Washington County CAO to become their own SDA but CCDS was not given an opportunity to respond to the advisory committee’s recommendation.

Tom and Cynthia both spoke in support of the process regarding the Network’s decision.

<p>Action: The Commission for Child Care by unanimous vote approved the motion to accept the CCR&R Advisory Committee’s recommendation to allow Washington County Community Action Agency to contract directly with the Oregon Child Care Resource & Referral Network to provide CCR&R services in Washington County.</p>
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Discussion: Final Report of the Task Force for Financing Quality Child Care

The report will be printed later this month. Commission members discussed how to engage task force members to work with their constituents and contacts. Discussion highlights include:

- Kitty said that AOI is an important constituency, as is Oregon Business Council.
- Task force members could conduct personal meetings with special individuals such as Cam Braley of Community Colleges and Workforce Programs. Rosetta offered to work with Community Colleges on child care.
- It was suggested that Commission members offer to make a presentation to the State Commission on Children and Families. Marcia will contact the Commission to inquire about an agenda item.
- Each Commission member will take the report and hold a conversation with legislators.
- John suggested efforts to broaden partnerships with community agencies that deal with affordable housing and low-income families such as the Community Action Program association and the Oregon Association of Community Development Organizations.
- Cynthia suggested that an executive summary and/or a PowerPoint presentation be developed along with talking points about the recommendations.

Briefing and Discussion: Biennial Report/OCCC Web pages

Marcia said that she had not received any suggestions for changes or additions to the draft of the Commission's biennial report and asked Commission members to submit any as soon as possible.

Marcia indicated that the task force report will be available on the Commission's Web pages within the Employment Department's Web site. She is working with the CCD and Webmaster Bill Rickman to update the content of the pages.

Commission members asked that the pages include the history of child care, Commission accomplishments, and a section of frequently-asked questions about child care. Marcia's working agreement with Bill Rickman is to provide basic, updated material for now, since all Web sites will be redesigned within several months.

Kitty requested an "assignment log" at the end of the minutes to track the Commission's to-do list. Marcia will create an action plan that can be carried over and updated.

Round Robin - Items from Commission Members and Guests:

Rosetta will be working with the data group on trending. She also briefed the Commission members on the Bush administration's Good Start, Grow Smart initiative. There are two conference calls (one phone, one video) scheduled for May 1, 2003. June 12th is a three-hour presentation from Region 10 to state partners, 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Public Service Building. Rosetta will view and update Commission members with materials from Region X.

Kitty will send Commission members information regarding the Head Start Block Grant Proposal. She suggested that the Commission send a letter to Congressional District to express opposition to the proposal. Kitty will draft a letter and poll Commission members via email.

Next Meeting Agenda Items:

Exempt Care (Outreach to providers from CCR&Rs) – Pam Dunn, Chair, OCCRRN
Overview of the child care professional training system – Rosetta and Dell Ford, Co-Chairs

The meeting was adjourned.