

Commission for Child Care
April 24th 2009
Oregon State Capitol – Room 350

Attendees: Cheryl Reece, Jan East, Meghan Moyer, Deborah Murray, Nina Roll, Randy Fishfader

Guests: Janice O Malley, Ron Sohnrey, Kathleen Hynes, Kitty Lake, Teresa Stevenson, Heidi McGowan, Tom Olsen, Rhonda Prodzinski, Dawn Norris, Faye Zepeda, Ruth Crawmer, Russ Crawmer, Macy Crawmer, Marian McDonald

Introductions

Updates:

The executive summary of the Governor's Report has been released and was hand delivered to the legislators Monday, April 20th.

HB 2987 – School age exempt bill passed out of Human Services committee on Monday

HB 2988 – Clean box bill passed out of Human Services committee this morning.

HB 2205 – Civil penalties bill passed out of Human Services committee this morning.

HB 2207 – Change name of criminal background check has been modified to include background checks on employees of metro zoo.

HB 2206 – No exempt care bill, if a provider has had license removed they won't be able to care for children no matter the number (currently they can care for three or fewer children in addition to their own after being suspended or revoked). This bill has passed in the House and is now in the Senate.

Community Forum Plans:

Locations currently under consideration for forums to discuss exempt preschools:

September - Canon Beach/Astoria to meet Rep. Boone's district

October - Grants Pass to meet in Rep. Maurer district to address his concern from conversations with exempt preschool provider.

Additional proposed forums:

Metro area – East County or North Portland

Rep. Van Orman – Sandy/Hood River

The Commission will look at other locations for forums in order to achieve communication with a cross section of the state.

Approve Minutes – Meghan motions to approve except for the deletion of Nina’s attendance as written. Randy seconded. Approved.

Lynne Angland Award of Excellence – Teresa brought to the Commission a general description and/or draft, along with a brief to do list that she would like a committee to work on. She requested 2-3 people to assist with this. Randy and Cheryl will serve on this committee. Mark, Lynne’s son will be involved as well. **Deborah asked if we could update us next meeting for the Commission to give feedback.**

DHS/ERDC Updates – Rhonda Prodzinsky

Governors recommended budget includes:

Eliminate ERDC eligibility for self-employed clients

Limit ERDC to families leaving TANF has not been implemented yet pending public hearings

May 12th – Once Voice for Child Care lobby day is May 12th.

Funding from Federal Stimulus fund will be 19.5M and is included in this projected cut however due to state budget cuts, there is still an overall 38M overall reduction that puts us back to pre 07 ERDC budget.

May 20th will be the next forecast.

Rhonda asked the Commission what we thought about reconvening the Affordability Workgroup in fall, 2009 to target for improvements for 2011-13 and if DHS has to take reductions, where to do it. Bobbie Weber will have the results from the subsidy study to assist in the process.

Meghan noted that due to collective bargaining with unions, it could create an unfunded mandate and a challenge for the DHS program.

Proposed concept means that if an individual quits their job they won’t be eligible for TANF. The problem is that if individuals lose ERDC, they may have to quit their job because they can’t pay for child care.

Rhonda is putting together a simple document describing the issue and will email it to Heidi. Heidi will email this to the Commission and dates of hearings held by Ways and Means. Deborah asked if there was a better process they can give to parents since the hearings are often full. Nina recommended hand written letters from parents. Heidi will draft a sample letter with information such as “we understand the state is facing a difficult time and child care is crucial to economic recovery.”

Rhonda said that many parents don’t know what the potential cuts are.

Deborah would like to propose the Commission reconvene the Affordability Workgroup at the end of the session. Jan second. Approved.

HB 2868 – mandatory orientation for exempt providers is moving forward. No fiscal because of current capacity. Active providers are grandfathered in and new providers need to take training within 90 days of receiving payment. **Implementation July, 2010.** Nina noted concern about R&R’s receiving funding to implement this.

Licensing Specialist Credential – Kitty Lake

Kitty has been working in partnership with PSU (The Center for Career Development) to develop a credential for child care licensing specialists and wants to make sure the OCCC knows about it and accepts it as part of the system infrastructure. CCD is always looking for training and this is a structured process for licensing staff development. In addition, it is a process to identify seasoned staff that could mentors or be a resource for other staff.

CCD steering committee made up of staff worked on a process that included outreach and involvement of staff. They worked with NARA and PSU. They are working with PSU for this to be formally overseen by PSU.

Meghan asked how they measure “attitudinal.” Deborah asked if there is any room for provider input in the process. Ruth recommended during an annual visit a feedback form would be nice to give providers input on how this credential and training helps improve licensing specialist performance.

Jan asked if CCD has received a positive response from staff. Kitty responded with yes, and that about 4 people are currently participating. 35 out of 39 of our current staff would be eligible to apply to do this. Deborah noted this is important as staff retire to support new. Tom noted it is a strategy to keep culture and consistency in the organization.

Ruth noted this could be a vote of confidence for providers. Kitty also noted it could be a good person for a provider to talk with who isn’t necessarily the supervisor of a specific provider.

Kitty said this summer they will open it up to anyone interested within CCD.

Deborah asked if Kitty would like anything from the Commission. Kitty said she would like to take it to PSU. Deborah said she would like to spend some time reading this and to bring it back to the next meeting for the Commission to formally endorse it.

EQUIP – Education and Quality Investment Partnership

The Public/Private Partnership. Equipping Individuals and Facilities. (See attached documents)

Facility Grants: Facility grants will be available to assist in achieving the new Oregon standard. Cheryl noted that it has been frustrating to be denied requests for funding because of income or not being at a low enough level. Heidi noted that as of now, there is not an income eligibility criteria but the goal is to support facilities in achieving the designated standard. Faye added that several providers have purchased equipment and have debt as a result and it would be nice for them to not have to purchase new items, but to be able to apply money towards the debt that they have acquired while working to improve their facilities.

Individual Awards reviewed (see documentation).

Family Child Care Surveys – Dawn Norris

Dawn presented the report from the Child Care Division 2008 Family Child Care Survey. This will be used as a tool to get feedback on CCD’s programs and guide decision making about child care services and training in the state.

Dawn noted a few results:

Top three supports to help providers stay in the field: medical/dental benefits, higher wage, paid vacation days, grants.

Dawn noted the need for clarity on language regarding items such as accreditation, professional organization and certification to avoid confusing survey respondents.

Top training topics desired: understanding/guiding behavior, learning environments curriculum, special needs, human growth and development, program management.

Randy noted that it is especially commendable how the providers reported a positive experience with the Child Care Division. It should be publicized.

Next meeting May 15th includes an R&R Advisory Committee in meeting.

Megan asked if it would be possible to discuss, analyze or better understand the implications of the job programs cuts. If there is additional information we will have time on the agenda next month.