

Commission for Child Care

May 15th 2009

Attendees: Jan East, Meghan Moyer, Deborah Murray, Randy Fishfader, Kitty Piercy, Gary Taylor, Rosetta Wangerin,

Guests: Dawn Norris, Kim Cardona, Beth Unverzgat, Susan Frazier-Parker, Teresa Stevenson, Heidi McGowan, Tom Olsen, Rhonda Prodzinski, Dawn Norris, Faye Zepeda, Pam Deardorff, Mark Anderson, Rebekah Whittaker, Xochita Esparza, Patrick Ring, Sue Norton, Sonja Svenson

Introductions

Randy moved that we accept the minutes as written. Second by Deborah. Passed.

Vice Chair: Rosetta proposed that Deborah fill this position. Deborah said she would be privileged to serve. Approved by Commission vote.

Legislative Updates

HB3487 – The question came up as to whether we could endorse it conditionally advising that we get input from the preschool population? Tom clarified that Rep. Boone originally sought to license exempt preschools and revised it to replicate the school age tracked bill that will require criminal history checks, enroll with CCD and inform parents they are not licensed by CCD. Kitty noted that our job as a commission is to give the best advice we can give which includes the need to engage the provider community. Rosetta asked if there will be a fiscal impact. Tom said it will be minimal and CCD will absorb the workload.

Deborah noted that it brings up the conversation about the difference between what is child care and Head Start. Deborah noted she is concerned about these facilities being angry because they weren't consulted. Meghan agreed but would not want to oppose it and supports the background check but values the process of gathering input and feedback. Randy noted that in a way it brings the care and education together.

Kitty said it would be fine to testify to say the things we like, the things we have concerns about and suggestions to help them initiate a process for engagement that could lead to steps forward by next session or another specific time period. Give them meat to put in a legislative proposal and the best way to go forward and let them know that we would be glad to be a resource for them. This allows us to stand where we want to stand but still keep things moving forward. It's worth it for us to be honest, support what we can; propose that they initiate an engagement process.

Randy asked how many facilities this would affect. Tom said we don't know but this will give us that information which has been missing.

Rosetta repeated Kitty's proposed motion: We support what we can support, stipulate our concerns, and recommend they get feedback from the preschool population as we did with the school age population. "Support what we can support" would mean criminal history background and posting to parents.

We need a process in case what we end up with is that the legislature wants a study of this issue. Tom recommended a delegation of Commissioner's meet with Rep. Boone to talk about the value of citizen input and our support for her interest.

Meghan moved to second motion.

Meghan suggests we meet with a Senate chair to outline the ideal situation for gaining feedback. There will be a legislative session during 2010 that may be a better place to have this legislation.

Kitty noted that we should thank Rep. Boone for her interest and concern and reinforce that high level of interest. Deborah noted that the partnership and collaboration is key to child care in Oregon.

Motion passes.

HB 2207 and 2205 will have a hearing on Monday morning.

HB 2868: Mandatory orientation has a hearing and possible work session. Wed. May 20th. This came out in the Friends Family and Neighbors committee and we'll have Kim come back to give us a presentation on this. Rebekah from SEIU 503 noted that she does the recruitment for these orientations and providers really find this helpful and believe the implementation has been very valuable. Kitty noted that she remembers when Rosetta pushed so hard for this and it brings the entire floor up for providers.

Licensing Specialist Credential Follow up: Rosetta noted that we will bring this back in June but have some conversation now. Deborah said that we strive for alignment and this will strengthen alignment. Deborah said that we discussed a process for providers to give feedback into the process. Is this really a 360 or is it the CCD putting something in place for their people. Pam said that she and Kitty could prepare something for June and send Heidi an outline in advance. Pam said that there is no other state that has this as part of our professional development system and part of the infrastructure. Tom said it would be nice to have classes offered through PSU or somewhere that would prepare someone to be a licensing specialist.

Other Updates

Angland Award: Teresa, Randy and Cheryl met and developed a letter describing an award and application process. Teresa would like to have the announcement out by the end of May to announce an award by end of October. Teresa will invite Lynne's family to be part of the review process of applicants.

Oregon Ask – Beth

Beth thanked the Commission for the hard work on the school age exempt bill.

CHIF grants awarded 7.5 M for after school programs and received requests for 4 times that amount.

Oregon Ask sent a letter to the Governor's office encouraging conversations between funding streams. For example, many school districts are going to 4 day weeks leaving 3 days that kids don't have access to free lunch programs. 44% of Oregon's kids are eligible for free and reduced lunch. Beth included information that there are no funds for middle and high school and information about quality.

Oregon Ask is preparing a report done in October looking at funding stream through 21st century grants.

Gary noted that he is seeing gaps in southern Oregon with the food program. For example, there are 13 weeks of summer and one county is only serving 7 weeks of food while another 11 weeks. Beth said Oregon ASK is working closely with the hunger relief task force.

Randy thanked Beth for her work on this noting that if early care and education is a low priority in our country, after school is a step child to it. She noted how lives of kids can be turned around with after school choices and the young children we work with often get forgotten in after school.

Oregon Ask is a steering committee with 23 organizations that has developed standards and competencies for after school care. They will create a process this year to get all the organizations involved endorsing it. They looked at standards from all different part of the field to develop it. Oregon Ask web site is filled with links to resources.

Oregon Ask is testing a program self-assessment in process to assess quality. They have received good feedback from Century 21st programs.

Rosetta said there aren't words to describe how excited she is with what Beth has built in Oregon Ask in the last 4 years.

Heidi will send Oregon Ask copies if people submit their emails.

EQUIP

Rosetta described the press conference. Pam reported that as of this morning 4 payments have gone out and the Oregon Registry applications are way up. Heidi reported that our goal is to reach 50% of the workforce within 2 yrs, which is approximately 8000 providers.

Kitty, Jan, Randy, Gary volunteered to get press release out to their areas. Mark sent it to R&R Directors asking them to contact local papers. Pam will let Heidi know if the EQUIP photo is ok for use in the press release.

Pam updated the Commission on the new credentials: Director, Infant/Toddler, Infant/Toddler Mental Health.

Heidi announced that since QIP falls under the umbrella of EQUIP, she wanted to inform the Commission that the QIP was awarded \$75,000 to develop the web site to use for communication to parents.

ERDC Implications

There was an 8M shortfall in JOBS program in December and a significant caseload growth. Caseload prior to economic downturn was expected to be around 15,000 to 18,000 and is now over 25,000. 19,000 in April, 2008. It is estimated that an additional 790 TANF cases because of reductions in ERDC.

What message would you want us to carry? These two programs are closely related – TANF and ERDC – and impact children. Children have to be below 42% of the FPL and are the poorest of the poor. These are programs when the economy is bad or we are in a recession, we need them the most. These are programs that are necessary in these times.

Adjourn for Resource and Referral Advisory meeting