

**MINUTES**  
***Inclusive Child Care Committee (ICCC)***  
***January 8, 2009***

***Next Meeting: Thursday, March 12, 9 am to Noon***  
*Meridian Park Hospital Health Education Center, Room 107*  
*19300 SW 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Tualatin, Oregon*

**Attending:**

*Dawn Norris, Co-Chair; Child Care Division; Donna Lewelling, Co-chair, Parent Voice Project; Dolores McNee, Washington Co. CA Headstart; Diane Kruse, Oregon CCR & R Network; Pam Deardorff, Oregon Center for Career Development In CC & Education; Kim Cardona, Oregon Commission on Children & Families; Hillary Hyde, Multnomah Early Childhood Program; Nancy Lowry, Office of Children with Special Health Care Needs; Terry Butler, Melinda Frink & Lorine Day-Reynolds, Inclusive Child Care Program.*

**1. Oregon Early Childhood Inclusion Collaborative (OECIC)**

Pam provided an update on the Oregon Early Childhood Inclusion Collaborative. The Collaborative focuses on two areas: 1) increased access to coordinated cross-sector professional development for Early Childhood Educators that supports inclusion; and 2) Increased percentages of young children with disabilities receiving services and supports in inclusive community based placements throughout Oregon.

The effort was initiated by Oregon's being selected as a site for technical assistance from the National Professional Development Center on Inclusion. Oregon was also selected to participate in the Expanding Opportunities Project. Both of these focused on inclusion of young children in typical child care and education settings. They also required state level involvement by Child Care, Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) and Head Start partners. The two projects were joined within OECIC.

The Oregon Department of Education granted funds to Western Oregon University/Teaching Research Institute (WOU/TRI) to coordinate the project. This includes staffing a steering committee and work groups. Pam will continue to help with coordination as part of her job with the center.

An OECIC policy group is developing a guidance document. A draft will go to the Steering Committee soon. The policy group is looking at:

- easing barriers to child care settings being sites for EI/ECSE services. This includes coordinating with CCD licensing;
- issues related to separate systems for criminal history checks.

Along with the state activities, county groups are working on inclusion plans. Each includes objectives and methods for collaboration among Child Care, Head Start and EI/ECSE. WOU/TRI is providing technical assistance to County planning and implementation. This includes sharing an “Awareness Packet” and how to use it to encourage inclusion. Tom Udell, with WOU/TRI will attend the next meeting to share the Awareness Packet.

Hilary provided an update on Multnomah County’s Inclusion Plan. Her position was created as part of that plan. It is funded through the Multnomah Early Childhood Program (EI/ECSE provider for Multnomah County), and is located at the Child Care Resource and Referral. Hilary is implementing innovative outreach and “child find” activities for children who may be eligible for EI/ECSE services.

Hilary also described a group that is meeting to follow up on the Multnomah plan. The group includes parents, EI/ECSE, Head Start, mental health (Wraparound Oregon) and child care representatives. Following a community forum in November, the group is discussing strategies for supporting inclusive child care placements.

OECIC activities tie in with a concept being developed for increased community placements for Head Start. The ICCC could have a role in advising on this concept to promote and support inclusive placements.

The PICCE Project is also connected with OECIC activities. There is shared support for TRAC trainings in Central Oregon, Washington County and the Willamette ESD service area (Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties). In addition, the PICCE Project is jointly funding WOU/TRI technical assistance and trainer support activities. This includes a new website focused on inclusion of young children with diverse abilities.

## **ICCC Work Plan**

The Committee reviews the work plan twice each year. The group agreed to synchronize the work plan goals, as appropriate, with Inclusive Child Care Program goals that will be presented at the March meeting. The committee will review the rest of the plan at the May meeting.

## **Open Hearts, Open Doors**

Earlier the committee had agreed to revise *Open Hearts, Open Doors: Providing Inclusive Child Care* after Inventory information was available. A small group will work on the revision and guide the development and printing process. Terry Butler will coordinate. Committee members will be Hilary Hyde and Dawn Norris. Nancy Lowry suggested that she and Dianna Pickett comment on any health related content. The work group will identify other reviewers. It was recommended to include one or more child care providers. As with earlier versions, providers will be asked to review.

The stock of Open Hearts Open Doors is running very low. Terry recommended not investing in a new printing till the new version is ready. Committee members were asked to check on any unused stock.

## **2009 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan**

The Child Care Division (CCD) will be submitting a new plan for Oregon's federal CCDF funds in June. Terry shared the timeline for the plan process. Members are encouraged to review drafts online at the CCD website and share comments.

Terry will include the current plan's definition of "child with special needs" with the minutes. At this point the committee would recommend no change in the definition.

### **Current CCDF Plan definition:**

*special needs child* – a child or youth under age 18 who may require a level of care above the norm for his/her age due to disabilities, emotional or behavioral disorders, or special health care needs.

## **Inclusive Child Care Program (ICCP) Review**

The committee serves as the ICCP advisory group. As part of the continuing review, ICCP staff shared a set of draft long term goals and short term objectives for the program and asked for comments and guidance from the committee. The goals and objectives will help program staff to prioritize activities for the coming biennium. Committee members made the following suggestions:

- For each measure, specify how data will be used to meet objectives or improve the program.
- When referring to supports for "safe and appropriate care", define what this means.

ICCP staff will continue to refine and prioritize goals. The committee will discuss them at the March meeting.

## **Announcements**

- Hilary shared an ad placed in the Metro Parent magazine by the Multnomah Early Childhood Program (MECP). The ad encourages parents to contact MECP if they have concerns about their child's development.
- Hilary also described MECP staff observing children in a child care center. This helps them to identify young children who may benefit from evaluation for EI/ECSE services.
- Nancy Lowry described "Webinars" that the Oregon Children with Special Health Care Needs Program is using as a model for distance trainings. The Webinars are receiving very positive evaluations.
- Ellen Scott, with the University of Oregon, is doing a study of child care subsidy use. Ellen initiated an earlier study of the impact of children's disabilities on family life (ability to be employed, etc.).

## **March 12 Meeting Agenda**

- Tom Udell, Oregon Early Childhood Inclusion Collaborative
- Child Care and Development Fund Plan
- Inclusive Child Care Program Goals
- *Open Hearts, Open Doors* Work Group