

MINUTES

INCLUSIVE CHILD CARE COMMITTEE JANUARY 14, 2010

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 11, 9:00 to Noon

*Meridian Park Hospital Health Education Center
19300 SW 65th Avenue, Tualatin, Oregon*

Attending: Donna Lewelling, Co-Chair, Parent Voices and CCECC; Dawn Norris, Co-Chair, Child Care Division; Pam Deardorff, Oregon Center for Career Development in Childhood Care and Education.; Alan Garland, Oregon Dept. of Education/EI/ECSE; Hillary Hyde, Multnomah Early Childhood Program; Stacy Liskey, Oregon Child Care Resource & Referral Network ; Nancy Lowry, Office of Oregon Children with Special Health Care Needs; Shanna Aldis, Certified Family Child Care & AFSCME ; Shauna Sauer, Washington County Community Action Head Start ; Dianna Pickett, DHS Office of Family Health ; Shiela Carter, DHS, Children, Adults and Families; Terry Butler & Melinda Benson, Inclusive Child Care Program/Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities

1. Nursing Delegation in Child Care

Dianna presented information on nursing delegation in child care settings. *Dianna's Power Point handout is attached with the minutes.* "Delegation" means that a qualified nurse authorizes an unlicensed person to perform a specific task of nursing care. The process involves teaching the task, supervising the unlicensed person, and evaluating the unlicensed person's performance of the task at regular intervals. Delegation must be for a specific task for a specific child.

The Nursing Practices Act, Division 47, and related administrative rules establish legal and regulatory requirements regarding Nursing Delegation. Under these, child care providers are considered to be "Unlicensed Assistive Personnel." As such, a provider cannot train or assign delegated tasks to another person. The nurse must return within defined periods of time to assess how the task is being done.

Delegation can be an important support to a child care provider caring for a child with medical needs. Currently most providers receive training from parents. This typically works, but there can be concerns about incomplete or unsafe procedures.

There is some reluctance to do or use delegation. One reason is the difficulty finding a way to pay for it. Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) programs have paid for delegation. This has occurred very rarely and was required under a child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). Inclusive Child Care Program (ICCP) subsidy funds once paid for delegation as a necessary accommodation. This could occur again for an eligible child. Additional barriers include concerns about accountability and uncertainty about regulations.

Ultimately, parents are in control and can decide whether or not to use nursing delegation for their child in the child care setting. The central issue is how to assist parents, providers and children to increase the likelihood that care is safe and there is ongoing support when questions or concerns arise.

The group identified the following needs in this area:

- 1) Training for nurses, including understanding child care;
- 2) Partnerships among CaCoon, EI/ECSE, medical and child care communities for education and support around delegation issues;
- 3) Funding;
- 4) Strategies to increase knowledge and understanding, and to address fear and uncertainty about delegation issues.

Alan recommended speaking to a nurse at the Oregon Department of Education and some of the ESD nurses. The nurses could provide further information about available resources as well as the gaps. Dianna suggested a small group follow up on this. She will coordinate. The group will seek participation by parents and child care providers who have had experience with nursing delegation issues.

2. New Approaches to Open Hearts Open Doors. (OHOD)

The *Open Hearts, Open Doors* booklet was created over 10 years ago for child care providers. Its goals were to increase understanding of inclusive child care and willingness to provide care for children with diverse abilities and needs. The group agreed that the booklet's content does not need to be changed, other than updating the resource list. The committee suggested a one page handout that directs providers to OHOD on the web or to request copies. The handout would be shared at child care overview trainings and DHS orientations.

The next step is to discuss alternatives to the print version to meet the same goals. The initial audience was the child care community. Committee members recommended two additional or integrated products: 1) a companion piece for parents; and 2) information for special education and other service providers.

A work group was formed to:

- Explore options for new strategies consistent with the ways people now get information.
- Find out what providers, parents and others want to know.
- Look at existing websites for options to connect with different websites.
- Explore funding options.
- Develop a plan to meet OHOD goals and oversee implementation of the plan.

Work group members will be Donna, Hillary, Stacy, and Terry. Tom Udell and Lorine Day Reynolds were not at today's meeting but will also participate. The Inclusive Child Care Program will provide some "seed money" for the project.

3. Updates on sources of financial assistance

Since sources of financial assistance to support higher level care and accommodations are so limited, this will be a regular “check in” agenda item. Members are encouraged to share any information they may have.

Hillary reported that Portland’s CHIF funds may be able to be used to increase quality in child care centers. Funds also focus on affordability. Parents may be eligible for subsidy for their centers to keep family costs under 10% of income.

Donna shared an experience with a community church helping to fund structural accommodations for a child.

There may be supports to a child’s child care placement though EI/ECSE. These must be identified as part of a child’s IFSP. There is a need for clear guidelines on this.

4. Options for participating on the Inclusive Child Care Committee

Terry shared the current list of core members and the “information only” list. The group would like to expand both, especially to increase parent and provider participation. Members understand that directly participating in discussions is ideal, but not always possible. Currently, expectations for the “info only” list aren’t very specific. Terry will send something encouraging comments, ideas, and suggestions from those not able to attend meetings.

There are good models for web-based communication, such as Oregon’s GovSpace. The group will explore options for this.

The committee decided to alternate meetings between the usual Tualatin location and Salem. We will then monitor to see how it works for members, and if it increases direct participation. *A meeting schedule for 2010 is attached.*

5. Update on Inclusive Child Care Program (ICCP)

The group discussed the status of using Disability Compass as the site for inclusive child care resources. Members are asked to use the site and to give feedback to ICCP staff.

6. Announcements

Hillary raised the issue of parents and others asking, “Where are the inclusive settings?” There was agreement that all child care settings should be inclusive, but parents are facing practical realities. This is worthy of a larger discussion. As a starter, parents should be encouraged to do pre-placement visits and develop a basic relationship with prospective providers. This may increase the likelihood of the child being accepted and provide a good start to the placement.

Stacy said that a search tool is being developed under the Quality Improvement Project. It may provide more specific information on a provider's training or experience. The information will be available to parents when they are seeking a provider.

Alan suggested having a way for parents to share their positive experiences with a particular provider. Support groups may be a good source for this.

Next Meeting

The next committee meeting will be **Thursday, March 11, 9:00 to Noon. It will be held in Tualitan.** The March 11 agenda will include updates from the nursing delegation discussion and the OHOD work group.

For the remainder of 2010 meetings will alternate between the Legacy Health Education Center in Tualitan and the Oregon Child Care Resource and Referral Network in Salem.