

# Oregon Child Care Research Partnership

July 1, 2009

9:30 am to 12:00 noon

In Attendance: Art Emlen, Bobbie Weber, Sheila Carter, Bev Briggs, Sonia Worcel, Shannon Williams, Kathy Seubert, Dawn Norris, Robi Henefin, Becky Vorpagel, Diana Kruse, Mark Anderson. By phone: Ellen Scott

## I Child Care in Oregon and Its Counties, 2008: Distribution Plan

A couple of county and region profiles were handed out to the group, these were not quite finished but were shared in order to see what they will look like. When the report is published, it will be available online. A couple of changes to the county page were agreed on:

- a. "Annual income of a minimum wage worker"....add "in Oregon" to the end
- b. "Cost of care for a toddler as a percent of the annual income of a minimum wage worker" ...add "in this county" to then end

It was suggested that a dissemination campaign be considered. Historically the profiles have been distributed through the CCR&R system, but it is recommended that they also go out to legislators and other community members. OSU maybe be able to do the press work. Important points to make would be:

- a. # children who have a single parent
- b. # children who probably need care
- c. Another suggestion was to consider another comparison in future profiles, such as comparing to the mortgage or rent

## II DHS Child Care Program Key Performance Measure

Sheila Carter asked the group for some ideas about changing the KPM to something that would be more meaningful. Currently the KPM measures the number of providers who receive the enhanced rate. Discussion and ideas considered: change the focus to the number of children in enhanced care; possibly tie it to employment? They will need to measure something that they do have some control over, and would show affect of how the money benefits families. Discussion included thoughts on how to reframe the word "enhanced". What percentage of slots are affordable? What percentage of slots do parents have access to? What percent of Head Start eligible are using subsidy? The new KPM won't be in effect until the 2012-13 legislative session. We will discuss again at the September meeting.

## III Subsidy Policy Impact Study:

Ellen Scott on phone. Since the last update in April, they have submitted the protocol modification and gotten approval. As of today, they have reached 16 of the 24 original respondents. 13 of those 16 gave phone permission to for the interviewers to access DHS records and speak to their provider. Of those 13, only 5 have returned the signed release forms.

There was discussion about the small number of providers to interview. It will be worthwhile to go ahead and interview the providers for the 5 parents who signed the releases. A list of questions for providers was reviewed at the meeting, it was agreed that the list of questions generated at the June OCCRP was pretty good as it is. If the study team were able to analyze administrative data over time we could determine how often copays, hours authorized, and hours billed change to gain insight into what parents are reporting as fluctuation.

From the interviews so far, we do know:

People do understand what a copay is but they talk about it in much looser terms, often including the “overage” in what they refer to as copay.

Parents report that without the subsidy, they could not afford to work, and that even with the subsidy, child care is still a large part of the family budget.

Parents often strategize about how to pay bills in order to pay for child care. Some month, other bills go unpaid.

There was discussion about possibly interviewing a providers who are not caring for children in the study sample and asking about copay. The decision was that without a connection to families interviewed we would gain little and that ethics would not support talking to providers of parents in the sample even if we did not mention the parent. Discussion of possibly doing another set of interviews with another new set of 25 parents (already have a list of names from which the sample could be drawn from). At the interview, the team could get the written permission for access to administrative record and talking with the child care provider. This may get a larger pool of providers to talk to. The group recommended that the research team request funding for study expansion. Ellen said she would check schedule of grad student assistant, decide if this is doable for her considering her schedule for the coming year, and then will put together a proposed budget for a study expansion to be submitted to CCD.

#### IV 2009 Oregon’s Child Care Researcher’s Roundtable

- a. Update on date and location: October 7<sup>th</sup> at McMenamins in Troutdale
- b. Review of focus—do we have anything more to share about impacts on individual providers?

In thinking about the focus for this year, (what is the payoff in investing in quality), and looking at what was decided on at the last meeting, it seems that we have information on facility level improvement but there is nothing on the person level improvement. Bobbie will contact Billie Young about doing something such as an overview of national research on why a registry is important. This topic lines up with current projects.

#### V Oregon Population Survey: Affordability findings

This is probably the last time we have OPS data. The Progress Board has been defunded. We will need to see if there is another way to get those child care questions added to another study that is already being done.

The group looked at the handout “Changes in Child Care Affordability: 2000-2008”. There were some interesting changes:

In *household income of those who use paid care*, the lowest quartile in 2008 (16.3%) showed a large change from 2000 (22.3%), but also from 2006(20.1%), and it could mean that the lowest income families are dropping out of the paid child care market.

In family types, the *couple-one employed* and *couple-two employed* showed huge drops from 2006.

Another very interesting change is the increase in the percentage of children aged 10-12 in paid primary arrangements, going from 11.3% in 2000, 17.1% in 2006, to 23% in 2008.

Bobbie believes there would be value in developing policy briefs from the almost 20 years of data on child care in Oregon, so what are the stories about families and child care that we think the data reflects?

- a. Relationship of household type to affordability access to quality child care.  
Single people who must use child care pay less per hour but pay same amount because kids are in care more hours
- b. Quality perceptions are going down among parents

- c. Put together market rate survey data: provider charges and type of care, how parents are coping

VI. Updates

- a. Quality Indicator Project
- b. OCCF Evaluation of Family, friend, and neighbor project
- c. Child Care Tax Credit projects evaluation

Next Meeting: Oregon Child Care Research Partnership Meeting  
Wednesday September 2, 2009  
9:30 am to 12:00 noon  
Oregon Child Care Resource and Referral Network Office  
805 Liberty St NE, Suite 2  
Salem