

# Oregon Child Care Research Partnership

January 7, 2009

9:30 am to 12:00 noon

Present:

Bobbie Weber, Robi Henefin, Mark Anderson, Diana Kruse, Becky Vorpagel, Kim Cardona, Dawn Norris, Rhonda Prodzinski, Beth Green, Ellen Scott, Shannon Williams (by phone)

When Ellen Scott joined the meeting, she spoke about her work, including related studies. Bobbie said that she would send out a pdf of a study by Ellen and a related study by Lowe and Weisner.

I. Subsidy uses by type of care at child level rather than facility level: Before and after subsidy policy changes  
Benefit month will mean more for this report than the payment month. By 6 months out, 99% of the benefit month payments will be made, so there needs to be a time allowance to gather the most data.

We would like from this report to:

- Be at the child rather than facility level
- Be organized by type of care
- Be organized by age of child
- Include only children on ERDC
- Use the benefit month and lag by 6 months so that we get all served in that month
- Provide both a statewide number and a breakdown by DHS district
- Start as of 10/1/06, then ongoing quarterly (remembering the 6 month lag)

DHS will attempt to provide the requested data.

- II. Research Questions on Child Care and Early Education Workforce
- a. Review questions on what we need to know about the workforce?
  - b. Thinking through options for longitudinal database
  - c. What data is needed to answer the questions?

The training and education warehouse database is to centralize and standardize what training is accepted. Also will be used to verify training, and to give information on who is in the workforce/training.

There was a discussion about “point in time” vs. “longitudinal” database in order to capture the changes. There was general agreement that a longitudinal database will be the best way to capture data as it will be needed.

It will be an administrative database, not a research database.

There may be a list of questions to answer the first time a person logs into the database in order to collect background information.

Confidentiality is primarily an issue when identifying information is available. Most researchers will want a stable id number but no identifying information. Confidentiality may be an issue for collecting some information, such as wage information.

At the December OCCRP meeting, the group identified policy-relevant questions that researchers are likely to want to answer using the new workforce database. At this meeting the group identified the variables needed to answer the previously defined questions.

Data required for the list of research questions:

Collect data on all staff—in all job titles

Facility hire date, facility ID,

Highest education level and major,

All child-related degrees even if not highest education level achieved

Wages (this is a sensitive topic so piloting strategies for collecting individual wages is likely necessary)

Individual workforce member location (county, city, zip)

Organization that provided training or education: College or other institution  
Institution city, state, zip

Mode of training

Training hours or credits

Some background and motivation questions from the PES

Primary language check box

Secondary language (collect data on level of proficiency in second language)

In order for workforce investment programs such as the Oregon Community Foundation John and Betty Gray Scholarship Programs to be able to use the database as a part of their evaluation plan, the program will have to have waivers signed so that participants can be identified and then compared to those who did not participate in the investment program.

### III. New Subsidy Study—

- a. review design and research questions
- b. advisory committee update
- c. review and prioritize research questions

For the qualitative study, interviews will be conducted to gather employment history and history of child care arrangements. We need to know how parents describe the subsidy? What words do they use instead of the word “subsidy”; do parents refer to subsidy in

other ways? Rhonda & Ellen will meet to do an ERDC basic training to bring Ellen and the grad student researcher up to speed on the subsidy program.

The sample will include parents participating in the subsidy program in Sept 2008 as well as in at least one month prior to 10.01.2007, the beginning of the new policy implementation..

Ellen has 20 hours per week of labor available to work on this study.

The group defined the following characteristics for the sample:  
As of Sept 2008, parent has at least one child under age 5 in subsidy care  
A mix of parents using 1/3 FFN, 1/3 Center, 1/3 FCC care  
Geographically, the sample will be located in northwest Oregon:  
Lane County will be the southern boundary  
The Columbia river is the northern boundary  
Cascade range is the eastern boundary  
Ocean is the western boundary

Based on experience of other researchers we are expecting a 50% refusal rate  
Parents will be offered an incentive of \$25

There was also a discussion of questions, and the language to use for the questions.  
Membership of the proposed advisory committee was reviewed.

Meeting ended at this point, as we were out of time. The following items were carried over to the next meeting.

- IV. Oregon Child Care Research URL (<http://www.oregonchildcareresearch.org/>)
  - a. How to engage more researchers
- V. Highlights from Roundtable on parental child care decision-making
- VI. Updates
  - a. Oregon Population Survey
  - b. Quality Indicator Project
  - c. OCCF Evaluation of Family, friend, and neighbor project
  - d. Measuring turnover in family child care
  - e. PATT—system accountability work group
  - f. Framework for learning from Oregon program evaluations
  - g. Child Care Tax Credit projects evaluation

The next meeting of the Oregon Child Care Research Partnership will be on Wednesday February 4, 2009.