

Oregon Child Care Research Partnership

June 3, 2009

9:30 am to 12:00 noon

In attendance: Art Emlen, Bobbie Weber, David Mandell, Tom Olsen, Robi Henefin, Bev Briggs, Andrew Bremner, Dawn Norris, Diana Kruse, Becky Vorpagel

I. Type of Child Care Used by Subsidy Children over Time

Robi handed out the spreadsheet that reports type of care used for children on the subsidy program from July 06 through October 2008 (data is for the first month of each quarter). This report is based on the *DHS month that child care benefits are being paid for* (regardless of when the actual check was sent to the provider).

In looking at the data, (centers in particular) it appears that there is not a large amount of change in the use of center care from the time of the policy change in October 2007 through October 08. Robi will continue creating this report quarterly and the CCRP will continue watching to see if there is change, significant or otherwise.

I. a) Subsidy Policy Impact Study Update

There was discussion about reasons for parents copay changes, changes the parents reported as common. Copays, authorized hours, billed hours, provider payments, and parents being behind on their payments could all make a change in the amount a parent has to pay in a month. The University of Oregon team is now in the field with the same 25 parents from before, asking them more questions, seeking permission to talk with their providers, and to look at their subsidy records data. The research team is trying to gain insight as to why these parents reported that they didn't notice a difference in copay when the policy changed.

II. Child Care in Oregon and Its Counties: Review draft

~ Sample profiles for state, region and county were reviewed at the meeting. Colors look nice. In the region maps, the county is highlighted, it was agreed that this looks good.

~ There was discussion about why college tuition was included as a comparison with the child care costs. The reason is that college is considered to be expensive, and when compared with child care, it gets the point across that child care is expensive as well. Both are related to education. It was suggested that the word "statewide" or a similar word be added to the line about average annual college tuition to make it more clear what college tuition was being referred to.

~ The question of scale was discussed -- the options were 1) everything should be scaled similarly so that graphs from different counties would be comparable or 2) that the data would drive the scale of the graphs. The group decided to go with option 1.

~ The graph, "Estimated Percent of Children in Families Using Paid Care by Family Type" was discussed regarding the understandability of it. Some changes were suggested, such as changing "employed single adult" to "Single parent - employed" and "Single parent - shared housing - employed" to make the labels more uniform and easier to interpret. The column of facts next to it should have a label as well, to make it more obvious that it was relating to family types in paid care.

- ~ On the last page, “Care of a toddler as a percent of minimum wage” was written twice, and the line that contains the figure \$16,536 should be changed to “Earnings of a minimum wage worker”.
- ~ The county will be printed on one side of the sheet and the related region on the other side of the sheet
- ~ It was also noted that in some counties, there are no centers. So in those counties, the text should be changed where affordability refers to the cost of center toddler care. So in those counties, the text about the cost of care for a toddler in a center should be changed where it refers to centers.

III. 2009 Oregon’s Child Care Researcher’s Roundtable

The date is tentatively scheduled for the first Wednesday in October; October 7th at McMenamens in Troutdale. Becky will ask Aranda to check for availability.

- a. Review of OCCRP decisions about 2009 Roundtable
- b. Focal topic—high interest and high level of policy-relevance
Quality Improvement is a likely choice for the focal topic. EQUIP, provider networks, tax credits, the QI website, these are all possible topics. Federal policy changes, FFN training evaluations are possible topics.
- c. Possible panel on quality investments

Topics and possible presenters focused on Oregon quality improvement efforts included the following:

- Tax Credit Pilot Projects (investments in facilities-- centers and regulated family child care and in parent affordability)- NPC,
- CHIF (investments in facilities--centers and family child care and parent affordability)- Shannon Williams
- Family, Friend and Neighbor Literacy Kit –Evaluations (home-based caregivers not regulated by CCD)- Steve Rider, PRE:
- QI Website (parents and providers) – Heidi with the marketing firm,
- Oregon Population Survey findings on parent perception of quality (parents), and
- Context – Federal Policy Changes & questions–David

IV. Report on Registered Family Child Care Providers 2008 Customer Survey Report

Dawn Norris passed out the printed report and shared the major themes. Each year CCD surveys one type of licensed care, and this year it was Registered FCC. The purpose of the report is to provide customer service information and to collect the providers perspective on the services available to them. They mailed surveys to 2831 English speaking registered providers and got a 33% response rate without attempt at 2nd contact. Dawn reviewed some report findings with the group; all of which are found in the printed report. Bobbie suggested that for future surveys, CCD consider surveying a sample of facilities and using the savings to pay for strategies to increase response rate.

V. TED (Training and Education Database) Questions

Dawn Norris and Andrew Bremner discussed the Training and Education Database (TED). The purpose of the database is ultimately to provide incentives for providers to increase skill and to

increase system accountability by measuring the impact of investments. Verification of information and data integrity are critical components of the project. OCCRP's role is to advise on the accountability function by thinking through what policy questions we will want to answer with the collected data. Dawn handed out a list of possible research questions that might be asked of the database, and so what data would need to be collected so that these questions could be asked at some point. There was some discussion about how to address primary language as well as secondary, and how to ask about language proficiency.

The questions on the list were each discussed as to data needed. Dawn and Andrew asked for feedback on the form they are developing that will provide the initial record for each provider. There needs to be a way for the database to recognize each individual as a new record or as an ongoing record when updating. There was discussion on the fields that would be important, and how to capture information about institution of higher education that providers attended or from which they received degrees (2 year, 4 year, out of state, out of country). There was also discussion as to whether age groups in TED should match the age groups being used in the QI project. The group advised that we should use consistent age groups for individuals and facilities as the plan is to be able to match individual and facility data.

TED will be able to be transformed into a longitudinal database (records on each individual over time). Individuals will be encouraged to update, self reporting will be a big part of each record. It will be important that all changes be dated. Becky suggested that a transaction tracking system might be a method to date and track every change (she shared that transaction tracking is used by banks).

When a provider first logs in to the database (initiates a new record), there would be survey of information to be collected. But what questions would be important to ask at this point (not too much, but need to ask enough). Bobbie will gather a group together to develop some questions that everyone would answer. She mentioned asking Clara Pratt, NPC, and needed ideas for anyone else.

VI. OPS: Affordability findings will discuss this next month

VII. Updates Did not get to these, as the time was up.

- 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 July 1, 2009
9:30 am to 12:00 noon
Oregon Child Care Resource and Referral Network Office
805 Liberty St NE, Suite 2
Salem