



REGIONAL SOLUTIONS OFFICE
GOVERNOR KATE BROWN

Central Oregon Regional Solutions Advisory Committee
Representing Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties

MEETING SUMMARY

Tuesday October 8, 2019

9:00 am – noon

Tykeson Hall Room 111, OSU Cascades

1500 SW Chandler Ave

Bend, OR 97702

Committee members:

Mike Hollern, Convener
Amy Tykeson, Private Sector
Tony DeBone, Deschutes County Commissioner
Michael Preedin, Sisters City Councilor
Mae Huston, Jefferson County Commissioner
Anne George, Oregon Community Foundation
Becky Johnson, OSU Cascades
Bruce Abernethy, Bend City Councilor
Roger Lee, EDCO
Jay Head, Black Butte Ranch
Seth Crawford, Crook County Judge
Betty Roppe, Private Citizen
Tammy Baney, COIC
Benny Benson, Energyneering Solutions, Inc.
Wally Corwin, JeldWen, Inc
John Gilbert, Pacific Crest Affordable Housing

Guests:

Rep. Jack Zika (via conference call)
Jennifer Stephens (via conference call)
Todd Dunkelberg, Deschutes Public Library
Karen Prow, Neighbor Impact
Kelly Michel, St. Charles
Sue Hollern

Regional Solutions Team members:

Scott Edelman, DLCD
Theresa Conly, ODOT

Carolyn Meece, Business Oregon
Peter Brewer, DEQ

II. Panel on Childcare: Issues and Opportunities

A. Overview – Alyssa Chatterjee, Deputy Education Policy Advisor, Governor’s Office

Alyssa provided an overview of childcare availability in Oregon & Central Oregon, the Student Success Act investments in Early Childhood Education and the Childcare Task Force. Alyssa’s presentation is available on the Regional Solutions website. Alyssa highlighted that the state has 16 early learning hubs (ELHs) who are responsible for coordinating and developing targeted sector plans for each region. These regions are aligned with the Coordinated Care Organizations. The next phase of planning for ELHs will be completed in February 2020.

A Child Care Task Force was established by HB2346 during the 2019 session. The Task Force has 17 members; 13 of these are appointed by the Governor, 2 by the Speaker of the House and 2 by the Senate President. The Senate President has appointed Sen. Tim Knopp to the Task Force. The Governor appointees are still being selected; the bill specifies what interests these appointees must represent. The Task Force will issue three reports over the next 18 months looking at supply and demand as well as, barriers to access and subsidies.

Roger Lee asked how the new investment of \$200M changes the pie chart that distributes costs among families, federal and state resources.

There was also a question about where kids who receive subsidies go to get care if they opt out. Question was related to the discussion about situations where benefits diminish by a large amount when a parents gets a raise....i.e. the raise is smaller than the drop in benefits.

B. Regional resource and referral network and Baby Promise – Erin Pullen, Neighbor Impact

Erin highlighted some of the challenges Neighbor Impact as the regional referral network hears about: overall lack of access for families needing care, workforce, i.e. not enough skilled teachers and, alignment among building codes and licensing standards for new or expanding facilities.

Below are some stats for Central Oregon:

Bend - 103 full time providers serving about 5600 children

Redmond – 50 providers serving about 2400 kids

Sisters – 6 providers serving 295 kids

Sunriver – 3 providers serving 190 kids
Prineville – 14 providers serving 180 kids

Neighbor Impact received one of three Baby Promise grants last year; this will add 109 subsidized slots to the region. There are pre-identified providers who have these slots; these providers will have to increase staffing to accommodate the increase in children served. Neighbor Impact is currently selecting families for these slots. Part of the grant also includes funding for professional development and business coaching. Participating providers will be paying \$16/ hour. Erin also touched on the challenges with retaining quality staff in a sector where pay has traditionally been low. The Committee and panelists discussed what level of education is needed in order to provide quality care. Not every teacher needs an advanced degree; teachers with less experience/education can work under the supervision of a teacher or director with more experience/education.

C. Employer perspectives – Jon Stark, Economic Development for Central Oregon

Jon talked about the impacts to employers from a lack of accessible childcare: absenteeism, as well as cost and impacts to retaining and attracting employees/new businesses. Some employers are including childcare subsidies as part of recruitment/retention benefits packages. More childcare slots would mean more workers available. Jon highlighted the needs of Consumer Cellular in Redmond. Their employees work shifts that change every three months for everyone except the highest performers; this causes ripple effects for childcare needs.

A survey conducted by the Redmond Chamber found that 91% of employees need traditional hours, 30% need weekday evening care, 15% need weekend day care and 11% need weekend evening care.

Liability is seen as a barrier to employers providing on site care. Tammy Baney mentioned that Deschutes County has a long standing relationship with Munchkin Manor where county (and state) employees get preference for available slots. The county's subsidy is the space where the provider is which is provided free of charge.

Jon summarized the three reasons these businesses don't pencil:

- 1) Availability of labor
- 2) Land costs and cost of tenant improvements; and
- 3) The complex regulatory environment.

D. Regional efforts to increase supply – Katy Brooks, Bend Chamber

Katy's presentation is available on the Regional Solutions website. The committee discussed the Childcare Accelerator position currently housed at the Bend Chamber's

non-profit. Support for the accelerator is one immediate thing that can be done to assist with this challenge in Central Oregon.

- E. OSU-Cascades/COCC pilot project – Kelly Sparks, OSU Cascades
Kelly’s handout is available on the Regional Solutions website. OSU Cascades estimates that for their employees and students roughly 320 slots are needed; they see this as a need as an employer and as part of their mission in the community. OSU Cascades has an early childhood development and education degree program. Kelly mentioned that studies show that household income needs to be \$200k or above in order to afford infant care in Central Oregon.
- F. Annette Liebe provided a short overview of the work being done by the state agency workgroup to assemble state agency tools and understand the regulatory framework. Annette expects to have a summary document in late November.

The committee and panel identified the following ideas for addressing this challenge:

- 1) No cost infrastructure loans for childcare facilities
- 2) No or low interest construction loans for childcare facilities

- III. Update on Governor’s Wildfire Council (Exec Order 1901) - Bend Mayor Sally Russell, Wildfire Council Member

Mayor Russell’s presentation is on the Regional Solutions website. Mayor Russell provided a high level overview of the work of the Governor’s Council on Wildfire Response. Recommendations are in three “buckets”: Mitigation, suppression and Recovery. At this point, the workgroups have compiled their recommendations and the Council has established a drafting committee to synthesize the recommendations. Mayor Russell is a member of the drafting committee. There is likely to be both substantive legislation and funding requested during the 2020 legislative session. Mayor Russell invited committee members, commissioners, councilors, etc... to attend a briefing with the Council’s Chair, Matt Donegan, on Friday October 11th at 3:30 pm Bend City Hall.

- IV. Regional Solutions Secretary of State Audit, overview and outcomes – Annette Liebe, Regional Solutions Coordinator

Annette summarized the feedback contained in the management letter from the Secretary of State’s Office in conclusion of their audit of the Regional Solutions program. Key findings are that there is not a high risk of the program not meeting its intended mission. However, the program should be reviewing key performance measures focused exclusively on accuracy and timeliness of responses, i.e. customer service. The program should also improve the survey methodology for determining the level of

customer service. The final recommendation pertains to ensuring that advisory committee members understand their role.

There was some discussion about the difficulty of modifying the key performance measures that are legislative adopted. Committee members generally thought that even if the programmatic performance measures are difficult to modify, the Committee should establish performance measures for individual Regional Solutions projects. There was also a desire to review past investments and how well they are performing. This will be a discussion item at a future CORSAC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at noon. Some Committee members participated in a construction site tour for the former pumice mine where site prep is under way for the next phase of OSU Cascades.