



Child Care Community Forum

Thursday, January 24th

6:30p.m. – 8:00p.m.

Lake Oswego Parks & Recreation
West End Bldg, Willamette Room

Summary of Common Themes

What is working well?

- Parents are happy with onsite child care - School based on site care works
 - Ease for parents/kids
 - Free meals
- Licensing standards are good
- Sun schools but it varies per school which programs are working well

What is not working well?

- Some parts of NE or rural areas have no after school care
- Unequal standards between exempt and licensed –
 - result in higher expenses for licensed and have to charge more
- Parents don't know what the difference is between licensed and exempt programs are
 - overall awareness of families knowing what a licensed program is
 - boys and girls club sounds great when you only have to pay \$15 year
- Inequality of enrichment vs. child care program when operating in the same building, using same space – look the same but not

Should the current definition of exempt school age care be changed? If so, how?

- What would change –
 - criminal background checks,
 - space,
 - ratio,
 - training,
 - staff:which means some programs could not survive: can regulations be changed with a modification for school age programs?
- Change is needed but recognize a tiered approach may be best

Notes from Groups (broken down by group response)

What is working well?

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Access & options in metro area (not NE or rural areas)

Schools acceptance of the need for after school programs has become better

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Specific programs – schools/parks and recreation collaborating together (which are exempt)

Boardman food company started own child care on site so child care doesn't have to pay rent and the schools will bus kids to the company.

YMCA of Columbia started increasing the pay of staff so the job is more competitive which keeps staff consistent

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Parents are happy with onsite child care

Communication and support from CCD is good

Licensing standards are good

At some schools, Sun schools work better – especially when used as an enrichment program vs. substitution for child care

Sun seems to be working well for schools and kids in schools – children can get meals

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District run programs go well – parents have options

Sun schools depend on what schools are working well

Free meals/snacks

USDA support

DHS reimbursement

Programs that can serve a wide range of ages

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School based on site care works – ease for parents/kids

Serving of diverse communities

Partnerships where schools, cities, colleges unite to support programs – schools are the heart of a rural community

Flexibility options, affordability that have Sun

What is not working well?

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Some parts of NE or rural areas have no after school care

10 yr olds can be legally left alone home –

the age limit should be raised, especially staying home with a younger sibling

Disparity between school age programs of licensed and non licensed programs – such as health/safety, quality, ratios (exempt don't have the same requirements as licensed)

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Unequal standards between exempt and licensed – result in higher expenses for licensed and have to charge more

Rural areas licensing may make it harder to have enough care available

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Disparity between school age programs of licensed and non licensed programs – such as health/safety, quality, ratios (exempt don't have same as licensed)

Programs that are non profits have to close because of cost – Estacada is closing a program

Sun programs are great, free to families but it is hard for YMCA to collaborate because there are different standards.

Overall awareness of families knowing what a licensed program is – boys and girls club sounds great when you only have to pay \$15 year

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A lot of competition with Sun – Sun coordinators within schools have priority, own office in school, don't have to pay rent, and since there is no longer transportation for kids now, the option of other child care settings that are licensed is decreased.

Parents don't know what the difference is between licensed and exempt programs are Inequality of enrichment vs. child care program when operating in the same building, using same space – look the same but not

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Increases of cost

Available of funding is not always sustainable – 21st century, grants

Inequality in programs

Space in schools – public schools are going to k-8 and squeezing child care out

Use small shared space

Quality of programs

Communication between principles and administrators of programs

Uniformity of need across schools

Licensing are in some programs and not in others

Lack of support from district and parents

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Low value from parents

Staffing from care is not consistent

Difficult to keep workers

Transportation for some schools and communities

How to do we care for kids age 11-14 and have facilities for them

Safety for kids of all ages

Taxes and funding – sustainability

What do we do for exempt providers – over 6000 FFN (family, friends and neighbors) providers in Oregon

Should the current definition of exempt school age care be changed?

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Use same system for all providers

Everyone should be in the registry

Basic training for all (cpr, first aid...)

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Current definition should change but over a period of time grandfathering in facilities

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Standards should be statewide – all kids in state should benefit from state licensing standards

However exempt child care may be all that families can afford – what can we do to help people get licensed

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What would change – criminal background checks, space, ratio, training, staff: which means some programs could not survive: can regs be changed to that are different (modified regs)

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Change is needed but recognize a tiered approach may be best