

**Commission for Child Care  
January 23rd, 2009  
Roth's West Salem Conference Center**

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**Attendees:** Randy Fishfader, Rosetta Wangerin, Gary Taylor, Deborah Murray, Cheryl Reece, Nina Roll, Katie Larive, Jan East, Stephanie Swan, Meghan Moyer, Mayor Kitty Piercy

**Guests:** Pam Deardorff, Tom Olsen, Beth Unverzagt, Teresa Stevenson, Kim Cardona, Heidi McGowan, Rhonda Prodzinski, Dawn Norris, Faye Zepeda, Sonja Svenson, Bobbie Weber, Shanna Aldas, Autumn David, Sheridan McCarthy, Vic Todd, Joe Garos, Terry Butler, Ruth Crawmer, Russ Crawmer, Macy Crawmer, Billie Young, Merrily Haas, Mark Anderson

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### **Introductions**

**Approve Minutes:** Randy moves to adopt October minutes as written, Stephanie second. October minutes approved. Deborah moved to adopt November minutes as written. Stephanie second. November minutes approved.

### **Other Business:**

**Commission Report to the Governor and Legislature** - Commissioners discussed the need to acknowledge the successes of the last session that include QI rollout and ERDC gains. Sheridan has heard the need for challenge in economic times and to highlight the gains on investment. Commissioners would also like to stress professional development. Other topics that they would like to see included are:

-- Put child care in the context of the economic downturn and demonstrate its benefits for lasting economic recovery

-- Acknowledge the times we are in from the standpoint of the history of the commission: it has made steady improvements over the years, and in lean times, if we cannot move forward with increased funds, we must at least try not to lose ground--we must strive to maintain the improvements (this from Kitty)

-- Point to recent successes: quality indicators, increased ERDC funds (and their impact), the Lane County program

-- Highlight the professional development piece

-- Introduce legislators to the child care system as we have in previous reports as there are always new legislators that need to understand the system. It also helps as a reminder to ongoing legislators that child care is a system not an individual agency.

Sheridan requested if anyone has a quote from President Obama where he talks about ECE. Randy said when he spoke in Salem the first thing he said was “Early Childhood Matters.”

**Lynne Angland** - Representatives Kotek and Gilman are discussing proposing legislation that would be a Memorial Resolution. This is a fairly simple piece of legislation to honor Lynne. Essentially, Rep. Kotek and Rep. Gilman (the representative from Lynne's district) would sponsor a statement describing her life, which would be read on the floor of the House. Members who knew her would have a chance to comment and friends and family can sit in the Gallery to hear. It makes a very nice ceremony and a chance for remembering significant contributions in a public way.

In addition, the Commission is working on a way to honor Lynne. Suggestions have come forward to include an annual award. The details still need to be worked on and Teresa will be taking the lead to bring a proposal back to the Commission in February. She is looking for input from the Commissioners – perhaps in the form of a conference call meeting. Kitty noted that we should look at how to use an annual award to move something forward that Lynne was passionate about. Rosetta noted that Lynne was not only an advocate for employer child care; she had one established within her own business. Nina said her last conversation with her that week was about this issue of employer supported child care.

Rosetta commented that at the service it was wonderful to learn about the life of Lynn, and to listen to her children and grandchildren was incredibly moving. Lynne raised 5 wonderful children as a single parent and to hear her grandchildren speak at her service was so touching.

### **Celebration of 2008 accomplishments –**

Billie reviewed the 2008 priorities. She asked commissioners to take 2 minutes to talk with someone next to them about what the Commission accomplished during the last year, as well as the system as a whole.

Kitty noted that if we go back to the role of the Commission, our role is to advise which doesn't mean we do the proposals and projects, but we advise and work to advance improvement forward. Vic noted that that is a critical aspect of a commission because if the Commission had said “no” to advancing any of the issues, it would have made a significant impact.

Beth noted that the forums and issue regarding exempt track has already had an impact on the industry. You can see small little pieces of accomplishment. Beth recently received a call from the Sun School folks who want to talk about after school standards.

Kitty noted that she was recently at a meeting that where she heard that her local Head Start got some kind of health consultation improvement. Terry noted that the Commission helped get the health consultation on the radar and other communities are getting the health consultation. The local Commission on Children and Families funds health consultation in Jackson County.

Deborah noted that the quality indicators project has now gone statewide. It is efficient, collaborative and focused on quality. Kitty noted that that is something we have been working on for a decade. At one time we couldn't evaluate the quality of care and we keep

moving the bar and it is enormously important for children and the people should be proud of this work to keep it going. Billie noted that it is a national model. The sister movement is the quality rating systems and with states hitting the wall with funding and may be looking at doing something like this in Oregon.

Rosetta noted that we have a huge partnership base that is supportive of the parameters for out of school time care. Exempt school age care definitions that are now a legislative concept. Kitty noted that we have for years been arguing about the definition of quality and we finally said this is it based upon research. Terry noted it is important to emphasize that the quality indicators are research based.

Sonja noted we did expand the tax credit funded programs to Multnomah and Clackamas and we now call it a child care enhancement program vs. project. Kitty noted that these are issues that people have worked on for a long time over many years. Rosetta noted we have a vision and we continue to build on it. Stayed on course and know where we're going. Billie noted that the Commission is building the map and vision to guide people toward it. Sonja noted that we track our progress. We started with performance measures, build the logic model in 2005 and developed the PATT which tracks how we use our federal funds.

Rhonda noted the FFN training – Friends, Family and Neighbors – have reached 300 providers who are not licensed which supports quality. The local R&R's are doing the work and the state commission on children and families funded the tool kit to get in provider hands. Billie noted this is a national model.

Kitty noted that we have a phenomenal wealth of talent and dedication when it comes to child care which is a strong asset and one reason she has stayed involved with the commission. All the partners are pulling their weight strongly and should get kudos for their collaborations and partnerships which is how people work together in the state.

Rosetta noted that this body has emerged as a strong leader for groups to come to in order to build and sell their case for a project because Tom has empowered this body and asked us to be a leader and we are willing to help hold people accountable with the funding dollars they get.

Katie noted Jackson County was funded again for the child care improvement project.

Billie reflected the value of the Commission is that we respond to the public and we work to change policy.

Merrily noted the Director's Certificate and the work with community colleges to support providers going back for education. Katie noted that they have seen this is Jackson County with the one unit classes which are much easier for child care providers to attend. Merrily noted we are seeing a lot of innovation and sharing in the state.

Terry noted Compass project that takes the inventory of care and resources for families of children with special needs. Care is still hard to find but we have a better handle on it. More providers are trained as a result of the PICCE Project. Deborah noted that with more support there is increased confidence of providers to take on children with special needs. Nina noted that the child care health consultation has increased retention of providers who care for children with special needs.

Support for DHS: DHS funding (increase provider usage) which increased from 26% to 75%. Co-pays were reduced by an average of 20%. 40M in improvements.

Kitty noted that this long list of accomplishments should be noted to legislators to show that they are getting a big bang for their buck and we need to have it in our governor's report. We are facing a legislative session where there is a lot less money and everything will be challenged and this is a clear indicator of what has been accomplished with the funding we have. Rosetta noted that Rep. Kotek will push hard to keep what we have in the ERDC program and not lose ground. We need to support the governor's budget but as private citizens we can advocate for what we as individuals believe in and wish to support. Vic noted that DHS recognizes this is the governor's budget but we're looking from them to guide us about how to talk about what are good choices for policy. The governor's budget is just the beginning place to start. Kitty noted that there is a difference between us supporting legislation that is in opposition to the Governor – which we can not do – and in giving advice. The whole point of the Governor's report is to lay out what we think is in the best interest of the state and we would be remiss if we didn't give advice. Tom said the governor has given us support to inform people about the pain and hardship that people will face if these cuts occur.

### **Legislative Update**

There are a couple of legislative agenda's that the commission will consider for formal endorsement. The One Voice for Child Care Coalition includes the 2 pieces of legislation that Rep. Kotek is sponsoring regarding exempt school age care and the 'clean box.' It also includes support to prevent the proposed reduction of 45M which will reduce rates to the 65% of the 2006 market rate study.

Deborah noted that people are losing their jobs and therefore ERDC and can't go look for jobs because they have small children. Deborah noted the impact at a program level will be significant for programs that have funded wage increases or fiscal support for training with this increase. Deborah noted she would lose teachers. Deborah noted that a teacher who is single and has a child at her program is about to complete her CDA and requested not to receive her 5% raise because she would lose ERDC benefits and therefore, not be able to continue to afford to work at the facility.

Randy moved that we endorse and ask to be listed as endorsing the One Voice for Child Care Legislative Agenda. Deborah Second. Approved. Motion carries.

Heidi asked if the Commission wanted to formally endorse the Children's Institute agenda to expand Head Start and includes Early Head Start. Randy noted that she knows it impacts child care is a variety of issues but the CI has studied this. Randy moved that we support the CI efforts. Kitty second. Deborah noted that she continues to support Head Start but continues to struggle with the need to expand this beyond Head Start so that quality providers support "and child care" occasionally to raise the perspective that good quality education is important. Merrily noted that in conversation with David it is their intention to have language in the legislation this time states this. Head Start is only a part of what family needs for child care. Kitty stated that her view is that it is nice to talk about and send it back to them that states "we endorse this but advocate you to include the broader system" as our advice. Katie said where the special is needs piece and it is discouraging to see this. Rosetta recommended holding the vote until we hear about the concept paper.

Concept Paper – Deepening our understanding

We have a marketing language need.

We need to make sure this includes school age. Nina noted that the incentives for supporting infant/toddler

### **“Enhanced Quality Improvement Project” EQUIP**

Autumn noted that facility is a word that often refers to centers vs. family child care. Recommend change to ‘program’ to incorporate family child care and Heidi noted that the concept includes incentives for individual and facility.

Katie asked if anyone is doing a model similar in the country and Tom noted that this is unique because it is connected to licensing. Katie asked how you get into the database and Dawn said there are multiple entry points including individual providers, sponsoring organization or PSU. Dawn noted that the database will give us information about the workforce which will assist in policy level decisions. Deborah noted that this will support Director’s who are hiring and determine teacher qualified. Billie noted that it will help funders as well.

Tom noted the timeline is aggressive so that we can be poised to go to the legislature in 2011.

Rosetta asked if Tom could bring back the chair of each workgroup in February so the Commissioner’s could have an update. President Obama noted that challenge grants may be targeted at 0-5 and this might be a good source to consider input from. Tom noted that we’re trying to assess where the private sector fits into this. If we fund a targeted thing that we could build and not require additional support so the tax credit is sustainable funding. The private fund would be used as one-time or time limited.

### **Strengths:**

- Builds upon existing systems like PSU’s Oregon Registry
- Ties together projects and pieces in the state
- Builds on solid research information, such as linking coaching to training
- A win for everyone
- Creates a pathway to get us where we want to go
- Moves professional development forward with incentives
- Bringing new people and ideas to the child care system
- It shows that it does take a village to raise a child

### **Opportunities:**

- It will bring an emphasis to quality for school age programs with incentive and balance to part of a greater child care (carrot focused)

- It is a time of how you can do more with fewer dollars as it streamlines process for providers, individuals, and systems. Creates efficiencies.
- Given the Children's Investment Fund in Portland was recently renewed and this pulling together provides incentives to keep going and fuel for future renewals. Leveraging potential.
- Linking child care to the head start success. This plan will touch more children than Head Start. If we can get more Head Start children into classrooms then it improves quality in child care
- Oregon Early Childhood Inclusion Collaborative brings together Head Start and Early Intervention

### **Weaknesses:**

- It is complicated
- Language needs to include family child care homes and school age
- Timeline is aggressive and may be a problem because of complexity but need it due to legislature
- Need a better name to sell it to the legislature or anyone we want behind it: need more of a slogan rather than an acronym
- Do not know cost and some high ticket items
- Incorporate special needs – inclusive of all children
- Look outside of ourselves such as a social marketing firm to sell this
- Obama's leadership is looking at how to ramp up internet access and will we be prepared and put together with how fast things are changing. Are we thinking about how everyone can have access to it? There will be a giant shift and we need to be cognizant to utilize possibilities.
- Look at places where dollars may be coming down – tech grants, will there be funding for providers access computers, small business grants as part of the economic stimulus package

### **Threat**

- Workforce may be threatened by higher requirements or getting training on-line
- Workplace law may have a financial impact such as if an employer requires training and is required to pay for employee to get training
- If moving CCDF funds it could have an impact on agencies
- Workload concern for data entry for trainings

- Avoid thinking in silo's
- Designing based upon new technology may foster resistance from providers or other parties – address privacy threats.

Billie

Randy had motioned earlier to support the ready for school initiative. Kitty second. Discussion. Tom noted that Children's Institute is part of the workgroup. Deborah noted that we may want to see language prior to voting endorsement. Kitty proposed that we as the Commission draft a letter to the Children's Institute requesting language to include child care connection, including the inclusion of special needs beyond Head Start. We won't take a formal position but will draft a letter. All in favor. Motion carries.

**Next step: Heidi will draft a letter**

Billie asked the Commission what role they would like to fill as the concept moves forward. Tom stated he would like the Commission to oversee the work of this project. Randy asked for clarification on what that would look like. Tom said it is similar to what we do now and will serve as the advisory committee that guides it forward. Rosetta noted that some of us here serve as chairs on the workgroups.

**Develop handout with chairs of the workgroups – Heidi for Feb. meeting**

Deborah asked if it would be helpful to have electronic communication to support and advise when needed. Heidi will email the Commission as a whole and look again at who is on the executive committee. Kitty clarified that the executive committee can act upon what the full commission agrees upon and does not bring forward new items.

**Rosetta said she would entertain a motion that we as a commission will support this. Kitty motioned, Deborah second. Motion carries.**

**The Commission agreed to have governance and support for the concept.**

Tom reported on the federal stimulus package to support more parents to become eligible for child care. Oregon would likely receive 25M a year if the 2B passes the feds, would be released Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. There is also a 3B proposal for head start. If Oregon were to lose funding in ERDC this session, this would keep us close to where we currently are.

Investment Strategies Workgroup:

1. Professional Development Database workgroup: Dawn, CCD 503.947.1418
2. Investment Strategies Workgroup: Heidi, OCCF 541.929.7501
3. Scholarship program Workgroup: Mary Louise, OCF
4. Training and Mentoring workgroup: Dawn, R&R Advisory Committee. 503.947.1418
5. Public/Private Fund: Heidi 541.929.7501
6. Professional Development goals and incentive for individual providers: Heidi
7. Program of Excellence Model (Partner Ready): Rosetta 503.982.9149

8. PD Database Enrollment: Pam Deardorff
9. Incent and require increased training and Oregon Registry enrollment: OCCC
10. Revise Tax Credit legislation: OCCC

**2009 Priorities:**

1. Come out of legislative session with out losing anything
2. Build system by doing EQUIP
3. Expand R&R via private sector/other or partnerships
4. Pass legislation: clean box, school age exempt care
5. Address school age care gap
6. Address affordability (cliff effect)
7. Track impacts of financial loss and opportunities for Oregon's child care system.

Local Commissions identified school age care, odd hour care and families that are not eligible for ERDC but are low income.

Kitty recommended that we distinguish the difference between 09 session and issues the Commission works toward. They may not be top priority but list that we want to look at in 09. For instance in 09 should be to pass legislation that the Commission has proposed, and addressing the school age care and cliff effect during the year.

Ruth asked about what the Commission can when child care is illegal, even after they have been reported. Cheryl noted this as well and recommended looking at exempt care. Russ noted that it seems if we make the system better that more people may go into illegal care. Russ noted that public education and awareness may help. Perhaps somebody in the media could do some illegal care articles to help consumers and point people to the Child Care Division web site.

Heidi noted that exempt care has been a priority for the commission and we tackled school age first because it was the request of CCD. After we pass this legislation, it may be in fall, 09 to address exempt preschool.

Top votes (in order):

1. Maintain gains to ERDC
2. EQUIP
- 3 Exempt care
4. Track impact of financial crisis and economic stimulus act

**Evaluation of the Day:** Good time management, went well, ability to distill the many issues, clarity and communication were excellent, loved what I saw, good process with

concrete things, room is a bit big, accomplished what we set out to do, covered a lot, very informative, ditto, great job, helpful to have priorities ahead time, nice to have any lag time, moved timely,. Appreciate humor, very well done and accomplished a lot, interesting and fun, worth every dime, we got our priorities, good, like dot conference was much simpler, love the way you keep us on track and tell us to be quiet, all very efficiently.

Rosetta thanked Billie for behind the scenes. Tom thanked NCCIC for making Billie available to us.

**Meeting Adjourned**