



Child Care Community Forum

Justice Building
Medford, Oregon
April 17th
6:30 – 8:00 pm

Summary

Working well

- Affordable child care programs are available - \$30/yr for boys and girls club
- Scholarships exist for child care
- Transportation or on site child care supports families

Not working well

- Transportation from schools outside of Medford does not exist – high insurance from mini buses and vans (rural areas lack opportunity)
- Feeling of inequality where some programs feel like they are offering the same things but there are different licensing requirements
- Inability to recruit and retain qualified/trained staff

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

- licensing changes should match different programs and program needs
- Need different categories of different school age programs (different rules for different programs/activities)
- Exempt care should have some reasonable level of regulation
- Need different licensing rule book for after school/summer programs because it is a burden for programs to follow same regulations for preschool/younger kids – also burden for regulators – tease out key areas that apply for school age and eliminate certain requirements that don't apply
- need to keep kids safe without taking away experiences/activities
- licensing costs could be adjusted for shorter hour program – such as some programs don't have kitchens so need to
- If two programs are identical they should be regulated in a like manner
- Clarify rules because interpretation is different
- Liability insurance replaces licensing? Since they have high standards they naturally control some standards such as criminal history. Can other accrediting organizations be used as a standard

Full Report (broken down by group report out)

What is Not Working Well

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Struggles with professionalism with lead teachers – inability to recruit qualified staff
Lack of funding for professional training and quality of staff/program – losing staff to 'real jobs'
Transportation from schools outside of Medford – high insurance from mini buses and vans

Not a level playing field – socioeconomic status should not be a factor for choice

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No good options in summer for Grants Pass

Warehousing with not good quality – a lot of kids put together (summer)

Limited space in some locations/transportation – schools not being willing to stop even if on the bus line

Intend to have enriching program with older kids supervising younger kids but often with no older adult supervising.

Feeling of inequality where some programs feel like they are offering the same things but there are different licensing requirements

Concern with regulation interfering with summer traditional activities like camp

Programs lacking trained staff

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Staff turnover – part time

Lack of safety

Lack of supervision

Director splitting time between locations

Free programs prevent licensed programs from starting because they can't compete for free

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Stricter guidelines – degree/education can not do the teaching but have to do admin (think can do both and not lose higher education staff not work with kids)

Inequality of highest paid staff and admin

Ratio, children limitations

No dual role

Staffing – avail of teacher qualified people

Consistency across community

Experience from one program to another is not the same if a program is not licensed – teacher with experience in exempt program can't use qualifications in licensed program

Hours open – weekend care

Working well:

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Affordable programs - \$30/yr for boys and girls club

Lots of options of families

School and neighborhood based activities can walk to program – Medford

Current staff ratio is good 15 or 10/1

Partnership with school at schools

Ability for kids to participate in activities and various programs

Parents are connecting and networking at family gatherings

'Tutor/homework helps parents, enhancing study/life skills

Drug screening for staff

Scholarships

Video surveillance

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There is quality avail if you can afford it

Quality is more avail during school year not as much during summer

There is assistance – scholarship

Depends upon where you are – some strong options but other areas in county no options

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After school care only

Transportation or on site

Insurance

Licensed does work – safety security
Parents peace of mind/ staff also
Structure/physical development
Curriculum
Rogue valley child care director's exchange – collaborative mtg of directors

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

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With licensing, the YMCA summer programs would lose program opportunity
“if you go too far with licensing regulations you regulate yourself out of business”
ex. Public swimming pools – if you want safe kids you would close the pools
Minimizing risks are minimizing opportunities
Should licensing change to match different programs
Licensing should recognize national accredited programs in lieu of licensing such as boys and girls club
Liability insurance could replace licensing? Since they have high standards they naturally control some standards such as criminal history checks
Why not license individuals instead of just the environment – could people be licensed as well facilities?
Need different categories of different school age programs
Parents are stuck – economically and availability

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If warehousing shuts down there would be an issue with capacity – low income kids would go home
Exempt care should have some reasonable level of regulation – maybe at different level
More funding and training support – staff part time, going to school, have other jobs
Barriers to opening a new program are huge – licensed specifically with no funds to support it
If two programs are identical they should be regulated in a like manner
Restrictions about kids signing in and out – parents think the programs are responsible but parents don't necessarily think so
Need different licensing rule book for after school/summer programs because it is a burden for programs to follow same regulations for preschool/younger kids – also burden for regulators
need to keep kids safe without taking away experiences/activities
licensing costs could be adjusted for shorter hour program – such as some programs don't have kitchens so need to
licensing should be free?
If a part time preschool can operate exempt but part time after school programs can't be exempt

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Camps and before/after school care are not the same - State standards year round fee vs. short term program – costs should reflect this

Clarify rules because interpretation is different:

What does 'ordinary engaged in child care mean?

Kids coming and going

Address current child care situations such as separating programs

Consistency within state 2 programs under same roof

Regulation changes should not limit programs impact or close them - grandfather in programs
School year programs different from summer camp programs, ratios, snacks/lunches, activities, qualified staff, (different rules for different programs/activities)

Keep state guidelines – curriculum/structure