



Oregon Commission for Child Care

**Child Care Community Forum
September 16th, 2008
St Anthony's Hospital, Blues Room
Pendleton, OR
6:30 – 8:00pm**

Summary

Working Well

Collaboration in communities to find solutions

Every county has groups of people with passion to ensure kids have quality after school programs
21st Century Programs

Not Working Well

Transportation does not always exist

Programs are not financially sustainable on parent fees

It is hard to find qualified staff and pay a living wage

Response to proposed grid

There should be some form of regulation for exempt care

Full Results of Workgroup Discussion

Working Well

- Parks & Rec activities have increased in Pendleton
- Collaboration between Parks and Rec and schools for afterschool in Hermiston
- Umatilla schools and Umatilla tribe have a MOU to increase communication
- Boardman offers a licensed on site child care for employees, school bus children to attend
- Increased communication/collaboration (training brought together people locally, R&R, CCD, CCF)
- Hood River, Wasco, Sherman:
 - 21st century
 - onsite child care in the Hood River elementary schools
 - Wasco – very little and no after school program, only Head Start, OCDC & 1 community center
- After school kids in child care facilities in Pendleton
- Schools provide busing, food, and building space for a campfire program in Pendleton that has been operating since 1993

- Every county has groups of people with passion to ensure kids have quality after school programs
- A lot of churches provide after school – some licensed, some exempt, some for fee, some for free
- Small communities increase collaboration and have opened programs in schools or churches

Not Working Well

- No after school care at some schools
- Some programs don't last in schools
- Hermiston contracted with programs and provided busing, food, buildings but could not financially sustain this
- Programs can't always sustain living wage and benefits for employees
- Programs have to charge a flat fee to ensure full time income which reduces part time options
- 59 school districts in Oregon have 4 day weeks
- School does not provide transportation to all child care programs in Pendleton
- Had to raise fees (43% for transportation costs)
- Programs need to be able to invest in supplies but don't have money
- Programs can't sustain just on parent fees
- Employees work odd schedules and can't afford a full time slot
- Programs can't always offer part-time or sporadic care
- Parents don't want to pay for child care
- Small businesses need a way to access funding (often only non-profits can)
- Huge need for care
- Criminal history is needed
- Out of state criminal history for border counties is very costly
- Parents don't always know the difference
- Some form of regulation should occur
- Very hard to find qualified staff

Comments on Proposed Grid

- Should be based on # of hours/day
- Ratio
- Allowed to come and go
- Age – loosen as they get older
- Monitoring: have 2 different kinds of licenses to help programs survive that includes monitoring
- Language change from exempt to 'unmonitored' and exempt tracked to 'monitored'
- Many facilities can't get licensed because space doesn't meet requirement