

Commission for Child Care  
June 27, 2008  
Roth's West Salem Conference Center

**Attendees:** Rep Linda Flores, Deborah Murray, Nina Roll, Stephanie Swan, Lynne Angland, Cheryl Reece, Rosetta Wangerin, Randy Fishfader, Abby Solomon (ex-officio)

**Guests:** Dawn Norris, Tom Olsen, Kitty Lake, Beth Unverzagt, Teresa Stevenson, Merrily McCabe, Rhonda Prodzinski, Sonja Svenson,

**Arriving for R&R Advisory:** Mark Anderson, Barbara Griffin, Kim Cardona

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## Introductions

**Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes from May 2008 – Nina. Second – Lynne. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Letter to Local CCF's** – Rosetta brought back the final draft of the letter from this commission to the State and Local Commissions for Children and Families for final approval. Motion to accept as the letter as written – Debora. Second – Nina. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Action: Teresa will send out the letter to the local CCF's and the state office. An electronic copy will go to the commissioners for distribution.**

Debora asked if, regarding the CCF work plans, which they are working on for the next cycle, do we want local plans? Rosetta asked to hold until Kim Cardona's arrival. Rosetta asked that, as a person with a local interest, commissioners should touch base with the local CCF's. This will make a personal connection that can be important. Beth said that this would be helpful when looking at local support when our issues merge. She also said that it would be good to be able to see a plan and be able to ask "then what?" Rosetta suggested that having someone from the CCF come and speak to us in the fall would be a good connecting piece.

**Action: Rosetta will talk to Heidi about having the Commission for Children and Families come talk in the Fall (Sept/Oct).**

Beth updated the Commission on the work Oregon ASK has been doing with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grants. The grants have been awarded. In cases where grants have not been awarded, help is being offered to work on resources a community may need. This can include books and technical assistance.

**Member Update:** Rosetta went over the current roster and the Commission discussed how to fill the current vacancies. The details of the requirements for the vacancies were discussed, along with possible changes to the statute to allow for more flexibility which will aid in filling the slots. Rosetta noted that having members who are active

participants is important to the work that is done. Lynne suggested that splitting the tax/legal position would be appropriate as it is difficult to find someone who can fill both roles. Rosetta also noted that it would be beneficial to have both union representatives as official members.

**Action: Rosetta and Heidi will look at the current member makeup and work on drafting some suggested changes to the roles to be filled.**

**Action: Rosetta will meet with Peter Courtney to discuss the Senator appointment to the commission.**

**Action: Randy, Rosetta, Teresa, Heidi and Abby will work on filling commission slots by legislative session.**

**PSA's:** Work on reediting these is in progress will get out as soon as the needed updates are completed.

**RFP:** An interim report will be included in the RFP going out for the Commission report to the Governor and Legislature. Heidi will be looking at the details. Rosetta has suggested a format similar to the Child Care System pamphlet that was produced in 2007. Depending on the number of responses, commissioners may be asked to assist with scoring. The process could take as little as six weeks from the time it is posted.

**Break:**

**Exempt School Age Care:** Kitty Lake presented a document that the ad hoc sub-committee worked on to distil the recommendations of the community forum groups and prepare to send out feedback to the attendees. The biggest change recommended was the introduction of an exempt/tracked section where a facility would not be licensed, but would be listed with the Child Care Division. The forum input included recommendations as to what would place a facility into a category, be it licensed, tracked or exempt. If tracked programs happen, one option discussed is that they be asked to fill out a form yearly, which would be a self assessment to confirm that they still fall into a category that does not need licensure. Rosetta reminded the Commission that the reason for having a tracked program, which would need to inform parents that it was not licensed, is a consumer awareness piece that has been missing from the child care system. Having parents be more aware of whether or not a program is licensed will assist them in their decision making. Deborah wanted to make certain that the commission understood that this focused on addressing what came from the forums, and is not meant to take care of every concern within the child care system. The workgroup worked to stay within the framework of their mission to look at school age care.

Beth felt it was important to look at the number of children being served in these programs. This is not data that is currently collected by the Child Care Division. The major groups who serve this population are known, but there are many small exempt programs which are not being monitored by the division. Rosetta noted that care must be taken not to be perceived as over-regulating. Kitty noted that another reason to move forward with care is to avoid too many unintended consequences. Cheryl noted that it will take time to make families aware of a tiered system. Many families do not

even know the difference between licensed and exempt, and often providers are not certain what type of license they hold in family care. With that in mind, we need to be aware that educating the public will take time. Nina brought up the point that using the term “registered” when referring to exempt care will only confuse the system and we need to come up with another term as we move forward. Abby asked that we consider incentives to move people from tracked to licensed care. Kitty felt that if it is easy enough to become a tracked program, more will want to do it even if not required to do so. Lynne asked if licensing required insurance. Kitty responded that regulations do not currently speak to insurance. Beth noted that school districts are self insured which covers them if they run their program.

In taking commission input back to the committee, Deborah noted that one thing she wants to remain mindful of is that this is an issue of clarification and getting rid of grey areas in current exempt rules. Kitty reflected that the suggested tracking system will enable CCD to monitor exempt programs and guide them when it appears that they are moving into “needing to be licensed” territory. Beth would like to see a parent education piece addressed moving forward.

Representative Flores asked for clarification on the criminal background check. Is this something that is done nationally? Kitty responded that if the applicant has lived outside of the state during the last 18 months or if the local system shows that they are a multi-state offender, then a fingerprint and FBI search is done. Also, there are quarterly checks done in the system in case someone has offended since the initial check. A child protective services check is also done.

Beth noted that when you begin a tracked system and some programs find that they need to be licensed, which would then subject them to CCD child/staff ratios, you may find pushback from those programs which are currently working as exempt. She recommended that CCD look at a school age ratio for these programs as ratios that make sense for five year olds do not necessarily for ten year olds. Kitty reminded everyone that this would involve a rule change.

Sonja asked if this would require a statute change. Kitty responded that it would most likely. Sonja reminded everyone that this would then need an option package, which we do not currently have. She asked that we keep in mind that this would also impact the “clean box” project.

Lynne noted that federal child care tax credit legislation (Internal Revenue code 45F) now requires that employer paid child care that is being given a federal tax credit must meet the licensing regulations and requirements of the state and local government in which it occurs. They must have a contract with the provider which states that they are in compliance.

A survey will be rolling out in July in order to glean more input on this topic from the rest of the state. We will be looking for any input and assistance to reach the greatest number of people possible. Beth will help distribute through Oregon ASK. Jean Johnson will be contacted for her assistance as well. When we have the final input put together, we will need to inform the people involved in the forums, as well as having to prepare any legislative pre-session filings, if needed. We would need to have a concept

ready for legislative council as quickly as possible. The cutoff is mid-November. The workgroup will arrange to meet to work on a draft to get out to the forum participants.

Cheryl asked if Boys and Girls club had come to talk to the commission about their program. Possibly having an opportunity to tour one would be a good idea. Rosetta said that as she is building agenda topics, she will work on having a representative come to speak. Tom advised that they do not all use the same format for their programs. Some are licensed, some are not.

Rosetta noted that having a group come and speak to the commission, such as Boys and Girls Club, which is engaged in one of the types of school age care being looked at, would be beneficial when working on our final recommendation. The recommendation will go out to the forum participants.

Nina asked that, after making recommendations for school-age, the commission revisit where the state of Oregon is on infant and toddler care. There are issues in Lincoln county, as well as the rest of the state. Rosetta responded along this topic that, with regards to infant and toddler care and available money, she has heard that a request to CCD to ease up on how CCDF is spent was being requested. Tom replied that we have more restrictions on how the local commissions use their money than ever before. We have put a technical assistance team which works with each individual commission on the proper use. This money is subject to the federal plan which laid out the priorities for use. Rosetta asked about asking local commissions to come talk to the Commission for Child Care about what is done with the money that is given to them at the local level instead of having the state office come and talk big picture. Nina noted that projects around infant care do not attract current providers who are at capacity with the ages they are currently doing. For the first time in Nina's memory, exempt providers outnumber licensed in her community. Child care is a small part of the many things that the local commissions do. Tom noted that current economic model for child care is not sustainable. Options to keep sustainable infant/toddler child care will need to be looked at. Paying for slots is one option. Cheryl said that with the current ratios, provider ability to maintain a business is difficult. Beth noted that at a recent NAA (National Afterschool Association) conference the local DHS office paid for targeted school age slots. Tom noted that if there are guaranteed slots, you then have a supply. Deborah stated that the current state licensing requirements keep infant and toddler care from being sustainable on its own. Having older children "subsidizes" the cost of infant and toddler care. Grants that are out there ask for an explanation of how the care will become self supporting, but no one knows how to answer that. Grantors are experiencing "fatigue" with requests for operating costs. Rosetta would like to review an issue that came up in Pendleton a few years ago and see if there is anything from that which could be helpful with the situation in Lincoln county. Rosetta suggested that using the CCD database to alert providers that there is an infant/toddler need in the state. Randy is concerned about education of providers on the special needs that infants and toddlers have. She has a team that is working to put together a certification for infant and toddler specialists.

**Action: Teresa will post the survey by July 15<sup>th</sup> to run through at least the first full week in August.**

**Action: Teresa will send a link to the survey to the commissioners.**

**Action: Rosetta will arrange for a Boys and Girls club representative to come talk to the commission this fall. Possibly also visit a site.**

**Action: Beth to get an NAA model of slots**

Tom updated the commission on the status of centralizing criminal history background checks. The idea was to create a system where anyone who has nothing on their record could be placed in a “clean box”. This would be a separate registry where they would not have to reapply. The two year renewal period could be phased out. It would be checked through LEDS every 4 months. If someone is found to have a criminal history, then they would have to go through the agency they had applied for to complete the background check process. This would include approximately 85% or more of the current population. There is still a need for buy in from the agency heads. Tom also is proposing that CCD handle this due to their current record of speed and efficiency. Rosetta asked if Tom could speak about this on the September agenda. Tom asked the Commission to officially support this. He noted that if we get support, then we have to look at legislation. This would affect many agencies. What Tom needs to know is – can other agencies jump into our legislation (statute) or would each agency need to create or modify its own to reference ours? Rep. Flores asked Tom to go to legislative council and say that she referred him to ask the questions needed. Rosetta asked that Tom keep her and Heidi in the loop if he needs them to do anything to support this. Tom suggested that a letter would be a good approach from the Commission. Rosetta asked that Tom review it before it goes out.

Motion to draft a letter to agency heads from the Commission for Child Care regarding the clean box: Deborah. Second: Nina – discussion – motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Action: Letter from Rosetta to Agency Heads and DHS Division Heads re: Commission for Child Care support for a “Clean Box” for criminal history checks. (August 1<sup>st</sup> deadline)**

**Action: Tom will send Rosetta update of the framework for “Clean Box”.**

**Action: Tom will update the Commission on the September agenda.**

Updates –

Beth (Oregon ASK) – Oregon Department of Education (ODE) grants requests totaled 6.6 million. The original amount to be distributed was originally going to be 2 million. Because the requests were so high, they went to 3.7 million. There is a variety of programs across the state receiving the grants. They will also be providing data collection.

They are also waiting to see results from the C.S. Mott innovation grant. The proposal is to work over the next three years with school principals, school superintendents and school board members and, using the most current research, educate them on the importance of after school. They are partnering with the ESD

(education service district) to provide this learning opportunity. It will look different in every location and will be handled peer-to-peer. They will do at least three a year over the next three years. Rosetta asked if Beth could report on this in April '09.

Beth reported that they are also working with groups that did not receive funds from the ODE grant. This is the first time that they have worked with non recipients of grants to help them see where they can do better. They will also work on training for 21<sup>st</sup> Century and Opening Doors Training (inclusion) as well as other trainings. ODE is also paying for seven people to be trained in South West Educational Development Lab's training on professional development process. These trainers will have to provide eight trainings on site to 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Rosetta said that she understood that they were assisting groups that did not quite meet the criteria for the grant. Beth replied that they were coaching them in what was needed for 21<sup>st</sup> Century. There have been other trainings and resource fairs made available and they are always trying new things. Deborah asked if anything was being done to support transitions from child care to kindergarten. She noted that there seems to be a disregard for any services that went to a child before they began kindergarten. This seems to be to the child's detriment as there is a wealth of information about the child that is being lost. Beth said that using a partnership with the ESD's may help with this.

**Action: Beth will report to the commission on Oregon ASK projects in April 2009.**

**Adjourn Commission for Child Care**

**Child Care Resource and Referral Advisory Committee**