

## MINUTES

### **INCLUSIVE CHILD CARE COMMITTEE September 10, 2009**

**Next meeting:** Thursday, November 12, 2009 9:00 - noon  
Meridian Park Hospital Health Education Center  
19300 SW 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Tualatin, Oregon

#### **Attending:**

*Donna Lewelling, Co-Chair, Parent Voice Project; Dawn Norris, Co-Chair, Child Care Division; Dolores McNee, Washington Co. Community Action Head start; Nancy Lowry, Office of Children with Special Health Care Needs; Melinda Benson, Terry Butler & Lorine Day-Reynolds, Inclusive Child Care Program, Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities.*

#### **1. Partnerships for Inclusive Child Care and Education (PICCE) Project Update**

Terry provided an update for the recently completed 2007 – 2009 project cohort. Ten community sites, serving providers in 21 counties, participated in the project. Community reports showed the following:

- 286 individuals participated in community trainings.
- 149 completed the 18-hour TRAC *Foundations* training module.
- 18 providers received training in Spanish.
- 94 completed *Foundations* and at least one other TRAC module.
- 137 completed a portion of *Foundations*, another module without *Foundations*, or participated in other provider activities supported by the project.
- TRAC training is very well received by participants. Evaluations indicated positive changes in practices and perspectives.
- Project activities strengthened links with Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education in some communities.
- Incentives are highly important for encouraging participation in TRAC training. Incentives also encouraged completion of the full training model offered.

- Providers received follow up supports in a variety of ways. The Clackamas approach of forming participants into a structured, ongoing network or cohort is a very promising model.

The committee discussed the following next steps for the project:

- The Child Care Division is committed to supporting PICCE. Funds can't be allocated until after the impact of the Legislature's decision to move funds previously received by the Oregon Commission on Children and Families is known. The Commission had been a project funder.
- Terry recommended that the project move on from the Inclusive Child Care Program. It's been established within the infrastructure and would now best fit with a more training-focused organization. A group will meet on September 14 to develop plan for PICCE.
- Planning will include incorporating Opening Doors. Past cohorts have helped strengthen connections with EI/ECSE. Opening Doors or other options could increase connections with programs serving school age children.
- There will be an emphasis on supporting current training sites.
- The project will continue using the Caring Communities model as its foundation.
- The Inclusive Child Care Committee will continue to advise and guide the project.

## **2. Committee Work Plan**

An interim group met to develop a draft a work plan for 2009-2011. Today the committee used this draft to create the final version. The plan is attached with the minutes.

## **3. Legislation**

The group discussed 2009 actions by the Oregon legislature, focusing on those most affecting children with diverse abilities and needs in child care.

First discussed were reductions in the Oregon Department of Human Services Child Care Program budget. At this time the plan is to limit new enrollments for Employment Related Day Care subsidies to parents leaving TANF assistance. This will not go into effect until July, 2010.

A handout from the Oregon Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs provided summaries of other legislation. The handout is attached with the minutes.

Through Senate Bill 2144 state agencies are now directed to implement a wraparound model in children's mental health services. This may provide further opportunities for coordination between child care and mental systems.

#### **4. SpecialQuest Presentation**

Dolores presented information on SpecialQuest. The program has been in place for 10 years. Oregon teams, including Early Head Start, Head Start, parents and EI/ECSE reps have participated in 14 day SpecialQuest trainings. The teams have since worked to implement plans for inclusion, primarily in Head Start settings. Dolores is one of the SpecialQuest "Ambassadors" in Oregon. The Ambassadors are charged with seeing how Oregon's plans are being implemented and providing information and assistance to implement plans.

SpecialQuest has developed a wealth of resources, including training materials and DVD's. These are available for free via their website: [www.specialquest.org](http://www.specialquest.org). Committee members are encouraged to spread the word about SpecialQuest resources.

Dolores is facilitating a meeting of community partners to discuss using SpecialQuest tools. For example, child care providers could use SpecialQuest trainings to meet training requirements. She will report back on that discussion.

## **5. Inclusive Child Care Program (ICCP) update and advisory**

Program staff made changes in the database to track parent contacts. This will provide information on types of resources and supports that parents receive from ICCP. A further database change separates children's presenting issues (i.e., reasons the child needs supports in child care) from diagnoses. This was recommended earlier by the committee for improved reporting and analysis.

ICCP has developed a system to help DHS make timely payments of the individualized High Need Rate. The process is currently in a pilot test phase. Part of the goal for this effort is to support providers so that care is stable.

## **6. Announcements**

- Dolores reported that Washington County Head Start and Early Head Start were able to maintain enrollment numbers. In Washington County, 106 children in Head Start have already been identified as having special needs.
- Northwest Regional ESD provided TRAC *Foundations* training to Head Start staff. This provided an opportunity to bring teams together before starting to work together in the classroom.
- The Multnomah Early Childhood Program (MECP) has issued a Request for Proposals to work with child care centers and preschools as sites for EI/ECSE services. MECP will fund slots to provide time in inclusive settings to address IFSP goals.
- Dawn reported on work to develop child care quality standards as part of the EQUIP facilities component. When this is completed, CCD will contract slots for hard to find care. This includes care for children with higher level needs.

***Next Meeting* – Thursday, November 12, 2009. 9:00 am to noon.** The agenda will include updates on the Oregon Early Childhood Inclusion Collaborative and PICCE.