

Early Childhood Planning Team
Meeting Minutes – May 6, 2009

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Nancy Bischofs, DCF
Sharri da Silva, RN
Melissa Smith, DCF/VISTA
Rose Wilde, DHS
Jennifer Slater, FCLDC
Serafina Clarke, DCF

Cheryl Henderson, EC CARES
Rose Wilde, DHS
Megan Turner, Pearl Buck Center
Jennifer Slater, FCLDC
Julie Resby, FCLDC
Karen Hamilton, HS

**CHILD CARE SURVEY- Child Care Subcommittee
Presentation by Jennifer Slater & Julie Resby**

Please refer to the attached presentation + Quality Indicators Handouts (Available from Jennifer Slater, Family Connections of Lane and Douglas Counties). I have not reiterated the presentation here, as it is available from the slides.

Group

Discussion Discussion around the large number of infants and toddlers in Lane County who cannot be tracked within the child care system. Where are these kids? They are likely in the care of family and friends. This brings up quality issues in addition to the low quantity of infant/toddler child care slots available in our community. What type of care are these kids being given?

Discussion around identifying the **barriers** to providing infant/toddler care:

Centers: Biggest barrier is the environment.

Exempt providers: Biggest barrier is “parents aren’t asking” for infant/toddler services. (May indicate need for increased referrals.)

Discussion around why parents aren’t asking: Is there a need for a future **survey of parents** of infants and toddlers? RE: Is it unaffordable? Is it concerns about quality?

Note: “Exempt” providers:

1. Care for fewer than 3 children (other than their 1 child) in home.
- or 2. Provide a preschool or learning environment. (Can only provide care for 4 hours and do not provide food, naps, etc.) Many are after school programs.

Question to subcommittee: Do you have enough folks to move forward on next steps? “Yes, but more are always welcome.”

Rose: How can we make childcare/child development something where you can make more than minimum wage? It’s a big factor in a lot of the problems we’re seeing in child care. It’s undervalued as a service. We need to bring the standard up. But it’s complicated; How much can people pay for it?

Julie: Parents can’t afford it. In countries that have done that, it’s government subsidized. With our economy, it won’t go that way now.

Rose: The availability of ERDC is getting challenged because of budget cuts so there’s already been some cuts to access. Parents who were getting access to it, just are not now. In the next biennium, it might be limited even more. Essentially no one would be eligible except people coming off of TANF. One update is that they didn’t end up denying it to families with non-citizens; there were some questions around legality.

WELCOME AND SHARING

Jennifer Slater **Provider Appreciation Day** is tomorrow at Whiteaker Head Start. We have about 100 providers enrolled (there were 60 last year). There will be free trainings and booths and hula dancers and a contest for the best tropical outfit. Vena Williams has resigned. For now Terri Hanson and I will continue with co-directing, which our agency has a history of.

Megan Turner Plugging along at PBC. My impression is that things are changing very quickly, waiting to see how all the funding-related changes will happen. RE: How many classes we will run next year. We’ve been working closely with HS and EC CARES. We’re really working on thinking outside of the box. For me, I’m noticing that the more DHS clients I take on, the less parent *educating* I have to do, and the more parent *support*. We’re actually thinking of changing the role of my position to parent support. That entails a lot of helping to interpret legal documents and processes, assisting them with navigating systems and program requirements, working on DHS parent visitations.

50% of Oregon women with developmental disabilities, including cognitive challenges, lose custody of their children.

Rose Wilde The **latest cuts** are to a category of families who are receiving assistance through TANF, referred to as “non-needy caregivers.” This refers to families where children are living in a home with a relative or other non-parent caregivers. Previously those adults’

income were not considered, we would just look at the child's need. As of May 1 we are implementing a means test where we look at the income of those caretaker relatives, if they're more than 180% of the Federal poverty level they won't get the grant at all. The predicted outcome is that there will be fewer families willing to provide for these kids due to this lack of support. It's a long road toward becoming a certified foster parent. So we may end up with **more kids going into non-family foster homes**. Being a good advocate and ally for families going through this process would be a good thing for folks who have clients going through this.

Cheryl Henderson We're assuming that our federal money is going to be the same as last year. We're planning for a 10% cut but also planning for a possible 20% cut. Part of that is **paring down our preschool contracts**. That may impact some of our community programs who are relying on us as a tuition payer.

Karen Hamilton HS is beginning to take **applications for next year**. Encourages people to get them in soon, we start enrolling in June. We don't fill all the slots then, but we have to be totally full by the end of August. There were 3 trainings since our last meeting. A lot of people from the community went to the Generational Poverty training that happened at HS. The Attachment trainings went really well, we had to do our own at HS to accommodate all the interest. Lots of good comments about that, and a lot of attendance. Friday was the **Brain Conference** in PDX. Jennifer, Karen, & Nancy all attended. The presentations will be available online in a few weeks. **The group expressed interest in hearing more about the topics covered there**. Karen or Nancy will let us know when the info is available online. The focus was on early childhood brain development. It was also geared toward influencing policy and translating the science into policy. Helen Neville's presentation comparing US to other western countries had great data and was very concise. Karen & Jennifer both agreed it could be useful to ECPT's work in the future. At the federal level, those proposals for federal expansion have not come out. The state is making cuts. We're hoping to be able to make it balance out, but the timing will be bad. We might have to close classrooms, lay off people, and then possibly be able to hire people back later. The federal money didn't all happen at once. It's sort of coming in chunks, and our chunk didn't come yet. There's a small amount of money that goes through the **CCF** that is **child care money**. In the past we were supporting the shelter preschools, but were told not to do it because it went to staff and infrastructure, which is restricted. The recommendation is to

continue funding training through LCC. This will be decided in the next CCF meeting (May 27). We'll update you next time.

Sharri da Silva RN is trying to build a budget within this uncertainty on the revenue. Sharri is writing a deficit into the budget, still hoping not to cut programs or staff. The good news is that we may be able to renew our 4 or more AmeriCorps positions, providing family support worker services for Healthy Start. The training piece is an issue. If Healthy Start is going to be cut as drastically as it might, who's going to supervise these people?

Nancy Bischofs I'm looking for every opportunity to find something creative and out of the box to fund home visiting positions to fill in these budget cuts. We went up to OSU to meet with our Ford Family grant folks for the FRC's. We're in our last year and we went up to work on our sustainability plan. What was interesting was the Ford Program representative said that there's a proposal with the Oregon Community Foundation saying that they'd like to do parenting education across the state. They're taking it to their boards now and if it's approved the RFP's will probably come out in January. Healthy Start is putting together a **re-design committee** in the state level, they will have to re-design the program across the state. If the cut holds through the legislative sessions some of those smaller counties won't be able to exist. They're considering regionalizing. They have about 6 weeks to decide.

Melissa Smith Relayed message from Karen Roth (absent today): Please feel free to contact her with any questions about the Summer Food Program.

CCF is working with FFCLC to help promote the **Summer Food Program**. We've created a website geared toward getting the word out to parents and other caregivers, as well as youth. www.freelunchforallkids.org The website is up but is waiting to be updated with specific program information as it becomes available. It will list all the program sites, times and rules, and will contain a link to a printable page that also lists sites & times. We'd like to ask the assistance of agencies to help us promote the website, especially those who serve parents, youth and children. **Agencies can help** by printing information in their newsletters, referring clients to the website (or FFCLC for folks w/o computer access), or posting a link or our banner ad to your website. Melissa will send fliers, banner ads, and more information soon & invites further ideas for website promotion.

HOME VISITING SUBCOMMITTEE

Breakout Session Postponed to next month due to today's low attendance.

Next Time Talk about next steps influenced by the survey results.
Looking for a **chair person** to work with Nancy on updating the work plan and look at the recommended steps from the survey. Nancy would like to meet here in the ECPT.
Group agrees to limit sharing to one hour, then break up into groups: Child Care + Home Visiting.

MEDIA OUTREACH

Discussion around Sharri's suggestion to do something related to the **Summer Food Program**. Now is the time. We could do it by email. Talk about hunger in Lane County, nutrition, and connect it with Summer Food. Include website. Editorial or article.
Melissa will discuss it with Karen Roth and we will bring that back to the group.

Next time:
Sharing will be limited to one hour, then...
Breakout groups: Child Care + Home Visiting