

OKLAHOMA PARTNERSHIP FOR SCHOOL READINESS
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 19, 2012
Department of Libraries
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Marny Dunlap called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The following members were present: Erin Nation for Janet Barresi, Janet Karner for Phil Berkenbile, Kathy Cronemiller, Phil Dessauer, Bill Doenges, Marny Dunlap, Robert Brandenburg for Kay Floyd, Ed Long for Mike Fogarty, Nina Gonzales, Bob Harbison, Lesli Blazer and Howard Hendrick, Kermit McMurry for Glen Johnson, Vaughn Clark for Dave Lopez, Janet McKenzie, Susan McVey, Andrea Hall for Michael O'Brien, Lisa Price, Treasa Lansdowne for Lisa Smith, Jay Weatherford, Lynn Goldberg for Terri White and Amy Halliburton-Tate for Stephan M. Wilson.

Approval of November 2011 Minutes

Marny asked for a review of the minutes, including corrections or additions, and for a motion.

Kathy Cronemiller made a motion to approve the November 17, 2011 OPSR Board meeting minutes. Bill Doenges seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative except Robert Brandenburg, Ed Long, Nina Gonzales, Lesli Blazer and Jay Weatherford who abstained and the motion passed.

Finance Report

Andrea Hall reviewed the financial status as of November 30, 2011. For the OPSR fiscal year to date we have spent 36.2% and for the SECAC budget we have spent to date of the federal dollars is 13.81% and state match dollars is 41.82%. The financials were accepted as presented.

Needs Assessment Presentation

Lisa Monroe, OU-Tulsa Early Childhood Education Institution, reviewed that her organization was contracted to provide a statewide, early childhood education needs assessment. A group of stakeholders were convened to discuss what key questions that they wanted answered. A study was designed which they felt would best answer these questions. The key questions were basically in 2 groups 1) surrounding child care and 2) surrounding the social service needs of low income and hard to reach populations. The survey was conducted in person, by telephone and by internet. Today, Lisa discussed the results that she gleaned from focus groups and later in the spring, she will relay a more comprehensive report on a broader base of individuals.

In the focus group, the ways a parent picked a day care were: affordability, trust, location, word of mouth, and other agency personnel suggestions.

Parents' desired: accountability, safety, quality, monitoring and affordable quality child care and tutoring.

Other concerns: health – most of the children in this focus group had insurance but most of the adults did not; safe housing – low-income housing had waiting lists; money for food and gas – need good job training; mental health support; and transportation – there were transportation opportunities in the different locations but some had restricted times.

There are several programs that the parents do like – WIC is one. Some programs are through the state, community action programs, the churches and a few counties. There is a great fear of the government.

Some areas for improvement: word of mouth is underestimated – a bad experience can do much harm in the process of getting better services to these individuals; think of methods to help the parents to find jobs to support their family; and some policies should be re-examined to remove any barriers which hinder the parent's ability to receive the help that they need.

Child Care Panel

Marny turned the time over to Phil Dessauer as the moderator for the child care panel. The following were members of the panel: Lesli Blazer with Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Kathy Cronemiller with Child Care Association, Paula Koos with Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association, Sherry Rackliff with Washington County Child Care Foundation and Maribel Flores, parent.

Some highlights:

- DHS has just over 4,000 licensed child care programs across the state (approximately 2,500 family child care homes and 1,700 child care centers).
- Star Rating Program
 - 2,000 – 1 star
 - 202 – 1+ stars
 - 1845 – 2 stars
 - 219 – 3 stars
- Spend about \$11M a month on subsidy
 - Oklahoma is ranked very high nationally
- 80% of a quality child care facility's funds are spent on staffing
 - Staffing and training is the beginning of what makes a quality program
- DHS would like to see the 1 star quality child cares in the QRIS system
 - Would like the parents to understand what the star ratings mean
 - Lesli furnished a document showing the changes to the QRIS that they are proposing this session
 - Would like to add 3 and 4 star ratings
- Out of the \$177M received by DHS in FY2011, 80% was spent on subsidy.
- Tribal early childhood care and education
 - There are 562 tribes across the nation and they receive 2% of the set aside funds for child care on the Federal level
 - Of the 38 tribes in Oklahoma, most are the larger tribes reside here which brings a significant portion of the CPDF money to Oklahoma
 - Depending on size of the tribe and the services offered a tribe may receive anywhere between \$29,000 up to \$12M
 - Two tribes (Cherokee and Delaware) also have contracts with Resource and Referral to provide services using State name and partner with tribal money in order to maximize their funds
 - The Oklahoma Tribal Child Care program gets together quarterly to share what other tribes are doing across the country
 - The tribes have not received an increase in funding in 9 years so money for child care will also be a challenge to the tribes
 - OCCRRA prepares a portfolio which is in the packet today – this is updated every other year but website is updated annually

- Child care is averaging just under \$116 per week – just over \$6,000 per year
 - If a parent earns just \$10 over the maximum amount for subsidy cutoff, they will have to pay the full tuition for their child
 - 97% of their requests are for full time care
 - Over 50% of the requests for care and assistance are for infants and toddlers
 - Two issues that OCCRRA would like to see improvement in child care area are:
 - The workforce – under paid (usually make minimum wage) with no benefits
 - The actual cost of child care – parents do not pay enough for it to be a highly paid workforce but parents pay more than they can really afford
- Labor in Oklahoma has changed to the point that 24 hour day cares are in a great demand
 - Kathy Cronemiller reported that she had 2 such facilities Monday through Saturday and it is a challenge to run them for 24 hours a day.
 - The most common complaint is the center is not open on Sunday – the center needs that down time to keep the centers in working condition
 - This problem has grown in the last 3½ years
 - Meals have doubled because of this situation in these 2 facilities
 - The need is so great that some parents drive a long way
- Child Care Association
 - A child care center is a business and many people who have opened a child care did not realize it
 - Must have insurance – not just health insurance but employment and workman comp insurance which Child Care Association helps them find
 - DHS does not give training on how to budget funds because that is not their responsibility – Oklahoma Child Care Association comes in and tries to do that training
 - Labor Board is auditing the providers and finding labor errors which means the provider owes a lot of back payments to staff
 - Most providers do not pay health insurance for their staff
- Parent – Maribel Flores
 - She had 2 children in Tony Reyes Bilingual Child Development Center
 - She works at Tony Reyes
 - She earned a CDA so she could earn more, so she could afford the quality child care – but because she makes more, she now has to pay more for child care
 - When her daughter aged out of Tony Reyes, it was very hard to find quality child care
 - If she found a quality child care, there was a long waiting list
 - She had to settle for less quality (2 star) – finally after 2 months she found a place that she liked (3 star)
 - Tony Reyes has a family advocate that helps parents with this transition period
 - They start working with the parents about 6 months before the child ages out of the facility

Oklahoma has the best reimbursement rates nationally, yet there is still a large need out there. Our state still has an enormous amount of work ahead, funds are just not there and progress can come only by looking at this problem in a different way. This situation is not getting better, and it needs some serious thinking both on the federal and state level to bring about a change.

Phil Dessauer made a motion to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee – Legislative Coalition, Andrea Hall seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative, and the motion passed.

Ad Hoc Committee members are to be: Phil Dessauer - Chair, Kermit McMurry - Co-chair, Kathy Cronemiller, Lesley Gudgel, Paula Koos, Janet McKenzie, Sherry Rackliff, Debbie Ream, Paul Shinn and Jay Weatherford.

Foundation Updates

Patrick is working on 3 or 4 grants – couple based on literacy and one to work on the OKCEO program. Pat Potts and Patrick will be presenting at the North Carolina National Smart Start Conference on the OKCEO program.

Federal Grant Update

Marny will combine this topic with the Workgroup Updates.

Process for LPF Renewal

The draft of the request for proposal is being finalized – a meeting next week with DHS on the procedures for moving this process through Department of Central Services. The upcoming Community Mobilization Committee meeting will review for final input.

Executive Director's Report

Debra requested in the consideration of time that the board read her report and email her for more information or to comment about the report.

Workgroup Updates

For the federal grant update, we have heard from Lisa today the preliminary presentation for the RFP for the statewide needs assessment. Professional Development is in review, and it will be in 2 pieces. Marny requested everyone read the Workgroup Updates handout.

Chairperson Comments

There were no Chair comments.

Announcements

The Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Foundation will not be funding Board members or communities to attend this the Smart Start North Carolina conference.

A handout for a picnic at the state capitol on April 16th for mental health awareness day is available.

DHS has a line item in their budget for an increase for the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness. Keep this in mind as we talk to our legislators.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at the Department of Libraries.