

OREGON STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CHILD CARE, HEALTH AND WELFARE

Minutes of Meeting

The regular meeting of the Oregon State Advisory Committee on Child Care, Health and Welfare was held at 10:00 A. M., November 4, 1942, in Room 504, Spalding Building, Portland,

Those present were: Mrs. Saldie Orr Dunbarr, Chairman; Mrs. Arthur Goldsmith; Miss Letha Humphrey; Dr. Vera Brandon; Dr. Haskins, representing Mr. Dan Prosser, Oregon Mental Hygiene; Mr. A. G. Johnson; Mr. William R. Gosser; Mr. John Whitelaw; Dr. Frederick Stricker; Mrs. C. W. Walls; Miss Gladys M. Everett; Mrs. C. W. Cummins; Mrs. E. W. S. Pierre; Dr. DeNorval Unthank; Miss Loa Howard and Mr. Clyde Getz. Also present were Miss Dorothy Potter, Field Representative of the Office of Civilian Defense and Mrs. Vesta Fuller, Planning Consultant Lanham Act, Work Projects Administration.

New members were introduced by the Chairman as follows: Miss Letha Humphrey, Oregon Nurses' Association; Mr. William Gosser, Oregon Conference on Social Work; Mr. John Whitelaw, American Association of Social Workers; and Dr. John L. Haskins, Oregon Mental Hygiene Society.

Reading of the minutes of the last meeting were dispensed with.

The Chairman reported the following figures and statements given to her by Mr. John L. Mead, Head Counsellor, Kaiser Shipyards, in a telephone conversation on October 21, 1942. There are 4597 women employed at present in the three Kaiser shipyards: 2140 in Oregon shipyards, 800 at Swan Island, and 1657 at Vancouver. Problems relating to care for 64 children of these mothers were reported. In a visit to the Oregon shipyards on November 3, 1942, the Chairman learned that many more women are to be employed and that the number employed at present will be doubled in a very short time.

The Chairman next reported on her visit to Washington. She stated that at a meeting of the Women's Policy Committee of the War Manpower Office, there was discussion of women in employment, registration of women, and the need for care of children of working mothers. She stated that in some areas where acute housing and other conditions make it necessary to employ help locally rather than bring outside laborers into the community, registration of women has been attempted. In Detroit 200,000 women were registered. In Baltimore where there have been many jobs to be filled, persons were sent from house to house to register women and to offer employment to those who were interested. Nation-wide registration of women has been given some consideration, but this has been objected to by certain groups, including the Catholic Church. Some of the objections are that full use has not yet been made of available labor, especially negroes, Mexicans, and older persons.

Mr. Charles Taft of the Office of Defense, Health and Welfare Service, and Mr. Charles Bruno, Coordinator for day care in the same office, met with the Women's Policy Committee of the War Manpower Commission to discuss problems associated with employment of women and care of their children. Mr. Taft was of the opinion that the first question any State Committee must face is, "Should Mothers be working?" He stated that child caring facilities should only be established where need for women workers has definitely been proven to exist, and that neither facilities for care of children nor "consultation" service should be located within the industrial plant itself.

Objection was also expressed to the use of the word "consultation". It was suggested that the name "informational service" would be preferred. Mr. Taft thought it would probably be necessary to provide care for more than one-half of the children of working mothers through relatives or family homes in the child's immediate neighborhood. He said this will involve careful health supervision because of illnesses which develop during the day while the mother is employed.

Mr. Bruno emphasized the fact that all planning must not be in terms of nurseries for pre-school children since the majority of children involved are actually of school age. He stated that of 10,000 women who are now employed in Detroit, 34% have children in school, 8% have children under school age; and 10% have both pre-school and school age children. This indicates large problems relating to after school care. It was also learned from Mr. Bruno that a series of Regional Conferences of school superintendents is being planned to discuss and encourage active participation of the schools in planning for the care of children of working mothers. It is possible that such a conference will be held in the Northwest. The Chairman stated that she extended an invitation to have such a meeting in Portland, if it is held.

The Chairman reviewed the various Federal funds which are available for care of children of working mothers. She understood that any plans for child care projects are to be approved by the State Advisory Committee on which the agencies themselves are represented. She stated that some states have now submitted applications for Federal funds for employment of personnel through the \$400,000 fund and summarized a few of the projects submitted.

Mrs. Walls raised the question as to what the State Department of Education is doing in relation to day care in Oregon. Mr. Getz stated it was his understanding that the State Department of Education has made application for a State Supervisor of nursery schools who will be able to assist schools in developing facilities for care of children of working mothers. The question was raised as to whether or not this had been discussed with the Committee and whether the approval of the State Committee would be necessary before consideration would be given the project in Washington, D. C. It was the opinion of the Chairman that this would be necessary.

The Chairman reported on the status of an invitation to Superintendent Dugdale of Portland Public Schools to participate on the Committee. He had written that he would be unable to participate personally and suggested that Miss Logan serve in his place. The Chairman replied that, although she regarded Miss Logan highly, a person of administrative authority should be appointed to represent him, if he is unable to serve personally. There has been no reply to date.

In the discussion which followed, question was raised as to whether or not representation by the Portland Public Schools should be pressed, or whether the Portland Schools should be represented on the Multnomah County Committee when it is fully organized. The Chairman and Mrs. Walls were of the opinion that inasmuch as School District No. 1 of Portland operates independently of the State Department of Education, both the State Department of Education and the Portland Public Schools should have persons with

administrative authority represented on the Committee. It was moved by Mrs. Goldsmith and seconded by Dr. Brandon that a committee be appointed to confer with Mr. Rex Putnam, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Mr. Dugdale, Superintendent of Portland Public Schools, regarding membership on the Committee.

Mr. Getz reported on work of the subcommittee which had been appointed to prepare for distribution a statement on (a) organization of state and county advisory committees on child care, health and welfare, and (b) a basic program for care of children of working mothers to be used as a guide in establishing a well-rounded community program. The statement on state and county advisory committees was approved with suggested revisions. Mrs. St. Pierre discussed procedure for arranging for distribution of it through the Office of Civilian Defense. It was also suggested that additional copies be requested for distribution through each of the agencies represented in the membership of the Committee.

There was some discussion as to whether statements prepared by the Committee should be sent to Washington for approval before distribution. It was the consensus of the Committee that a report should be sent to Washington for the information of authorities there regarding developments within the state, but that distribution should not be held up pending specific clearance with Washington.

There was also some discussion of the proposed statement on a basic program for care of children of working mothers, but consideration of the entire statement was not possible because of lack of time. Some suggestions regarding revisions were made, however, for further consideration by the subcommittee. Attention of the Committee was also called by Mrs. Goldsmith to the importance of mailing copies of the proposed statement to each of the agencies concerned for their official approval before distribution of any kind is made. In the discussion which followed, there was agreement that the Committee is advisory and not administrative in nature and that recommendations regarding a plan of operation must be submitted for consideration of each of the official agencies which have administrative responsibilities under law or administrative regulations. The secretary was instructed to mail a copy of the proposed statement to each agency for official consideration.

There was some discussion regarding application for Federal funds for day care personnel. It was suggested that consideration be given to employment of a full time secretary for the Committee. It was moved by Dr. Haskins and seconded by Mr. Whitelaw that application for Federal funds for day care personnel be made. It was pointed out in this connection that the Committee itself cannot make application for such funds, but that application for such funds must be made through either the State Department of Education or the State Public Welfare Commission or both, with approval of the Committee.

Miss Everett reported that an application for Lanham Act funds for a nursery school project in Medford had been prepared and submitted to Washington. She asked that it might be approved by the Committee. Dr. Haskins moved that a subcommittee be appointed to review and approve this project. This was seconded by Mrs. Walls.

The question of fees also came in for some brief discussion. It was agreed that this is a matter which should be given further consideration by the Committee. Miss Howard made the motion that a committee be appointed for the purpose of studying and working out a fee schedule. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Goldsmith.

The Chairman suggested that inasmuch as the Committee is now becoming quite large, it would appear advisable to give some consideration to appointment of an executive committee and that the meetings of the Committee as a whole be held less frequently, perhaps once a month. Upon the motion of Mrs. Goldsmith, seconded by Mrs. Walls, the Chairman was authorized to appoint a committee to consider plans for such a committee and its functions.

Respectfully submitted,

Clyde Getz
Clyde Getz, Secretary