

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., on Wednesday, February 10, 1943, in Room 504, Spalding Building, Portland.

Those present were: Mrs. Arthur H. Goldsmith; Miss Florence Beardsley; Dr. Vera Brandon; Major Mildred E. Pratt; Mrs. Bearnice Skeen; Mrs. Isaac Swett; Mrs. Sarah V. Case; Mr. Andrew F. Juras; Mrs. E. W. St. Pierre; Mr. Clyde Getz; Mrs. Frances W. Jonasson; Dr. Dan Trullinger; Mr. Harold Grey; Mr. A. G. Johnson; Mr. John Whitelaw; Dr. John Frances Belz; Miss Gene Beach; Mrs. Norman Davis; Mr. William R. Gosser; Miss Elsie Arnott; Dr. DeNorval Unthank; Mrs. Myrtle Dalziel; and Miss Elizabeth Goddard, representing Mrs. C. W. Walls. Also present were: Miss Bertha Kohlhausen, State Supervisor of Home Economics Education, Division of Vocational Education, Salem; Mrs. Laura Wells, Nutrition Consultant, Division of Maternal and Child Health, State Board of Health; and Miss Elizabeth Baldwin, Chairman, School Lunch Committee, State Nutrition Committee for Defense.

In the absence of both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, a motion was made by Mrs. Goldsmith and seconded by Dr. Belz that Mr. Getz act as Chairman.

Minutes of the meeting of January 27, 1943, were discussed. Mr. Whitelaw raised a question regarding the following statement contained in the minutes: "It was suggested that there be only one official representative of each agency who will have voting power." Since there appeared to be some question as to whether the Committee had made a definite decision regarding this, a motion was made by Mr. Whitelaw that each agency have only one official representative with voting power on the Committee. This was seconded by Mrs. St. Pierre and approved by the Committee.

The Chairman read a copy of a telegram to the U. S. Children's Bureau from the War Manpower Commission which pointed out the importance of safeguarding young workers in employment. The telegram stated that more and more young people would be employed, but that the War Manpower Commission believed that young people under 18 years of age should continue in school and, when their services are required, accept suitable employment outside school hours and during vacations. Mr. Johnson suggested that a copy of this telegram be sent to all agencies for their information.

In the discussion which followed, Mr. Johnson stated that many boys and girls are graduated before they are 18, and such youths between 16 and 18 years of age may obtain work permits from the Labor Commissioner if they have the written consent of their parents. He pointed out, however, that children 14 years of age may be employed in agricultural work. Mrs. Goldsmith called attention to the many young people under 18 years of age working in the shipyards and it was her opinion that this would be classified as hazardous employment. Mr. Gosser suggested the appointment of a committee to determine the extent and nature of employment of young persons under 18 and safeguards which are being set up. Mrs. Goldsmith moved that a committee be appointed to contact the Labor Commissioner and Mr. Harry C. Seymour, Chairman, Youth Participation Civilian Defense Committee, regarding this matter. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Case and approved by the Committee.



Mrs. St. Pierre gave a report of a campaign to stimulate interest in volunteer work, explaining that certain magazines are providing full-page advertisements urging people to enroll as volunteers. She stated that if need for personnel in child-care centers is greater than trained workers can handle, use should be made of people who enroll as volunteers, giving them training so they can help. She stated that it was the opinion of the Office of Civilian Defense that many persons would be coming to County Office of Civilian Defense Offices requesting work as volunteers.

Mrs. Goldsmith gave a report of the committee which was established to study plans for organization, and functions of an executive committee. She stated that it was the consensus of the members who had met to consider this question that the State Committee should have rules and regulations and procedures to govern its operation. It was their recommendation that a committee known as a program or planning committee be established to plan procedures, receive reports of subcommittees and make reports to the State Committee. It was also their recommendation that this committee consist of the three officers of the State Advisory Committee--Mrs. Dunbar, Chairman, Mrs. Walls, Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Getz, Secretary--plus two additional members of the Committee. Mrs. Goldsmith's motion for the appointment of such a committee, seconded by Mr. Whitelaw was approved. Upon the recommendation of Mrs. Goldsmith, the Chairman asked for nominations for two positions to be filled on the planning committee. Nominations of Mrs. Goldsmith and Mr. Gosser were unanimously approved by the Committee.

Miss Elizabeth Baldwin, Chairman of the State School Lunch Committee, gave a report of the School Lunch Program. She stated that the School Lunch Committee is a joint committee of the State Nutrition Committee for Defense and the State Joint Committee on Health and Physical Fitness which have merged and consider themselves one committee. Functions of this committee have been to consider the factors influencing the condition of the school child, to further the school lunch program, and to coordinate activities of the various agencies working on this program by keeping them informed of national programs and by developing a specific program for the state. Among the problems mentioned by Miss Baldwin was withdrawal of the Work Projects Administration from the School Lunch Program. Many schools did not make plans for hiring cooks as they were depending on WPA employees. She stated that in some instances the Parent-Teacher Associations are helping out, however. Mrs. St. Pierre stated that in California the school lunch program is trying to cooperate with the victory garden program and the parent-teachers organization is taking over the canning. Mr. Grey stated that a school eligible for Lanham Act funds may hire a cook through use of Lanham Act funds if it wishes to do so.

Miss Beardsley gave a report of the progress of the Committee on Standards. She stated that her committee is not yet ready to submit standards for each of the various types of care. There was considerable discussion of whether specific reference should be made to block mother care. It was decided that this was inadvisable for the following reasons: 1) this is a type of care which is just being developed and about which little is known at the present time, and 2) standards established for other foster home day care would apply to block care in family homes. Upon the motion of Mr. Whitelaw, seconded by Mr. Gosser the Committee accepted the introductory statement of the committee on standards with minor revisions.



Mrs. Jonasson gave a report on extended school services. She stated that requests for information on extended school services have been received from 27 school districts, five within Multnomah County. Several other districts have been visited and surveys are being made of the need for day care projects. In three communities—Bend, North Bend, and Ashland, field representatives have found no need for such services at this time.

Miss Beardsley reported that since receiving approval of the State Committee, the State Department of Education has decided not to make further application for Federal funds for personnel until after March 31, 1943.

Mr. Grey reported on applications for Lanham Act funds. He stated it was expected that all applications submitted at the present time would be approved before the Work Projects Administration is dissolved on April 30, 1943. All applications have gone through local offices and have been sent to Washington, D. C. for final approval. He pointed out that Lanham Act funds are available for extended school services for school-age children, but that at the present time no applications of this type have been received.

A report on the employment of women was given by Mr. Johnson. He stated that since the first of November when there were about 7000 women employed in war industries in Portland, the number of women going into employment has increased extensively. A check of six shipyards reveals that the number of women employed in the shipyards has increased 25% in one month and the number is going to increase more rapidly in the future. He stated that the percentage of women working is increasing in most plants, and that 55% of the employees of the Columbia Air Craft industry are women. He estimated that there will be 40,000 women employed in the Portland area by July 1. He also gave reports from the Pendleton and Hermiston, Corvallis and Eugene areas. He stated that the manager of the employment service in Pendleton believed there would be a 25% increase in employment of women within the next five months. In Corvallis, the employment office manager has reported that additional facilities are needed to provide care for children of soldiers wives who are anxious to gain employment. The present facilities are not sufficient for the number of children who will need care in the near future and there are no facilities to care for children under two years of age. In Eugene there are no war production projects and the manager there does not think there will be any problem of employment of women. In reporting on older women in employment, Mr. Johnson stated that older women were the first to volunteer for employment in the shipyards, but it was found that this age group did not make good welders. The shipyards requested that the age limit for women welders be 40 years. In answer to the question as to whether or not part time employment for women had been given consideration, Mr. Johnson reported that this had been tried in Portland with men, but that it had not proved very successful since workers employed on a part time basis were required to pay the same union dues as those employed on a full time basis.

A letter from Mr. Pearce Davies, Assistant Regional Director, Office of Defense Health and Welfare, regarding the necessity of having programs for extended school services accompany Lanham Act projects was read by the Chairman. Upon the suggestion of Mr. Whitelaw, it was requested that a copy of this letter, and any similar communications received, be sent to county committees. It was also requested that sufficient copies of the U. S. Children's Bureau publication on suggested children's legislation be ordered for each member of the Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Clyde Getz