

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

February 25, 1997 Hearing Room D

1:00PM Tapes 29 - 31

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Liz VanLeeuwen, Chair

Rep. Kitty Piercy, Vice-Chair

Rep. Bob Jenson

Rep. Jeff Kruse

Rep. Dennis Luke

Rep. Kurt Schrader

Rep. Mark Simmons

MEMBER EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT:

Janet Carlson, Administrator

Berri Sellers, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:

HB 2773 Public Hearing

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

Tape/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 29, A		
007	Chair VanLeeuwen	Chair calls meeting to order at 1:13. Discusses the agenda for today's meeting, which includes a public hearing on HB 2773.
<u>HB 2773 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		

032	Shawn Gaddy Winsor	Chairman of the Jefferson County Commission on Children and Families. Discusses Healthy Start as their number one priority to address the benchmarks of child abuse.
046		Explains that Jefferson County is at a greater risk for child abuse due to their agrarian economy and non-English speaking parents.
058	Diane Treadway	Director of the Jefferson County Commission on Children and Families. Explains the indicators that show Jefferson County as a high risk county for child abuse and neglect situations.
073		Provides statistics that demonstrate the dangers of living in Jefferson County for children and families.
083		Expresses support for HB 2773.
089	Rep. Kruse	Do these statistics include Warm Springs?
096	Treadway	Responds affirmatively
100	Rep. Jenson	What percentage of the population is Warm Springs?
103	Treadway	About twenty-five percent.
123	Scott Mckay	County Commissioner for Wasco County and co-chair of the Wasco County Commission on Children and Families. Presents testimony in support of HB 2773.
146		Explains why their commission chose Healthy Start as their main priority. Provides six examples of how Healthy Start benefits a community. Examples included: universal and voluntary program, provides connection to other supports within the community, addresses the benchmarks and it provides prevention at the very earliest age.
161		Healthy Start has been successful in Hawaii and has been a catalyst for examining systems of support for children and families.
174	Mark Reynolds	Coordinator for the Migrant Education Program in Wasco County and Co-Chair of the task force. Explains the benefits of Healthy Start: letting people know that it is all right to ask for help.
201		Explains how the community has come together in support of Healthy Start. Contributors include the hospital, CASA and many other community organizations.
215	Mary Macnab	Director of the Commission on Children and Families in Sherman County.
227		Discusses her personal situation raising a large family and the associated stress. Discusses her support system and acknowledges that those supports are not available to many new parents.
251		Explains how Sherman County will not be able to continue with Healthy Start if they don't receive funding after June

		30, 1997. Discusses her hopes to develop healthy children and families and work toward ending child abuse.
270	Doris Hubbard	Family Home Visitor for the Healthy Start program. She does assessment and family visitations. Tries to connect families with resources that will help them.
285		Expresses her support for HB 2773.
294	Vice-Chair Piercy	Question about connecting Healthy Start in Wasco and Sherman Counties.
305	Mary Macnab	Explains that they are ready to work together to combine Healthy Start in both Sherman and Wasco County.
335	Betty Freauf	Expresses her concern that the committee has spent six weeks listening to agencies and has cut her testimony short.
376		(EXHIBIT A) Discusses her handout which includes an article on Harney County. Explains her concern that counties are not being held accountable.
408		Tells the committee that Head Start and Healthy Start don't work. Provides an example from a prior meeting wherein a Healthy Start program did not condemn a teenage mother from smoking around her child.
TAPE 30,A		
015	Freauf	Were it up to her, she would not fund any of these programs that are available through the state.
036	Chair VanLeeuwen	Discusses Jobs Plus program that has worked.
040	Freauf	Explains her opposition of HB 2773.
057	Florence Torrigino	Director of the Health Department in Deschutes County. Introduces people responsible for Healthy Start in Deschutes County.
068		Explains foundations and collaborations of Healthy Start also called Ready*Set*Go. Discusses their early childhood and health integrated model. Recommends the components of the Deschutes program to other state programs including; early contact with parents, non- stigmatizing program,
096		Explains her concern that without adequate funding they will not be able to continue helping everybody who is seeking their assistance.
102	Chair VanLeeuwen	How much money does Deschutes County get per year from the State Commission?
105	Scott Johnson	Director of the Deschutes County Commission on Children and Families. \$1,027,000 is the current allocation from the State Commission.
112	Torriginio	Continues testimony about their continuum of care for children in their program. References (EXHIBIT B, pg.2)

122	Vice-Chair Piercy	Comments about the concern that without adequate funding for Healthy Start, services will be limited and programs will be unable to follow children all the way through.
134	Lynette Patterson	Program Manager for Ready*Set*Go in Deschutes County.
142		Wants to address the successes they have had in Deschutes County with their program. They have impacted over 1600 families alone in Deschutes County.
168		Discusses their comprehensive risk assessment progress they have in Deschutes County.
180	Patterson	Explains their non-stigmatized service for families.
219		Explains their service integration programs.
249		Story about Healthy Start family that was originally unwilling to accept services and is now actively involved in the program.
274	Scott Johnson	Staff to the Deschutes County Commission on Children and Families. Discusses cooperative arrangement between the local hospitals and their program.
316	Rep. Luke	Asks Scott Johnson to address residency issues.
322	Johnson	At this time there are not sufficient resources to help neighboring counties. At present time there are 600 births in Deschutes County. 500 of these births are actually Deschutes County residents.
340	Rep. Simmons	Noted that there was no residency requirement in the bill, and he was concerned about the possibility of a transient population accessing these services provided by Healthy Start.
353	Patterson	Discusses how Healthy Start program works with clients who move out of the county.
367	Rep. Simmons	How would they view an Oregon residency requirement as an addition to HB 2773?
375	Johnson	Does not know how to respond, has not been a point of discussion thus far.
390	Rep. Luke	Clarifies question about other states coming into the county to access these services.
TAPE 29,B		
017	Johnson	Continues testimony about Healthy Start programs as a high priority in the local commission's budget.
037		Provides examples of child abuse reductions through similar programs in Vermont.
043	Rep. Kruse	Which is a better program Head Start or Healthy Start?
053	Johnson	There is no statewide answer, local community conditions should determine that answer.

060	Rep. Luke	Concern that we are intruding into a family's personal life by forcing this program on them. Concerned about the attitude of some programs that they won't take no for an answer.
078	Chair VanLeeuwen	Explains that she is under the impression that the program is voluntary.
084	Patterson	Certainly families are not forced to participate but they are strongly encouraged.
112	Vice-Chair Piercy	Comments that there is very little stick but an awful lot of carrot in these services.
127	Donna Schnitker	Staff to Harney County Education Service District. Early Childhood Director, which includes Healthy Start, Head Start and Great Start.
151	Rep. Simmons	How much of the child abuse is related to downturn in the local economy?
165	Schnitker	Economy is very fragmented and they are isolated. They are unable to participate in activities for families. The combination of these things is a contributing factor to the difficulties in their county.
172	Rep. Kruse	Are there sweatshops in Harney County?
175	Schnitker	No.
185	Chair VanLeeuwen	Closes public hearing on HB 2773.
<u>HEALTHY START EVALUATION</u>		
193	Clara Pratt	Works on contract with the State Commission on Children and Families in order to evaluate programs and outcomes.
224		Describes the level of participation that is reached by the local commission in the counties.
249		The first risk assessments are provided by records. About fifty percent come back as being at-risk.
278	Rep. Kruse	What are their eligibility factors?
282	Pratt	Criteria is based on identifying high risk families. Specific answers to certain questions determine eligibility.
296	Rep. Kruse	Question about the fifty percent that are originally identified in the intake exam.
312	Pratt	They make contact with one hundred percent, contact occurs with varying intensities.
324	Rep. Schrader	Sixty percent of the people who are born in Oregon are at-risk?
339	Pratt	There are various levels of risk included in that sixty percent.

358	Rep. Schrader	How many risk factors qualify them in the sixty percent?
373	Pratt	People have to have either certain single critical risk factors or a combination of risk factors in order to qualify in that sixty percent category.
382	Vice-Chair Piercy	Comment about risk-factors.
405	Pratt	Approximately eighty-three percent of these children have chaotic environments. "There is a tremendous effort not to label people and families, if there is any program I've ever worked with that's concerned about wellness for families and building on strengths, it's Healthy Start."
TAPE 30,B		
017	Vice-Chair Piercy	Is there a point where people can get out of the system?
020	Pratt	One of the things you have to remember is that some of the oldest children are only two. We don't have a lot of long term data. The design of Healthy Start as a service is to build families from weekly meetings to generating their own support from family, friends, neighbors. Healthy Start tries to wean people from government programs.
060		Intensive home visitation works towards old benchmarks.
099	Rep. Schrader	Who makes up the control group?
117	Pratt	They do not have a control group, it is too expensive.
150		Major concern of Healthy Start is child abuse and neglect. Overall 1.2 percent of all families served had been reported and confirmed of having maltreatment in the homes.
203		There are a certain percentage of high risk families that refuse service. Most common form of maltreatment for children is being exposed to violence.
232	Rep. Luke	What is your range of harsh punishment?
238	Pratt	For infants 0-12 months it is slapping or physical punishment.
248	Rep. Jenson	Question about the thirty-four percent of referrals that come through Healthy Start. It is to be expected that these people will identify abuse.
262	Pratt	Agrees with the comment that it would be expected for Healthy Start workers to identify this type of abuse.
280	Schrader	Is smoking followed as a form of risk?
285	Pratt	No, they are not following smoking.
290	Rep. Jenson	Are we following alcohol and drug problems?
295	Pratt	Yes. Alcohol and drug problems are one of the leading causes of child abuse.

299	Pratt	Final assessment is that healthy start is successful but that it is not a quick fix.
330	Chair VanLeeuwen	Chair adjourns meeting at 3:00

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Berri Sellers, Janet Carlson,

Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A - HB 2773, written testimony, Betty Freauf, pp.51

B - HB 2773, written materials, Florence Torrigino, pp.2