

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**March 25, 1997 Hearing Room D**

**1:00PM Tapes 49 - 51**

**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 3050 Public Hearing**

**HB 3027 Public Hearing**

**HB 3060 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 49, A		
007	Chair VanLeeuwen	Calls meeting to order at 1:05.

<b><u>HB 3050,</u></b>		
<b><u>HB 3027</u></b>		
<b><u>PUBLIC</u></b>		
<b><u>HEARING</u></b>		
020	Chair VanLeeuwen	Opens public hearing on HB 3050 and HB 3027. Asks committee administrator to explain these bills.
029	Janet Carlson	Committee Administrator. Provides overview of HB 3050 and HB 3027.
054	Bobby Mink	Deputy Director of the Department of Human Resources. Wants to testify about HB 3027. Is testifying on behalf of Gary Weeks, Director of the Department of Human Resources, since he is in Washington D.C. this week. Explains that the vision and goal of his department is to have services integrated. Provides written testimony.
066		Explains that the Director's vision is to serve clients in a holistic method. For example, if a client has more than one problem that falls under the charter of the Department of Human Resources, they try to help him see only one staff person.
082		Although there is a mix of clients that see both Adult and Family Services and Services to Children and Families, they have different missions. Adult and Family Services is responsible for helping people in poverty. Services to Children and Families is responsible for protecting children.
104		They are focusing on need-based care for families that are in crisis. Concerned that if they try and merge these departments, they will confuse the matter. Points out that Oregon has reduced our welfare caseloads by 43 percent.
113	Chair VanLeeuwen	Wants to clarify that Jobs Plus was the helping factor when it came to reducing the caseloads on the welfare rolls.
120	Mink	Yes, Rep. VanLeeuwen was instrumental in helping them with previous legislation in reducing the welfare rolls as well as the staff at Adult and Family Services.
130	Rep. Luke	Comments that Mink was very helpful in having that legislation passed through the Governor.
143	Mink	Explains to the committee that these two organizations have two very different missions and that they will lose their focus if these two departments are merged.
157		Federal moneys need to be used towards welfare caseloads. They may not be able to go towards programs like Healthy Start.
165	Chair VanLeeuwen	Would like to see a copy of how the federal funding streams may be used.
170	Mink	Explains that the Department of Human Resources invested eight million dollars in the local communities, with 75-80 different projects throughout the state.
190		

	Chair VanLeeuwen	Isn't a part of HB 3027 also doing what HB 2004 was intended to do?
194	Mink	Yes, it is cleaning up parts of HB 2004. Feels strongly that child protective services should be its own department.
212	Rep. Kruse	Comments that local people are complaining that the state is not structured in a way that best serves them. If we have the same people at the local level doing this, why can't we change the administration to reflect this?
225	Mink	That is what they are doing right now in integrated work groups. An example of this is their combined budgets. Provides two examples of how they are providing holistic services.
248	Rep. Kruse	Comments that the problem is that they need to be looking at the things that are on the ground and making them go up, instead of looking at those things from a state perspective.
261	Vice-Chair Piercy	What is the cost of having family service centers in each county?
269	Mink	He is addressing HB 3027.
273	Chair VanLeeuwen	How many more staff is Adult and Family Services asking for in the next biennium?
280	Sandie Hoback	Director of Adult and Family Services. They are only asking for additional full time employees in child support collections. Between those that would work for the Support Enforcement Division and accounting, it is about 41-42 positions. This is devoted only to child support. They don't have anything else to do with temporary assistance to needy families.
295	Chair VanLeeuwen	How many full time employees is Services to Children and Families asking for?
300	Kay Toran	Administrator of the Department of Services to Children and Families. We are asking for 166 additional staff.
306	Mink	Part of the increase is in caseload growth. Many of these staff are adoption workers who will be out looking for adoptive homes. Kay has 1300 children who are currently ready to be adopted.
320	Toran	Our increase in staff speaks to the policy packages that are part of our budget requests. That includes the implementation of a System of Care in an additional eight counties: Linn, Hood River, Klamath, Wasco, Clackamas, Lane, Baker and Sherman counties. The adoption positions include field and central office staff. We currently have System of Care in Multnomah, Deschutes and Polk counties. In addition we have a child safety package and if the budget request is approved there, we'll be able to complete an additional 1600 reports. We have staff that will help us with the adoption program that staff the field and also the central office. The field staff will be responsible for helping us to recruit adoptive parents, they also will be helping us prepare children for adoption.
349		

	<b>Chair VanLeeuwen</b>	<b>How many caseworkers does it take to manage the System of Care?</b>
<b>351</b>	<b>Toran</b>	<b>They have community partners, but there is only one caseworker.</b>
<b>363</b>	<b>Rep. Kruse</b>	<b>How many people do they currently have working in adoption?</b>
<b>369</b>	<b>Toran</b>	<b>About 68 people, they have not asked for additional staff since 1982 and their caseloads have increased by over 220%.</b>
<b>405</b>	<b>Chuck Dimond</b>	<b>Director of the Community Partnership Team at the Department of Human Resources. Here to testify on HB 3050 from the perspective of the work of the department and specifically the community partnership team. Provides written testimony (EXHIBIT A).</b>
<b>TAPE 50,A</b>		
<b>034</b>	<b>Dimond</b>	<b>Provides specific example of a project in Coos County that is an integrated service center.</b>
<b>054</b>		<b>Describes the Volunteer Program as part of the Community Partnership Team.</b>
<b>059</b>		<b>Explains that the Team seeks to engage in the power of local citizens to reach positive outcomes and those that most benefit the state. They respectfully oppose the bill.</b>
<b>068</b>	<b>Chair VanLeeuwen</b>	<b>Where is it in statute that the Community Partnership Team exists?</b>
<b>073</b>	<b>Dimond</b>	<b>It is up to the discretion of the Director and his vision of working with local communities. It is not actually something that is written in the statutes.</b>
<b>079</b>	<b>Mink</b>	<b>With the support of the Governor and at the request of the Director this Team was implemented in order to have people working more closely with counties.</b>
<b>094</b>	<b>Vice-Chair Piercy</b>	<b>Seems as if the Community Partnership Team has the same goals of those in HB 3027.</b>
<b>102</b>	<b>Dimond</b>	<b>There are about 40 projects. Their staff have regular conversations and community visits with communities. They have not found that they are having any complaints about these programs.</b>
<b>112</b>	<b>Mink</b>	<b>The people he has spoken with are very positive about the work that the community partnerships are doing.</b>
<b>121</b>	<b>Rep. Schrader</b>	<b>What is the charge of the Community Partnership Team?</b>
<b>127</b>	<b>Dimond</b>	<b>Their goal is to work with local partners in order to provide outcomes. Their partners may include the local commissions on children and families or mental health departments or the Department of Education.</b>
<b>142</b>	<b>Mink</b>	<b>Provides example of how county folks are working to provide respite care. Most programs are family and children based, working with schools.</b>
<b>153</b>	<b>Dimond</b>	

		All of the projects they are working on are defined by the community.
161	Rep. Schrader	Why can't these people in the counties do it on their own?
164	Dimond	They are helping to be the catalysts that bring people together.
172	Mink	They go out into the communities and knock down administrative walls. Community Partnership Team is an advocate in the community for the individual departments.
181	Chair VanLeeuwen	How do they work with the local commissions on children and families?
183	Dimond	In most of the sites that they work in, the local commissions on children and families are there as a partner. In some counties they are the lead group for integrated programs.
190	Rep. Jenson	In any effort, there must be some negatives. What are some of those problems and what has been done to address them?
200	Mink	One of their obstacles is confidentiality and another is working out computer problems. They are trying to address both of these problems. We are trying to help staff feel empowered to do something different if that is what is best in their county.
214	Dimond	The issue of evaluation is difficult.
216	Rep. Jenson	Comments that in the early stages, every group had to do their own thing, which speaks for the Community Partnership Team coordinating these people in order to simplify the process. He is familiar with their computer problems.
247	Vice-Chair Piercy	Is there one access point into these collaborative partnership projects?
254	Dimond	It depends upon what the community partners define that they need. If they need integration, then that is hopefully what is provided.
268	Mink	Provides Jackson County as an example of how they do provide "one-stop shopping" centers.
279	Rep. Kruse	How many full time employees are currently involved in the Community Partnership Team?
284	Dimond	There are six staff positions in the Director's office and 42 in the Volunteer Program--37 field staff and six at the state level. That makes 54 people currently working in the Community Partnership Team.
301	Rep. Kruse	He keeps hearing contradictions. If it is totally locally driven, why do they have to have people letting them know what is going on?
317	Dimond	There are three units of the Community Partnership Team, all of which existed before the Community Partnership Team was in existence and would continue to exist if the Community Partnership Teams were eliminated.
360		Identifies those who have signed up last time.

	<b>Chair VanLeeuwen</b>	
<b>368</b>	<b>Rich Peppers</b>	<b>Represents the Oregon Public Employees Union. Here to answer questions.</b>
<b>377</b>	<b>Ken Penner</b>	<b>Represents the Oregon Child Welfare Workers. Is opposed to combining Adult and Family Services and Services to Children and Families. Explains different services that are available through the two programs.</b>
<b>TAPE 49,B</b>		
<b>021</b>	<b>Penner</b>	<b>Explains how joining these services would fragment their services to children.</b>
<b>034</b>		<b>All of the services that they provide are a part of the continuum.</b>
<b>100</b>	<b>Nancy Miller</b>	<b>Director of the Citizen Review Boards. Provides written testimony (EXHIBIT B). Concerned about HB 3027 as written. Tells story of a child and how he works his way through the system. Explains that under HB 3027 the voluntary placement of a child would be the responsibility of Adult and Family Services. If voluntary placement did not work out and a petition has to be filed; a court mandated foster care placement. That child would then be transferred to Services to Children and Families. If it still didn't work out and the child couldn't be maintained in foster care and was transferred to a residential treatment center for more intense treatment that child would then be managed by Adult and Family Services. If that worked out real well for the child and the child could then go back to foster care, the child could then go back to Services to Children and Families. If the child was doing really well and could go on to adoptive placement, the child would then be managed by Adult and Family Services.</b>
<b>122</b>		<b>Explains the confusion of children being thrown from one state program to another. Discusses the seamless continuum of care in HB 2004 and how we should try to come as close as possible to emulating that. There are significant omissions in the bill. It does not amend the juvenile code like it would need to work properly. Bill also removes from review children in adoptive placement. This would put Adult and Family Services up for significant loss of federal dollars.</b>
<b>132</b>	<b>Miller</b>	<b>Concludes by explaining how having a different agency responsible for each different step a child might take in the system breaks up the seamless continuum of care that HB 2004 was trying to achieve.</b>
<b>150</b>	<b>Timothy Travis</b>	<b>Attorney for the Juvenile Rights Project. Likes the idea of separating the person who is helping the family and the person who is taking their children away, but it does not work in reality. Anybody who is a helper to the family will also be able to testify in juvenile court. Understands the frustration surrounding Services to Children and Families. Believes that Services to Children and</b>

		Families is making some sound changes that will help the system. Provides written testimony (EXHIBIT C).
175		They think that HB 3027 is not the way to help children. There are some bills that are in session right now that will help children and he wants the committee to be aware of them.
185	Chair VanLeeuwen	Would like to be supplied with the numbers of these bills.
190	Travis	Explains that he distributes a sheet to legislators that describes good bills for kids.
197	Tom Hart	Oregon District Attorneys Association. They are opposed to HB 3027.
209		They do not see the combination of these services as helpful to the family or to the children.
221		With respect to HB 3050, one stop shopping is a good idea although the bill does not leave flexibility in defining services.
241	Rep. Luke	He would rather move three to four quality bills than 100.
265	Dee Michael	Provides written testimony. Reads her testimony to the committee. Testimony is in regard to the child abuse case in Deschutes County (EXHIBIT D).
370	Vice-Chair Piercy	Comments that she is concerned that we are discussing a case that is currently in litigation.
409	Larry Carver	Concerned about his child that is in foster care and who has been lost from Services to Children and Families. Provides written testimony (EXHIBIT E).
<b>TAPE 50,B</b>		
028	Carver	Explains that he has contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation about his child and her situation.
060	Rep. Luke	Offers to give Mr. Carver a confidentiality form to sign that will allow the committee to look into his case.
062	Carver	Yes, he will do that.
063	Michael Butler	Represents the Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs. Is testifying in opposition of HB 3027. Provides handouts(EXHIBIT F).
098		Believes that this bill would add to the fragmentation of services for children and families.
103		Their suggestion would be to define their goals. They don't believe that by separating these services they would be able to accomplish the goals which they are after.
138	Mickey Lansing	Deputy Director of the Oregon Commission on Children and Families. Would like to discuss four main goals that she has outlined in her testimony. Provides written testimony (EXHIBIT G).
156		The mission of the Oregon Commission on Children and Families is: "To set statewide policies for services to children and families,

		<b>in collaboration with state and local partners, and champion community efforts that foster wellness and community responsibility."</b>
<b>165</b>		<b>Provides a definition for wellness and explains how community supports and family strengths can help all children and families be well. Through a collaborative process, the local plan has the opportunity to bring into alignment and guide the use of all local, county, state and federal resources for services to children and families within the county.</b>
<b>176</b>		<b>We believe that HB 3027 actually starts to move the structural boxes. True change takes time. HB 2004 envisioned a two to seven year roll out for services. While the State Commission has not officially voted in opposition to this bill, what we are saying is help us to stay the course and help us to work with our other agencies.</b>
<b>192</b>	<b>Sandra Sykes</b>	<b>Representing the Simone Rivera League. In favor of HB 3027. Provides a copy of the Simone Rivera newsletter (EXHIBIT H).</b>
<b>223</b>		<b>Explains that their grandchildren have been lost to the system because they could not tolerate their grandchildren living in a methamphetamine lab.</b>
<b>238</b>	<b>Sykes</b>	<b>Discusses how Services to Children and Families investigates families and foster parents.</b>
<b>260</b>		<b>They will never forget that they have members of their family that are permanently lost. The children could have been given to the grandparents. Court appointed attorneys rarely, if ever, stand up for the families.</b>
<b>282</b>		<b>Explains that they are seeing attorneys lying in court on behalf of families.</b>
<b>315</b>		<b>Reads the statement that is on the last page of the newsletter.</b>
<b>359</b>		<b>Does not believe that Services to Children and Families should be allowed to continue as they are or there will be strict problems.</b>
<b>399</b>	<b>Dottie Blakemore</b>	<b>Grandmother. Believes in the right of families to remain together. Believes that Services to Children and Families needs to be trained by common people and they need to have public hearings.</b>
<b>424</b>		<b>Explains that it is difficult for children to be removed from their homes.</b>
<b>TAPE 51,A</b>		
<b>035</b>	<b>Blakemore</b>	<b>Offended that the papers are printing materials that are turning the public against families.</b>
<b>054</b>		<b>Explains that she is very concerned for children but that child abuse prevention is turning people against families.</b>
<b>061</b>	<b>Chair VanLeeuwen</b>	<b>Closes Public Hearing on HB 3050 and HB 3027. Opens public hearing on HB 3060.</b>
<b><u>HB 3060</u></b> <b><u>PUBLIC</u></b> <b><u>HEARING</u></b>		



080	Rep. Schrader	Explains what the work group has come forward with (EXHIBIT D).
104	Rep. Luke	Is there anything in writing as to who was on the work group?
109	Chair VanLeeuwen	Staff will provide that information at a later time.
118	Carol Stiles	Appointed by the Governor to the Readiness to Learn Task Force. Options 2 and 3 have merit, but she is going to urge them to do Option 1.
135		Options 2 and 3 are redundant as outcomes. Many people have already worked really hard on these things. HB 3060 is a different approach , believes that they are already beyond HB 3060.
150		HB 3060 is a structural approach. In her opinion it is change without the broad analysis.
162	Stiles	From a local perspective, many efforts are already under way. Many counties are beyond HB 3060 and this will not make things better for children and families.
175		We need a long term, well thought out target. We should support the efforts that have already been done.
187	Chair VanLeeuwen	Closes hearing on HB 3060. Adjourns committee meeting at 3:03pm.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Berri Sellers, Janet Carlson,

Administrative Support Administrator

**EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

A - HB 3050, written testimony, Chuck Dimond, 3pp.

B - HB 3027, written testimony, Nancy Miller, 1pg.

C - HB 3027, written testimony, Timothy Travis, 2pp.

D - HB 3027, written materials, Dee Michael, 2pp.

E - HB 3027, written testimony, Larry Carver, 2pp.

F - HB 3027, written testimony, Michael Butler, 4pp.

G - HB 3027, written testimony, Mickey Lansing, 2pp.

H - HB 3027, written materials, Sandra Sykes, 5pp.

I - HB 3060, written materials, Staff, 3pp.