

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FAMILY LAW

February 13, 1997 Hearing Room 357

3:15 P.M. Tapes 17 - 18

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Ron Sunseri, Chair

Rep. George Eighmey, Vice-Chair

Rep. Peter Courtney

Rep. Judy Uherbelau

MEMBER EXCUSED: Rep. Roger Beyer

Rep. Charles Starr

VISITING MEMBER: Rep. John Minnis

STAFF PRESENT:

William E. Taylor, Counsel

Lauri A. Smith, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:

Overviews on Child Abuse

1) Oregon State Police and Portland Police

2) Child Abuse Team

3) Services to Children and Families

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 17, A		
002	Rep. Eighmey	Calls meeting to order 3:32 P.M.

<u>OPENS HEARING ON CHILD ABUSE</u>		
003	Rep. Eighmey	Opens the hearing on Child Abuse.
015	Curt McBride	<p>Oregon State Police Detective assigned to the violent defender's section in Portland, Oregon.</p> <p>Primary responsibility is in Columbia County where I am assigned to the District Attorney's office which includes investigation of child abuse.</p> <p>Provides written testimony. (EXHIBIT A)</p> <p>>explains the State Police's role in investigating child abuse cases and how we interact with other agencies.</p>
050	McBride	Continues testimony.
064	Randy Becker	<p>Oregon State Police Detective assigned to the violent defender's section of District III Headquarters in Medford.</p> <p>Provides written testimony. (EXHIBIT A)</p>
104	Becker	Continues testimony.
140	Becker	Continues testimony.
160	Rep. Minnis	Could you speak on some of your coordination efforts with other local police agencies?
162	McBride	<p>The state police are more active in rural counties than the metropolitan areas because they do not have their own resources.</p> <p>Provides scenario of efforts.</p>
173	Rep. Minnis	<p>I am looking for more dialogue on how the police investigations interconnect with the department of Services of Children & Families ("SCF"), the medical communities and various other partners?</p> <p>One of the issues the legislature is concerned with is how you get sufficient resources to the rural areas in terms of education, training, and confidences in this kind of arena and how then do you dovetail it?</p> <p>Is there any jealousy between the agencies? Or if you are cooperating in terms of training each other?</p>
184	McBride	<p>In regards to areas of child abuse there is great interaction but there may be places in the state with inter-conflict. However, I'm not personally aware of it.</p> <p>>rural area detectives train local police officers</p>

		>certification process for officers in areas of child abuse issues
194	Rep. Eighmey	I am concerned about the inner relationship with SCF, schools, law enforcement departments and other agencies. To make the process of training one of not duplicating, that we are cooperating, and that limited resources are maximized.
205	McBride	Since legislative mandates, we all meet once a month or more to discuss situations. Provides examples.
217	Rep. Eighmey	How about coordinating efforts with the Oregon Medical Association ("OMA") agencies with those individuals who are mandated to report child abuse?
221	McBride	Training is done through the Multi-Disciplinary Teams ("MDT").
223	Rep. Uherbelau	Detective Becker, I would like to know how coordination of efforts is handled in the rural areas of the state.
226	Becker	Clarifies his assignment of duties. I know that in rural Jackson County the sheriff's office takes the lead on child abuse cases. When the sheriff is unavailable or the load is too great then a detective will take those cases.
242	Rep. Uherbelau	Since state police positions have been reduced over the years has this had any effect in the areas of child abuse?
245	Becker	The reduction of manpower has placed a strain on our resources. However, there are struggles for resources in all areas of police work.
256	Chair Sunseri	What kind of case load do you have?
258	McBride	The agency has evolved from one that used to investigate all crimes to one that is really specialized. The predominant cases I investigate are homicides and child abuse. I will probably investigate 50 child abuse cases a year in Columbia County. There is only have half the number of the detectives available to investigate these types of crimes in the northern part of the state than in the past.
271	Rep. Eighmey	Has there been any studies indicating if there has been an increase in the number of child abuse cases? Is the increase due to more reporting of child abuse cases? Is the increase due to police methods or due to education efforts? Is there a report that can quantify those figures?
276	McBride	Probably couldn't answer that but I believe there is a combination of reasons why there is an increase in the number of child abuse cases.
	Bob	Sergeant with the Portland Police Department.

310	Wallacher	Slide Show Presentation - Tape Log Unavailable. (Brief overview of employees and pictures of child abuse victims)
344	Wallacher	Slide Show continues - Tape Log Unavailable.
394	Wallacher	Slide Show continues - Tape Log Unavailable.
Tape 18, A		
030	Wallacher	Slide Show continues.
070	Wallacher	Slide Show continues.
120	Wallacher	Slide Show continues.
170	Wallacher	Slide Show continues.
186	Chair Sunseri	How do you work directly with SCF to take a child out of the home, if its necessary? Unless my understanding is incorrect, an SCF employee cannot take a child from the home. A SCF employee must have a police officer present with them. Is that correct?
196	Bret Smith	Lieutenant Portland Police Department. It is my understanding that it is the policy to have a police officer present when removing a child from the home.
203	Charlene Woods	District Attorney's Office -Child Abuse Team Walked through a general scenario and provided an example of a situation when the child was removed from the home.
235	Wallacher	A helpful program for the families is where we have specifically assigned a SCF worker with the school police in Multnomah County.
251	Rep. Uherbelau	Have you ever had the occasion where there is a disagreement between the police and social worker about what should happen with the child?
258	Wood	Provides an example. >SCF does not have the ability to override the police officer >would resolve by pursuing through the courts
278	Rep. Uherbelau	Can you get a judicial order on an emergency basis 24 hours a day - 7 days a week?
281	Woods	Heard that is difficult.
286	Wallacher	Responds, also, by providing an example of the difficulty in obtaining an judicial order.
29	Chair Sunseri	How many children were removed last year in Multnomah County?
297	Wallacher	Unknown, perhaps SCF may have the statistics.
299	Rep. Eighmey	Issues surrounding emergency hearings were discussed last session and provide comments.

311	Wallacher	It's in the best interest of child not to dally around and further provides an example why timing is crucial.
317	Woods	Provides an additional example why removal of a child with out first obtaining an order is necessary.
323	Rep. Eighmey	Provides examples of past sensational "media" events. Do you see any changes in reporting when you have these sorts of sensational "media" events going on? Falsely reporting? Resisting? Does this sort of publicity adversely effect or has no effect what so ever?
349	Wallacher	Media can have effect, provides example.
368	Smith	One way to eliminate emergency situations is through cooperative meetings with all the agencies involved on a particular case. Providing a chance to discuss possible events/scenarios.
380	Rep. Uherbelau	It is not unknown in abuse situations where the abusive person will take action against the person who has brought the attention upon them. Do you perceive this or has it been a problem where further abuse has occurred once the police and the child service person have left without removing the child?
402	Wallacher	I have seen further abuse and provides an example. A police officer is immune from liability, either civil or criminal, when in good faith removes a child and places them into protective custody. I wouldn't have any objections in giving SCF employees authority to remove child and be given the same immunity afforded police officers.
450	Kate Toran	Administrator of the State Office of Child Services & Families Introduces other witnesses to testify later.
Tape 17, B		
035	Toran	Even though our policy is that our workers are not to remove a child from the home, we do have the authority to remove the child if we believe the child is in eminent danger.
044	Rep. Uherbelau	Where does the authority come from?
046	Toran	It is statutory. Video Presentation - Tape Audio is Unavailable A family friend taped the child abuse and sent it to SCF for follow

		through. Describes what is being seen daily by the SCF workers.
095	John Barr	Branch Manager for the Hot Line and for Saint Johns Branch in Multnomah County >established a swing shift up till 10 P.M. to handle the hot lines > school police position funded by a candy grant then absorbed by the department in July
145	Barr	Continues testimony. Explains that screening & intake functions are the initial services provided by SCF and are coordinated with law enforcement agencies and other team players. >new program at Morrison Center >further explanation given on the screening process >a secondary function performed is referral and consultation
165	Rep. Eighmey	In all of your programs do we, also, have funding for parenting classes? Do we have programs out there to teach proper parenting skills to those parents once they become abusers?
173	Barr	Yes. In most of the state it is done through contracts we have with other community providers.
178	Rep. Eighmey	Do we have classes for the abused child, also?
183	Barr	There are a number of programs available and provides examples. Not cases seen by SCF employees involve criminal charges being sought.
206	Alicia Hahn	Supervises Child Abuse Hotline in Portland >employees on the hotline access risk & safety issues for children >addresses screening employee's parameters
250	Hahn	>continues to addresses screening employee's parameters >receive referrals from phones, police reports (child abuse & domestic violence), letters (mandatory reporters & concerned citizen) >helps guide the caller to obtain the most clear & specific information about what is happening to the child

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> >check computer records to discover any trends >contact out of state agencies for information
300	Hahn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> >continues to addresses screening employee's parameters >housed with the MDT >if agency already involved may ask for more information from or more work with the family to determine whether SCF intervention is needed on a protective service basis >send letters and make telephone contacts >presents Hotline statistics
350	Hahn	Case history example given.
400	Hahn	Continues with the case history example.
450	Hahn	Continues with the case history example.
Tape 18, B		
028	Hahn	<p>Continues testimony on screening employee's parameters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> >all decisions made with supervisory review
042	Una Swanson	<p>Protective Service Supervisor of SCF Intake at the Marion Branch</p> <p>Testimony is to focus on the factual field assessment..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> >describes differences between Multnomah County and different parts of the State >describes SCF's interactions with law enforcement agencies
092	Swanson	<p>Continues testimony on field assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> >shared decision making process in assessment process, always a SCF supervisor available to staff >local community involvement, i.e., safety committee meetings, CART - Child Abuse Response Team >within the branch there are a number of ways to form case consultation groups >many ways to share with family all decisions, i.e. community network meetings <p>Testimony begins now on the social assessment.</p>

		>maybe only a symptom of a greater family dynamics
142	Swanson	Continues testimony on the social assessment. >constantly looking at the risk assessment to the child > learn what kind of safety plan, what resources, what kind of a service plan does the family need >SCF workers coordinate with probation & parole, i.e. following no contact orders >develop a broader safety agreement for child
172	Chair Sunseri	Adjourns meeting at 5:00 P.M.

Submitted by, Reviewed by,

Lauri A. Smith, Sarah Watson,

Administrative Support Office Manager

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A - Overview Hearing Child Abuse, written testimony, Curt McBride, 9 pages

B - Overview Hearing Child Abuse, informational material, Kate Toran, 9 pages