

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

March 10, 1993  
46 - 48

Hearing Room 357 1:30 p.m.

Tapes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. John Meek, Chair Rep. Lisa Naito,  
Vice-Chair Rep. Ron Adams (Alternate) Rep. Patti Milne Rep. Gail Shibley

MEMBER EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT: Annette Price, Committee Administrator Edward C.  
Klein, Committee Assistant

INFORMATIONAL MEETING: Committee Members highlight  
Children's Care Team Report Committee Members discuss Care Team  
Legislation "Reverse Hearing" -- Questions from the audience

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These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize  
statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in quotation  
marks report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the  
proceedings, please refer to the tapes. [--- Unable To Translate Graphic  
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TAPE 46, SIDE A

003 CHAIRMAN MEEK: Calls the committee to order at 1:43 p.m. -He  
makes some opening comments. -He presents introductory remarks.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS HIGHLIGHT CHILDREN'S CARE TEAM REPORT

076 REP. SHIBLEY: Introduces the Care Team Report (See EXHIBIT B,  
3/1/93). -Many issues still need to be addressed in order to accomplish  
the vision of the report. -She urges Care Team members to share the  
teams ideas in order to make

sure they're in the legislation.

182 REP. NAITO: Discusses the Children's Care Team process. -She  
discusses the Wellness Model. -She encourages people to bring their  
concerns to the committee.

295 REP. ADAMS: Government needs to learn how to deliver services  
better. -If this plan works like it's been outlined, it will be a giant  
stride

forward.

320 REP. MILNE: Appreciates all the work that's been done. -We need  
to address the needs of children and the report is right on. COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS DISCUSS CARE TEAM LEGISLATION

357 REP. MEEK: Describes HB 2003. -Family Resource Centers are the  
preventative arm. -He describes Family Service Centers. -He describes HB

2004, the structure of the report. -He describes HB 2005, the implementation. -He discusses the Mission. -HB 2005 is the implementation of the action plan. -He describes HB 2006, confidentiality

TAPE 47, SIDE A

025 REP. NAITO: Some of us have other spin off legislation, like parenting classes in the schools.

"REVERSE HEARING" -- QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Witnesses: Bob Dunow, Tri-County Youth Services Consortium Muriel Goldman, Children First Leroy Benhem, Yamhill County Children and Youth Services Commission and Member, Newberg School Board Nancy Miller, Administrator, Citizens Review Board Bdan Enos, AFS, East Portland Michael Morrissey, Lead Staff, Multnomah County Children and Youth Commission Ellen Lowe, Ecumenical Ministries Mary Lou Hennrich, CCT Member Larry OgleSB y, Director, Marion County Juvenile Department Timothy Travis, Attorney Jim Dyer, Marion-Polk Foster Parent Association Sarah Fleming, Hunger Relief Task Force David Fuks, Director, Edgefield Children's Center, Troutdale Michael Ransom, CSD Tom Woodruff, Manager, Mental Health Program, Washington County Pam Patton, Morrison Center

036 BOB DUNOW, Tri-County Youth Services Consortium: Reads the opening sentence of HB 2004. -Those of us in the field have skyrocketing caseloads, while dollars have barely kept pace with inflation.

046 REP. SHIBLEY: That language is an expression of philosophy. She elaborates. -We can agree the situation is deteriorating. -The Federal Government has abdicated it's responsibility. -She agrees the dollars haven't kept pace.

067 REP. NAITO: Is concerned we're spending more money, but it's not necessarily tied to outcome. -Maybe the shift should be more to helping these kids who may be in trouble in the courts if they don't get services as teens. -We should put the necessary money into the important services. -We as legislators should vote on tax reform this session.

083 REP. ADAMS: You're not the first to suggest that language is inappropriate. -We should let the legislation stand on it's feet without pointing fingers. -He doesn't think any members will object to a new opening.

093 CHAIRMAN MEEK: That opening was taken from page 28 of the report.

097 MURIEL GOLDMAN, Children First: We will be suggesting an amendment to section 1 of the bill. -She agrees this statement is an editorial comment. -It's difficult to understand the relationship between the State Office and the State Commission. -In HB 2003 and 2004 it seems like the State Office is accountable to the State Commission. -How does this legislation affect current services? -It's unclear how current agencies continue to function.

129 REP. MEEK: Refers to 2004, section 3, which describes the State Commission for Children and Families. -He describes the State Office. -We haven't legislated how the office and commission work together.

162 REP. NAITO: Child protective services is also in there.

REP. MEEK: That's section 1, on the top of page 2, HB 2004. -They are independent, one has the responsibility in delivering out the directive for the State Office.

176 GOLDMAN: That essentially takes CSD and gives it a different name. -What about mental health, the Health Division, AFS? -Will they be assigned to the state office?

187 REP. MEEK: We have not spelled that out legislatively. -The Commission will define that aspect through the public input process. -The State Commission will define, over time, the state responsibility on low frequency, high intensity services.

208 LEROY BENHEM, Yamhill County Children and Youth Services Commission and Member, Newberg School Board: This legislation is a bold attempt to change the pattern of waiting to react. -Do you have the courage to promote this drastic change on the way services are delivered?

238 REP. NAITO: The answer will be by the end of session.

REP. MEEK: Each member spoke highly about the care team report. -This committee is pledged to see this legislation move through the process. -You folks are here to help us do that.

263 REP. NAITO: One issue we addressed is when services become treatment

and when is it prevention? -She elaborates. -We tried to move away from separating treatment from prevention. Treatment is prevention. -There is a commitment and we have the backing of the other care team members.

286 NANCY MILLER, Administrator, Citizens Review Board: What would be the most helpful way to address these issues?

299 REP. MEEK: You can ask any member to have an amendment drafted. -The committee staff is pledged to assist you.

338 BDAN ENOS, AFS, East Portland: Thinks the report is a beautiful idea. -She is aware of the federal mandates. -How do you expect to meet the Welfare Reform Act mandates?

362 REP. MEEK: We have been sending petitions, memorials and resolutions to the Federal Government that if they mandate they had better send the money. -We are finally getting the attention of Federal Government. -The primary focus of the Care Team was that it was essential to reconfigure the current system to stem the rising tide of families that become dependant on the system.

TAPE 46, SIDE B

004 REP. NAITO: That's one of the biggest challenges we face. -That's the role of the State Commission.

012 REP. MEEK: We've had conversations with the regional federal office and have a tentative meeting set up for April.

018 MICHAEL MORRISEY, Lead Staff, Multnomah County Children and Youth

Commission: Would like you to discuss the authority and role of the local commissions. -Sections 9, 10, 11, HB 2004, speak to local commissions. -Why is there such latitude for the local commissions? -How much authority do you want them to have?

032 REP. MEEK: The language forces the local commissions to address problems in the local communities. -Amendments are coming forward to clarify that role. -The authority is fairly clear that the local commission will have the

authority to carry out their plan. -He'll be glad to work at clarifying that language.

057 REP. SHIBLEY: Mr. Morrissey brought up a good point. -This is far from perfect legislation. -You have to know the goal in order to make progress. -The Oregon Benchmarks ought to provide that goal. -We will never achieve the benchmarks until the local communities know

what's expected of them.

082 ELLEN LOWE, Ecumenical Ministries: How would you anticipate how WIC fits into the family resource center? -Hopefully you will recommend some state participation. -How do you anticipate to utilize a model like WIC?

100 REP. MEEK: Refers to page 61 of the CCT report, which identifies WIC. -HB 2003 also identifies WIC as an available service in the family resource centers.

113 REP. NAITO: Agrees that WIC is a great example of incorporating the values in the report.

LOWE: Because WIC is in far more places, you don't see your proposal interfering with WIC?

REP. MEEK: Doesn't think we can answer. -A goal of the CCT is that those people you are serving would be identified for other help. -We're going after the integration of services. -We're not trying to create a monopoly.

141 LOWE: Encourages the committee members read testimony from Washington County.

REP. MEEK: The best providers are the ones delivering at the local level.

151 REP. ADAMS: If he said we hope these would compliment each other, you could still feel that was interference. -Our current system has created a lot of turf. -He can applaud the fact some turf might get torn up as long as it's to the advantage to the service receiver. -He doesn't know how to assure you there might not be obstacles in this process.

166 REP. MEEK: The CCT makes reference to either access or referral to other services.

177 MARY LOU HENNRICH, CCT Member: In Multnomah county we have a grant for trying integrated services. -She describes their process. -In Multnomah Co there won't be a WIC program per se. -Service are performed where ever it makes sense to present the service. -We don't want to

disrupt what's working.

217 LARRY OGLESB Y, Director, Marion County Juvenile Department: Do you see the direction of the Juvenile Justice Act setting up pilot projects for counties to begin providing services fitting in to the Care Team model

and if so how?

REP. ADAMS: Do these pilot projects work? OGLESB Y: We don't know yet.

REP. ADAMS: If that works for you at your local level, the local commission will make that determination. -Things will be different in Salem than they are in Ontario.

241 REP. MEEK: The local commissions will have someone from education and juvenile justice on them just as they are on the State Commission. -Some communities will want them at the local level, others may not.

259 TIMOTHY TRAVIS, Attorney: Knows what the needs of these kids are. -Is it the assumption of the committee that the same number of dollars

now being spent will do the job if they are spent differently? -Is there consensus or commitment by the committee to fund children the way they should be funded?

279 REP. SHIBLEY: No and no.

REP. MEEK: There is no assumption the dollars allocated will do everything that needs to be done. -There's been no commitment that we've come up with a package to the voters.

293 REP. ADAMS: We've created a problem with this and other proposals. The key question is, is there going to be a follow through? -Whatever we come up with, we must have help from the voters. -We must do the responsible thing with the existing dollars. -This group can't guarantee that there will be a long term solution.

325 REP. NAITO: We know there are costs in the current system that don't

need to be there. -There are inefficiencies out there. -We did not discuss the money in the Care Team. -What should we be spending on the programs that are working? -We'll have this debate for a long time. -We all have to work together.

355 JIM DYER, Marion-Polk Foster Parent Association: Has spent a lot of time in DHRreorganization to localize services. -The basic question he has as a foster parent is where do we fit in?

379 REP. MEEK: Those questions were not defined in the report. -That needs to be defined locally or by the state commission.

413 SARAH FLEMING, Hunger Relief Task Force: The legislation and report talk about placing the dollars and decisions in the hands of the local

communities. -How do you ensure equity throughout the state?

425 REP. MEEK: The legislation only address that each community put together a plan and request the state commission for funding and then the state commission would fund the plans. -We've heard there needs to be some direction on the equity. -We have to make sure there is statewide equity and an amendment will be drafted.

TAPE 47, SIDE B

024 REP. NAITO: A lot of the federal programs have certain requirements. -We might look at poverty level; that's often an important indicator. -We have to make sure there's equity.

028 DAVID FUKS, Director, Edgefield Children's Center, Troutdale: Have you been looking at per capita distribution or needs distribution? -What if there's an emergency in one county? He presents an example. -What kind of thinking has there been to create a mechanism to ensure a coordinated approach among counties when problems take place?

044 REP. NAITO: We need to look at that. -She responds to the example he presented. -We have to keep flexibility in the system.

059 REP. MEEK: We all can agree that prenatal care will be at the local level. -The counties won't be saddled with that kind of emergency. -The state office ought to deal with that.

080 FUKS: Appreciates your recognition of the problem. -If we manage foster care at the local level and suddenly have a statewide foster care obligation, how do we create a mechanism for resolving that? -There's a systems problem and a funding problem.

088 REP. MEEK: Hadn't thought about the technical aspects.

092 MICHAEL RANSOM, CSD: The high intensity low frequency services are all CSD does. -He gets cases at the end of the system after things have gotten very bad. -He applauds what the committee is trying to do and is pleased to see an emphasis on prevention. -How do you keep the current system in place and still fund and provide for preventive services? -It seems most of those services are already being provided locally. -Is this an attempt to consolidate and enhance or a shift of funds from high intensity low frequency to prevention?

132 REP. MEEK: That's part of HB 2005. -He quotes the CCT report. -We have to strike a balance on how it takes place.

150 TOM WOODRUFF, Manager, Mental Health Program, Washington County: Thanks the committee for visiting Washington County. -We submitted some information to the Chair about some the concerns about details regarding the current legislation. -It's our belief this should happen at the local level through the county government structure, where accountability expertise and experience is already established.

178 PAM PATTON, Morrison Center: Applauds the Wellness Model. It's a model we need to follow. -She hears you saying that we have to put money into prevention and not put anything for the kids already in the system. -You lose the integrity of the Wellness Model when you say that. -You need to be committed to all children at every developmental stage. -We have to do prevention, without it we won't go anywhere, but we can't invest in prevention at the expense of other children.

219 REP. MEEK: We won't argue with that. -That balance has to be reached. -He refers to the CCT report's executive summary. -How the dollars get expended will be part of the plan development. -A local community saying they can't provide a service locally is part

of what needs to evolve as this is implemented.

241 REP. SHIBLEY: Refers to page 12 of the report and the three basic findings. -She appreciates Pam bringing her concerns to the committee's attention. -Page 11 lists the values underlying our vision. -She encourages the citizens to remind the legislature that these values mean nothing without policy and budgetary changes. -She discusses and comments on some of the values. -We need to make sure we are true to this vision. -How and when and how much is the sticky part.

291 RANSOM: The community perceives CSD workers having immense power that supersedes the parents. -Those kinds of things should be addressed. -The community and court need other options for what they do with children so they are not given to the state or the Office of Children and Families. -Is it appropriate to consider to change the nature of the all powerful Children's Services?

321 REP. MEEK: Yes, we're looking at that. -We're still a ways from consensus.

334 REP. NAITO: It's her hope with the Wellness Model, that we'd provide

supports to families before a crisis occurs. -There are proactive approaches we can take. -We aren't doing a good job protecting our kids from abuse and neglect, and it's not CSD's fault. -Maybe you need more tools to work with. -She sees a two-pronged approach: -1. To provide supports through a non-threatening entity, which probably wouldn't be CSD. -2. To do a better job of protecting kids and providing treatment services if they've been identified as having been abused. CSD is an important part of that. 373 REP. ADAMS: Pam asked a crucial question. -We had a discussion about eliminating Level 7 kids, because there isn't the funding. -Someone said all we'll do is move them to the next level. -We hear that if high risk families are identified at birth or before,

much progress can be made. -We must guard against dropping a child later. -It's not our desire to allow any child or family to lose services. -It's probably an impossibility to fund to the absolute need possible. -The value of putting these programs into the community is that we have high hopes that the family and community will be part of the solution.

TAPE 48, SIDE A

020 REP. ADAMS: We'll never be able to throw enough state dollars into this. -Along with centralization, we have to get help from the community. -He discusses the term "supply sergeant" to be used in place of the term "case manager."

037 FUKS: We need to build society one child at a time. -He doesn't want the committee to see limited resources. -We have track records of success in this state. -Senior Services does a pretty good job. -We can do well by putting priorities where they can make a difference. -Don't start from a place of despair. -We can do better. -We can make a

difference if we redirect the resources.

061 REP. MEEK: Thanks everyone. -He adjourns at 3:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Reviewed by,

Edward C. Klein,

Annette Price, Committee Assistant  
Committee Administrator