

House Committee on Social Services Planning January 20, 1991 - Page

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.

House Special Committee on Children's Issues February 6, 1991, Page

HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN'S ISSUES

February 6, 1991Hearing Room F 3:00 p.m.Tapes 5 - 6

MEMBERS PRESENT:Rep. Bob Pickard, Chair Rep. Vera Katz, Vice-Chair  
Rep. Mary Alice Ford Rep. Carolyn Oakley Rep. Beverly Stein

VISITING MEMBER:Rep. Ron Cease

STAFF PRESENT: Melanie Zermer, Committee Administrator Lee Penny,  
Committee Administrator Carol Wilder, Committee Assistant

ISSUES CONSIDERED: Children and Family Coordination Council  
Children's Program Budget

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TAPE 5, SIDE A

005 REP. BOB PICKARD, CHAIR: Calls the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m.  
All committee members were present.

(Tape 5, Side A) INFORMATIONAL

CHILDREN AND FAMILY COORDINATION COUNCIL Witnesses: Gary Weeks,  
Chairman Judy Miller, Dept. of Education Barbara Ross, Dept. of Human  
Resources

012 GARY WEEKS; CHAIRMAN, COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN AND  
FAMILIES, DEPT. OF HUMAN RESOURCES: Introduces Judy Miller, Assistant  
Superintendent for Student Services with Department of Education, and  
Barbara Ross, Special Projects Coordinator within the office of the  
Director of the Department of Human Resources. Reviews Council's final  
report (EXHIBIT A). > Comprehensive report on the status of children's  
and family's programs. > Extensive inventory of programs, boards,  
commissions, and services. > Includes Council's statewide priorities for  
serving children.

S.B. 1018 is the reason this Council was brought together. > Specific charges such as inventory of programs and services, and board and commissions. > Subjective charges included our recommendations on what priorities should be in this state. > Four principal members of Council. > 25-member council. Represent variety of special interests. > Strategies and goals are consistent with the Oregon Progress Board's benchmarks for the next twenty years. > Council was active working group of people. Operated without staff or budget. > Four working committees. > Agenda has a continuing life. > Looking at confidentiality issue. Dept. of Human Resources has a team working on confidentiality initiatives. Those will come before the Council and eventually appear before this committee as a piece of legislation.

123 REP. KATZ: When?

WEEKS: We'll have a draft bill ready for the 11th, the introduction deadline on the House side. > Will be very generic. > Task Force has been given two months to look at confidentiality laws. > Will come up with specific recommendations which will blend into generic bill.

174 JUDY MILLER, ASST. SUPERINTENDENT FOR STUDENT SERVICES, DEPT. OF EDUCATION: Dept. of Education had a number of people that participated actively on this committee. > Helpful to us as we looked at our own State Board of Education mission and goals. > An opportunity to see where there are gaps in services and where other services are needed. > We used this document in preparing our budget packages. > Reviews four themes in report as they relate to Department of Education.

264 REP. KATZ: As I look at this report, I can see your effort in matching this with progress towards goals. You begin to see a reinforcement from different state agencies going in one direction. Maybe all this talk and activity, when we thought we were spinning our wheels, is beginning to pay off. I have to say I'm pleased to see that, and I'm pleased how you begin to integrate all these pieces together.

267 WEEKS: Refers to first section of the report, beginning on p. 11, dealing with themes that the Council picked as priority themes for children and families. > Came to agreement on four major themes. > Determined the goals, measurable outcomes, and the strategies to see that those outcomes occur.

297 BARBARA ROSS, SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR, DEPT. OF HUMAN RESOURCES: Refers to portion of larger report which was in response to legislative charge to Council to set state priorities for children and families (EXHIBIT B). > Council chose these four themes. > Outcomes are the things committees and Council thought were most important. > Strategies under the outcomes were only sample mechanisms. > Outcomes under Health Division are very critical. Dept. of Education has joint projects with Health Division. > Ballot Measure 5 will make it tough for good intentions of Council to be carried out.

TAPE 6, SIDE A

020 ROSS: > Studying the Lincoln County model and looking at all State agencies. > Got commitment from Federal government to consider a waiver to federal regulations standing in the way. Will assure them

that treatment will be for entire family. Task force in CSD will work to find out which federal regulations are standing in the way. > Most important that what came out of the process was dialogue and sense of partnership between Dept. of Education, the Dept. of Human Resources, and the community colleges.

045 REP. KATZ: Is the waiver just for the Toledo experiment or is it for any program that treats the family as a family unit?

ROSS: The federal government has made an offer to ten states that were members of the policy committee that we worked within developing these goals. They will entertain any requests we make about federal regulations that block our serving the whole family as a unit. They are promising they will consider a waiver. Ten states have an opportunity to request it.

054 REP. KATZ: This would be a wonderful opportunity, if this is really a reality, to consider with that the idea that some of us have had over the years to combine Children's Services Division with AFS and treat the family. If you can do that and get the federal waivers, there's a tremendous amount of possibilities.

WEEKS: There are those possibilities even without physically combining two divisions. The waivers would enable us to work more close together and we're in a much better position to combine those services.

- Refers to p. 39, 2nd section, dealing with demographics of children in Oregon. > This section is revealing in terms of numbers in this state - children are 28% of the total population. About same as national average. > Hispanic - 42% are children below age of 18. > Black - 38% are children. > Changing racial composition. In-migration from California. More Hispanics moving to state and settling permanently. > Increase in number of children growing up in single-parent families. Divorce rate - 50 %

> More single women having children - 25%. Given that trend, by end of decade 1/3 to 1/2 of all children may be born to single mothers. > Tremendous impact of demographic data on education, housing, and health care. Puts into context the detailed dollar information in report. > Survey sent to 60 agencies to gather data regarding service to children and families. > P. 54 shows service category. All programs were merged into 17 different service categories. Some of greatest needs are not being served. > P. 64 breaks information down more specifically.

> Checked three times regarding correctness of data to try to insure integrity.

> Urge you to refer to this document when others request help from you.

> Sect. 5, p. 261, report on boards, commissions, and task forces that serve children and families. Recommendations about task forces that could be merged or abolished.

249 CHAIR PICKARD: I thought you said the charge was for you to determine what these should be? Then you talked about the few that you could get to agree. That ought to tell you what I'm thinking.

WEEKS: We were charged with inventorying them and making recommendations on which ought to be merged.

254 CHAIR PICKARD: Within your own group?

WEEKS: Within the Council.

256 CHAIR PICKARD: But you chose to be nonaggressive?

WEEKS: We chose a concensus model by going back to each of the organizations. We had a target group which were targets of opportunity for mergers or abolishment. We went back to those groups and told them we thought they could be merged with X, Y, or Z. Six out of 100 agreed. Others didn't. A number of them can't be merged. We did take the easier way out. We did not recommend merges; the Council as a whole wasn't willing to take that on at this point. We want to try to encourage some mergers among some of those organizations. During the prior administration there was a great emphasis on children. I've had agencies call me and say, "During the prior administration we were encouraged to do things for kids. We created, as agencies, some task forces and working groups to deal with children's organizations. Now it looks like you're doing an inventory that's going to reflect negatively on those of us that followed the encouragement of a prior administration." Some of these were created in response to the prior administration.

284 CHAIR PICKARD: One would think that those who are working with that particular problem would be more than willing to give up whatever turf they perceive they have.

WEEKS: Your point is a good one and we struggled a lot with how much we wanted to push this abolishment. It is tough to abolish some of these. Some of them are very political. Some of them exist because there is a need. Others may be less so. We did succeed in making some of these groups begin to think about whether or not they ought to be merged with others. We did get some of them to agree there was a benefit in merging with existing groups.

308 REP. OAKLEY: What dollar figure are we looking at in regard to funding these advisory committees?

WEEKS: I don't know the answer to that. Some of them that are not statutory wouldn't be paying per diem or mileage for members. Those that are created by agencies or executive order probably aren't paying anything. Those that are statutory likely are paying the members per diem as well as the \$30 per day.

318 REP. OAKLEY: What about staff time?

WEEKS: We don't know about that either. Hard to say how much staff support they have. We tried to address administrative costs. This should not be taken to the bank because it was hard to determine costs to administer some of these programs. We want to refine that administrative cost issue.

348 REP. STEIN: This is one of the best documents I've seen in terms of its potential usefulness. Taking these strategies, what's the plan for making them happen?

WEEKS: We're going through those strategies right now to see which ones might be put into some kind of statute or some kind of bill form to make

them happen.

358 CHAIR PICKARD: Do you have some sense of urgency about this?

WEEKS: Yes, February 11th on the House side is our target date.

363 ROSS: We want to work with the Progress Board and we're now completing a matrix using benchmarks. We will work with the Progress Board to ask the Governor to identify a lead person who is responsible for leadership in coordination in moving toward that benchmark utilizing the outcomes and the strategies that are in our report. We have made a commitment to check ourselves twice this year on what our progress is. Many of these things will be on hold because of Ballot Measure 5. People in the agencies at about the second level down have a strong determination to work together on these regardless of the fact that agency budgets are cut back.

389 REP. STEIN: This committee is a uniquely formed committee representing people from the Education Committee and the Human Services Committee, which is a reflection of the unique formation that we created with the Children and Family Coordination Council bringing together education and human services people. How can this committee advance your work in a comprehensive way?

ROSS: Commends Legislature for putting a philosophical statement in SB 101 8. It was helpful to work of Council to have a philosophical statement that the Legislature had already adopted. (Refers to p. 297.) It would be helpful if Legislature narrowed the charge of the Coordination Council because there's so many things that we are asked to do in the bill that without staff and funding it is difficult to focus our efforts and feel that we are completing the obligation. You could move toward an accountability model in which you ask us to work with the Progress Board and to report to you our progress on the outcomes that fall under those benchmarks.

TAPE 5, SIDE B

027 WEEKS: You could be helpful to us in some of this legislation that we're going to try to bring to you. > We have the piece on confidentiality. > We'll have a piece dealing with some of the strategies. > A piece on performance standards, outcome measurements, etc. > Need to draft a piece of legislation that directs the Council to try to develop model performance standards or outcome measurements that could be applied to children and family programs and others.

048 REP. FORD: Are you saying that you would like us to revise SB 1018 and narrow its scope? How does what you're wanting to do fit in with the legislation that Gary is talking about? Do you need something else?

ROSS: If you reread SB 1018, there are many things that the Legislature asked that Council to do. The difficulty is that without a staff that's paid and budgeted, it is very difficult to get all those things done and it's hard to have a charge that is beyond the capacity to get it done.

059 REP. FORD: Could you work with us in making some amendments to it so that we can focus on just the things in the bill that we know are not going to be on taxing the Council. Then later when those are all accomplished, we can prioritize it.

ROSS: With Gary's help, we'd be happy to do that.

067 CHAIR PICKARD: It seems to me that you're on a roll with this work and I would like to see that roll carry right over into having the legislation in. Don't worry about mistakes with the legislation. Just get it in and we'll work things out later. Size of document is usually enough to put me off. But since it has to do with kids and with measurements, outcomes and benchmarks, it was a seductive document. You've caught the spirit of a concept that I hope will permeate this Session of the Legislature. Can be a guide to legislators. Congratulations on the job that you've done.

096 The committee takes a short break.

099 CHAIR PICKARD: Introduces Ann Glaze, Legislative Fiscal Office.

(Tape 5, Side B) CHILDREN'S PROGRAM BUDGET Witness: Ann Glaze,  
Legislative Fiscal Office

103 ANN GLAZE, LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE: Reviews the Legislative Fiscal Office program budget for children (EXHIBIT C). > Based on same database as they used. > Refers to p. 90, Appendix 1. Shows programs not included in Legislative Fiscal Office's children's budget that are included in the Coordination Council's report. -Reviews how to locate things in the report. > P. 5 - program overview. > P. 13 - table showing agency programs > P. 14 - four major program categories. > P. 15 - breakdown of programs

154 CHAIR PICKARD: Could you give me an example of an unallocated administrative cost?

GLAZE: The program figure would include the program coordinator who administers a program. Agencies also have budget and personnel officers and administrative staff that aren't actually linked to a particular program but they're an essential part; their salaries would be an example of unallocated administrative costs.

165 REP. FORD: Then on p. 15, is the administration the allocated cost for all the programs?

GLAZE: That's the unallocated administrative cost. - Continues reviewing the report. > P. 26 - 19 categories identified in dollar detail. > Refers to table on p. 28 regarding adoptions.

201 REP. KATZ: We had talked in years back about turning all of that over to a private agency. For some reason, it turned out not to be a good idea. Did you uncover anything on that? It may not be a good idea but I'd flag it.

GLAZE: No, I didn't.

> P. 29 - narrative explains fund sources. > P. 31 - related programs. > Last table in each section shows clients served.

250 REP. OAKLEY: On the adoption subsidies, is this ongoing help that they get or is it just a one-time type help when the adoption takes place?

GLAZE: Believes it's an ongoing payment but would have to doublecheck with someone from CSD.

(FROM AUDIENCE): They are subsidies for families with special-needs children.

259 REP. KATZ: This makes me think of our health care system in terms of priorities and costs per client, and I'm wondering if we've really thought through the possibility of using John's model not only for human resources programs such as these but also for education. Because as they're displayed here, you've got a cost-benefit analysis, dollars and cents. You make a judgement on cost-benefit analysis for the program.

277 REP. STEIN: You have to do that over long period of time. What we're interested in is the prevention so it has to be the net present value of long-term investments. The health care model is really time-specific for right now.

287 REP. KATZ: You could say that prevention in the human service agencies or in education is the top priority.

296 CHAIR PICKARD: It might make an interesting exercise for you to design a piece of legislation.

305 GLAZE: Reviews recommendations. > 1. Recommends Coordination Council be continued with appropriate funding. > 2. Recommends discussions occur with state agencies regarding need to implement measurable children's program objectives and strategies. > 3. Specific legislative direction to all 38 agencies offering children's programs to work to standardize information collected on clients served. > 4. Legislature should refine state policy on children and families so that it provides more specific policy direction to state agencies. > 5. Prior to future study of children's program budget, definitions of programs should be reviewed. > 6. Report should be considered Phase I of a multi-phase study.

386 CHAIR PICKARD: I have a suggestion for you on your Recommendation #2 on p. iii, first paragraph, second line regarding need to implement measurable children's program objectives and strategies, work the word "benchmarks" in. If we can come out with the benchmark as something that people are aware of and paying attention to, that would be good.

One week from today we have invited people interested in early intervention money that doesn't have a home right now.

Adjourns meeting at 4:41 p.m.

Submitted by:      Reviewed by:

Carol Wilder      Lee Penney Assistant      Administrator

EXHIBIT LOG:

A - Final Report - Oregon Coordination Council for Children and Families - 306 pages. B- State Priorities for Serving Children and Families - OCCCCF - 26 pages. C - Program Budget for Children - Legislative Fiscal Office - 88 pages.