

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 13, 1991, Page
HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN'S ISSUES

February 13, 1991Hearing Room F 3:00 p.m.Tapes 7 - 8

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 Carolynn Gillson, Committee Assistant

ISSUE DISCUSSED: Early Intervention Services

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TAPE 7, SIDE A

005 REP. BOB PICKARD, CHAIR: Calls the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. All committee members were present.

(Tape 7, Side A) Early Intervention Services Invited witnesses:Norma Paulus, Superintendent of Public Instruction Ruth Hewett, State Board of Education Karen Brazeau, Department of Education Kevin Concannon, Department of Human Resources Margie Lowe, Executive Department Judy Newman, Early Intervention Coordinating Council Ken Jones, Legislative Fiscal Office Diane and Patrick Baynes, parents Dr. Tina Kitchin, Department of Human Resources (DHR) Hill Walter, University of Oregon (U of O) Kathryn White, Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC) Loren Bridge, parent Dorian Pollin, parent Alan Tressider, Oregon School Boards Association (OSB A)

010 NORMA PAULUS, Superintendent of Public Instruction: Distributes copies of a chart listing both federal and state early intervention programs and funds (EXHIBIT A). > Number one priority, as superintendent, is to shift this state's resources in the school system to early childhood development. The State Board of Education agrees that should be the number one priority. > Intends to beef up the early childhood development section of the Department. > Doing away with early intervention programs would be a step backward for this state. > Working on three areas: early childhood development programs and funding; reshape Department's budget with re-emphasis on early childhood because of Measure 5; and the work force. > The Department is willing to collaborate with other state agencies on early childhood development programs. > Reviews two ideas for funding: Set up a private funding

foundation in Oregon with legislative approval that is similar to "The Ounce of Prevention" foundation in the state of Illinois and use the common school fund money exclusively for early childhood development.

189 REP. VERA KATZ: Are you really looking at Head Start?

PAULUS: The Children's Fund could be used for any early childhood development program.

225 RUTH HEWETT, State Board of Education: The board views early intervention as a top priority. > Board discussed early intervention during it's budget process. > Refers to information given to the Senate Education Committee concerning the Oregon Prekindergarten Program - three year olds show significant gains and children scoring lowest in the pretest made the largest gains. > Concerned cuts in early childhood intervention programs will take Oregon out of compliance with federal regulations.

275 KAREN BRAZEAU, associate superintendent of Special Education, Department of Education: Two issues in intervention: > A budget problem that will not allow the Department to do next year what it does this year for preschool age children with disabilities. > Problem complying with PL 99-457 requiring states to provide services to young children with disabilities. It would require Oregon to serve more children than presently served. > Talks about the first issue in her handout concerning early intervention programs (EXHIBIT B). Covers reductions in the Governor's budget and the loss of federal funds if the state does not comply with PL 99-457. > Refers to second page of handout and explains what Oregon would have to do to be in compliance with 99-457. Only includes children known to have problems in the 0-2 category. In the age 3 to 4 category only children with severe disabilities are served now. Services would be expanded to approximately 2,000 additional children under PL 99-457. > Eight states are considering noncompliance with the new law. > Oregon is the only state not considering handing special education services for children age 3-4 to local school districts. > Legislature told the Department in 1987 to plan for implementation of expanded program but not give the responsibility to local school districts.

TAPE 8, SIDE A

004 BRAZEAU: The Board of Education and Department of Education submitted a \$29 million budget package to come into compliance. > Reviews contingencies that could lower the costs.

018 PAULUS: Refers to article titled The argument for early intervention, describing the cost savings to the educational system and to the Department of Human Resources if you start the intervention early enough (EXHIBIT C).

BRAZEAU: An evaluation of the program shows the children enrolled in the program make significant gains. Without intervention these children will show up for school at age five with problems that create a hardship for the school system.

040 KEVIN CONCANNON, director of the Department of Human Resources (DHR): > Appearing on behalf of DHR, the Mental Health and Developmentally Disability Services Division, as well as policy advisor on Children's Services to Governor Roberts. > Early intervention services are the most difficult cut in the Governor's budget. > Services

for families will be diminished or eliminated. > Describes the Child Care Block Grant in the amount of \$15 million per biennium that will be available in September, 1991. Regulations available in May. Believes a portion of funds may be earmarked for early childhood intervention services. Early Intervention Council is the key planning group. > Federal mandate expands the state's obligations in the early periodic diagnosis and treatment program, which is the health program for poor children who receive medicaid, increasing the state's general obligation by \$14 million. > The Poverty Level Medical Care Program targets prenatal care to poor women. The general fund increase in that program in the next biennium is \$40 million.

162 REP. MARY ALICE FORD: Are you looking at trying to minimize the cost by using a volunteer team approach for programs?

CONCANNON: Yes, we have encouraged a variety of prenatal care options including managed care systems to reduce the costs. It is a good area of health and social policy but it represents an additional federal mandate.

207 REP. FORD: In this federal mandate, do you have the flexibility to put together programs with nurse midwives?

CONCANNON: Nurse midwives are one of the options in the program.

REP. KATZ: What prenatal mandate is driving an additional \$40 million?

CONCANNON: Last session, Oregon was providing prenatal care for poor women who were at 85 percent of the poverty level. The mandate provides health care for women at 133 percent of poverty level and their children up to age 6. It is funded in the Governor's budget. > The public doesn't understand how DHR's budget can go up when we are talking about reductions.

256 CHAIR PICKARD: Summarizes the testimony given by Kevin Concannon.

CONCANNON: Talks about the use of general fund money by DHR. > Difficult budget cuts at both ends of the age spectrum.

295 MARGIE LOWE, representing the Executive Department: Reviews chart, which is part of a handout provided by committee staff (EXHIBIT D), pertaining to the state's education and mental health budget cuts.

385 REP. KATZ: What is the rationale for making cuts in these areas?

CONCANNON: It is the need to get down to the bottom line. > Talks about cuts to the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Division of DHR. > The logic is to serve as many people without providing as many services.

TAPE 7, SIDE B

018 LOWE: We would not support making further reductions in human resources in order to find the resources to cover intervention services.

032 JUDY NEWMAN, member of the State Early Intervention Coordinating Council: Reads testimony giving the committee background information and history on early intervention services in Oregon (EXHIBIT E). > Talks about early intervention services in Lane county. > Early intervention works and saves money in the long run. > Describes two

bills they have requested: one proposes to keep services as they are and that the Department of Education become the lead agency, and the second bill brings Oregon into compliance with the federal mandate.

113 CHAIR PICKARD: Talks about observing an early intervention committee in action.

141 KEN JONES, Legislative Fiscal Office: The co-chairs of the Joint Ways and Means Committee are working to develop a strategy for looking at all the agency budgets in Ways and Means subcommittees and identifying the holes before final action is taken by the full committee.

REP. KATZ: The Governor's budget is relying on raising some revenues to cover current budgets. Where is the leadership's budget to deal with the holes?

JONES: Defers to co-chairs to answer that question. > Explains when certain budgets will be heard.

205 DIANE BAYES, parent: Reads her testimony describing how early intervention has helped their son (EXHIBIT F).

PATRICK BAYES, parent: Reviews his testimony explaining how early intervention programs help families (EXHIBIT G).

319 DR. TINA KITCHIN, pediatrician and medical specialist, Office of Developmental Disability Services, DHR: Addresses the possible medical implications of the proposed cuts in the Governor's budget. > Reviews her testimony concerning how early intervention services work (EXHIBIT H).

380 HILL WALKER, University of Oregon: Reviews information in his testimony concerning the ramifications of non-compliance with PL 99-457 and gives an overview of the Center on Human Development at the University Oregon (EXHIBIT I). Pamphlets describing the center are included with this testimony.

TAPE 8, SIDE B

009 WALKER: Reviews the programs the center has and the populations served. > Reviews the impact on higher education if the state does not comply with PL 99-457 and refers to a list of grants the U of O is at risk of losing if the state does not comply with the federal mandate. > Noncompliance sanctions would prevent applying for any grants serving 3-5 year olds.

090 KATHRYN WHITE, Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC) of Multnomah county: We want to provide the committee with more background from a parents perspective on early intervention.

096 LOREN BRIDGE, a parent: Reads her testimony explaining how early intervention services have helped her son, Derek, who is physically and mentally challenged/disabled (EXHIBIT J).

148 DORIAN POLLIN, a parent: Talks about the early intervention services her daughter has been receiving for three years. > Describes the Alliance for Early Intervention consisting of parents and service providers. > Main goal is to educate the public and the Legislature on the value of early intervention services.

170 WHITE: Gives the committee background information on the original early intervention legislation. > Important part of early intervention is the work done with families. > 97 percent of the children with disabilities live at home. > The cut of early intervention services took us by surprise. > Urges committee to support efforts to keep early intervention as a priority.

224 ALAN TRESSIDER, OSB A: OSB A is supportive of early intervention because it makes so much sense. It is a collection of government agencies coming together to serve young children. > Compliance with PL 99-457 is an even more significant problem than Measure 5. > It is a school and education issue as well as a human resource issue. > Local school districts have a significant financial investment in early intervention. There is in excess of \$9 million off the top of basic school support for early intervention. Transportation costs are about \$15 to 16 million for the biennium. > If the state decides not to comply with the federal mandate, and does not adopt a statutory plan to come into compliance, there is little doubt a court will be asked to intervene and will probably direct local school districts to provide these services.

296 REP. KATZ: Maybe that is the reason this was left unfunded.

TRESSIDER: The problem is not going away.

322 REP. RON CEASE: In the long haul, the state is going to be picking up 80 to 100 percent of the local school budgets anyway. Don't you really come back to the same thing?

TRESSIDER: Ultimately, we will have a state-funded school system and the state will be picking up it's share.

Work Session

340 LEE PENNY, Committee Administrator: Refers to LC 1125, and asks if the committee members want it introduced as a committee bill so it can be used as a place holder for early intervention (EXHIBIT K).

MOTION: Rep. Katz moves to offer LC 1125 to the House Committee on Education and ask them to introduce it as a committee bill.

MOTION ADOPTED: There was no objection.

398 CHAIR PICKARD: Adjourns the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Submitted by: Reviewed by:

Carolynn Gillson Lee Penny Assistant Administrator

EXHIBIT LOG: A - Chart - Superintendent Paulus - 5 pages
B - Charts - Karen Brazeau - 2 pages C - magazine article -
Superintendent Paulus - 3 pages D - memo to committee members -
committee staff - 7 pages E - testimony - Margie Lowe - 2 pages
F - testimony - Diane Bayes - 1 page G - testimony - Patrick
Bayes - 3 pages H - testimony - Dr. Tina Kitchin - 3 pages
I - testimony and pamphlets - Hill Walker - 70 pages
J - testimony - Lauren Bridge - 2 pages K - LC 1125 -

committee staff - 4 pages