

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 March 6, 1991, Page HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN'S ISSUES

March 6, 1991Hearing Room F 3:00 p.m.Tapes 11 - 12

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

STAFF PRESENT:Melanie Zermer, Administrator Carolynn Gillson, Committee Assistant

TOPIC DISCUSSED:Child Care Programs

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TAPE 11, SIDE A

005 REP. BOB PICKARD, CHAIR: Calls the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. Reps. Ford, Stein, were delayed.

Child care system in Oregon Janice Elliott, Department of Human Resources (DHR) Bobbie Weber, Linn-Benton Community College Vickie Stott, Oregon Community Children & Youth Services Commission (OCCYSC) Dan Vazinni, Child Care Commission Rep. Dave McTeague, District 25 Kevin Concannon, DHR

021 JANICE ELLIOTT, assistant child care coordinator, DHR: > Explains why child care is not an issue that falls neatly into one place because it cuts across disciplines, philosophies and interest groups. > Forces are beginning to come together. The Oregon Benchmarks have contributed to this. > High level of employer creative involvement in developing child care programs. > High degree of interagency collaboration. > Testimony will include describing the major characteristics of the child care system, what we know about child care in the state, an update on the federal bill and listing what bills are in the system (EXHIBIT A).

097 BOBBIE WEBER, Family Resources Department, Linn-Benton Community College: Reviews five classic issues for child care: availability, access, quality, affordability and compensation. > Refers to chart and describes the characteristics of the American Child Care System (EXHIBIT B). > Points out some of the strengths of the child care system.

162 REP. VERA KATZ: Are you saying that changing a day care or child care provider is something that can be easily done?

WEBER: Access is a major problem in this system. One of the strengths of the system is if a family is uncomfortable with a provider, it can

easily break the relationship. > The strategies you use to make the system work have to be in light of the kinds of system we have developed over the years.

200 VICKIE STOTT, regional coordinator, OCCYSC Commission: Reviews background information on the Great Start Program contained in the Executive Summary (EXHIBIT C). > Reviews the progress being made in Great Start. > Talks about the priorities of the counties outlined in the Great Start Overview handout (EXHIBIT D) and in the Executive Summary.

305 REP. KATZ: How do the outlined areas of need interrelate with the state services that are provided at the county level? Are families falling through the cracks or are these replacement dollars for programs that have been curtailed?

STOTT: The intent of the Great Start process is to identify what is not happening and pull together some of the existing resources.

334 CHAIR PICKARD: You are suggesting a void not an overlap.

ELLIOTT: We estimate the state is spending about \$23 million a year on child care. We are sure it is a \$350 business. Most of the child care is not being impacted by state programs.

343 REP. KATZ: Most of the clients you are dealing with are not eligible under the state system because they make too much money. You are moving beyond the clientele the state has targeted for providing services.

STOTT: Reads information concerning the child care needs in Washington county and Josephine county.

376 DAN VAZINNI, chair of the Child Care Commission: We are finding by any definition of need that the state is not investing enough in direct subsidies or direct payments to families for child care. The Great Start committees are saying there is a large unmet need to access affordable child care. > There are no mechanisms locally to connect providers with families. There is a large population of working families who cannot afford quality child care.

406 STOTT: The Resource and Referral Network and the local commissions are relatively new and are getting involved in some local solutions. > Talks about projects that were funded to increase the availability of child care in Polk county. > Reviews what is being done in Curry and Lane counties concerning child care.

TAPE 12, SIDE A

020 REP. KATZ: I am still bothered that the limited resources could be better used to target some of the needs identified across the state where the best payoff is for Oregonians.

040 VAZINNI: A key problem for policy makers is we don't know enough about the American Child Care System. With the development of the Resource and Referral Network, we are beginning to get more information about the system. The ASPEN project is intended to develop the information and provide it in a form for policy makers.

WEBER: Describes the Research Capacity Initiative of the Aspen

Institute that is funded by the Ford Foundation. > Provides information about the Aspen Grant, their tasks and the child care questions it is trying to address (EXHIBIT E). > This is a preview of a report that will be done within 2 or 3 weeks.

130 VAZINNI: We are breaking new ground. The underlying idea is to build the Resource and Referral System statewide and give it the measurement tools necessary to tell us what kind of child care is going on, where, how much does it cost and how good it is. Provides statistics from the Adult and Family Service Market Rate Survey: > 90,000 to 100,000 children under age 6 and 65,000 to 75,000 children age 6-15 are in child care. > 100,000 children are in nontraditional care programs. > 34,000 to 37,000 child care centers and family day care providers, with a capacity of 140,000 to 150,000 children. > The community-based Child Care Resource and Referral agencies are trying to match the supply to demand. > About 30,000 to 40,000 people are employed in child care. > Child care industry is valued at \$350 and \$370 million. Nontraditional arrangements would add another \$150 to \$250 million to that economy.

249 REP. KATZ: Aren't you concerned that those who take care of our children are getting the least benefit?

VAZINNI: It is a major workforce issue. > For infants in family day care the amount is greater than \$370 a month and in centers it is greater than \$450 a month. > For young children it is around \$200 a month for family day care and \$160 for school-age programs. > Center-based infant care is out of reach for most working class Oregonians. > The Oregon Progress Board has included child care issues in the Benchmarks. > Working now to measure quality of child care.

310 CHAIR PICKARD: It would be helpful if you could provide the committee with any studies done on how day care affects children.

WEBER: We will provide a review of some of the studies. > Struggling with understanding the system and how it can be impacted. > Gathering information in order to access the system so more children are impacted positively.

356 DAVE McTEAGUE, District 25: Talks about serving as a member on the Oregon Child Care Commission. > Where do we stand on funding the Resource and Referral system?

VAZINNI: By July, we will have 11 sites operating in 22 of the 36 counties, serving almost 90 percent of the state's population. The Governor's recommended budget has insufficient funding to operate those 11 programs for the biennium. There is no money in the current recommended budget to expand the program to serve the remaining counties. The state's share in the counties being served for the next biennium is about \$2 million and we would need an additional \$500,000 to serve the remaining counties.

430 KEVIN CONCANNON, director, DHR: Child care is an area of opportunity in the next biennium. > Because of time constraints, he agrees to report to the committee on child care at a later date.

449 MELAINE ZERMER, Committee Administrator: Refers to printout from the committee bill management system. The list is of bills that deal with child care (EXHIBIT E) that are in other committees.

465 CHAIR PICKARD: Adjourns meeting at 4:08 p.m.

Submitted by:    Reviewed by:

Carolynn GillsonMelaine Zermer AssistantAdministrator

EXHIBIT LOG: A-Child Care report - Janice Elliott - 12 pages  
B            -            Chart on child care - Bobbie Weber - 1 page C            -            Great  
Start report - OCCYSC - 148 pages D            -            Great Start Overview -  
OCCYSC - 11 pages E-ASPEN Grant - Bobbie Weber - 3 pages F-Child Care  
bills - Committee Staff - 3 pages