

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 COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

May 10, 1991 Hearing Room D 1:30 p.m. Tapes 143 - 146

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Mary Alice Ford, Chair Rep. Jerry Barnes Rep. Cedric Hayden Rep. Hedy Rijken

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Rep. John Meek Rep. Beverly Stein, Vice-Chair Rep. Jackie Taylor

VISITING MEMBER: Speaker Larry Campbell

STAFF PRESENT: Melanie Zermer, Committee Administrator Pamela Berger, Committee Assistant

MEASURE CONSIDERED: Examining the way services are delivered to children - inf

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TAPE 143, SIDE A

010 CHAIR FORD: Calls the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

INFORMATIONAL: Examining the way services are delivered to children  
Invited Witnesses: Orin Bolsted, The Morrison Center Duncan Campbell, Citizen Bob Donough, Tri-County Youth Consortium Mike Goldrick, SHARP Program Arnie Green, Provider Leslie Haines, Citizen Advocate Mary Lou Henrich, Multnomah County Health Division Rose Otte, Juvenile Justice Volunteer Jean Phelps, Lane Relief Nursery, Inc. Barbara Regan, State and Local Volunteer Judy McMackin, Local Volunteer Barbara Gray, State and Local Volunteer Rep. Larry Campbell, District 43

025 REP. LARRY CAMPBELL, DISTRICT 43: Testifies on examining the way services are delivered to children. - Describes how the family unit has

changed since the 1950s. - Typical families need several different type of services from separate bureaucracies. - Professionals are aware of the conveyor belt type problems. - Many children with problems work their way into the criminal system. Additional jail space is an expensive way to deal with the problem. - Describes weaknesses in the system. We wait to deal with late stage problems instead of dealing with early stage problems. The system waits until families fail; by then the children are damaged and society pays. - It is time to reconsider family needs. - Discusses the high number of programs and agencies serving children. - The following invited witnesses will tell of solutions to the gaps in services and programs. - Thanks committee members for providing the time to hear this presentation as well as the people who will be providing their expertise.

110 ROSE OTTE, JUVENILE JUSTICE VOLUNTEER: Submits and reads written testimony on examining the way services are delivered to children (EXHIBIT F). - This state system is fractured. - Discusses the high number of programs and agencies serving children. - Oregon is experiencing dramatic social changes. - Oregon has a unique and ready group of volunteers ready to continue work on children's issues. - It is time for a new way of thinking. Band-aids and providing little funds will not solve current problems within the system. - Describes a "one stop shop" approach for providing children services. - With concerted efforts, we can find the needed solutions. - For the past ten years we have been compiling information, but do not have the solution at this time. - Those people working in the current system are not going to recommend their own diminishment. - When restructuring the system, we need to look out for the child. - We are here today because of the hope we have to change the current system. The legislature can provide the leadership for action plans, we will provide the workers. bureaucracy.

269 ORIN BOLSTED, PH.D., MORRISON CENTER: Submits and reads written testimony on examining the way services are delivered to children (EXHIBIT A), focusing on values.

TAPE 144, SIDE A

043 DUNCAN CAMPBELL, CITIZEN: Testifies on examining the way services are delivered to children. - Describes his background coming from a dysfunctional family and child care related work done as an adult. - We have hit rock bottom in dealing with children's problems; it is time for changes to be made. - We need political will. - We need to recognize what does and does not work and then go forth. - We need to examine values to highly needed professional treatment. - The providers they are not examining themselves in a meaningful way. - We need professionals and citizens working together. - Social service agencies now fight for limited funds - we need to work together for one cause. - Agrees with Bolsted, that we need to focus on values. It is socially acceptable to drop out of school. 167 - We have missed the forest for the trees, we have let some simple issues become complex, we need to strike a balance between structure and organization. We need to begin with mission statements, goals, and objectives - ending up with a real strategic plan and an action plan which really works for the children. - The Children's Agenda was a re-commitment by a broad spectrum of people to genuinely do something for the children - but behind it there was not substance or money. We need a fresh perspective with guts.

200 MARY LOU HENRICH, MULTNOMAH COUNTY HEALTH DIVISION: Testifies on

examining the way services are delivered to children. - Tells experiences working a school health nurse seeing children in need with many problems. - Simplistic approaches or one answer is not going to work. - We need to start early in the life cycle. We need to prevent teen pregnancies. If a teenager does become pregnant, we need to provide preventive services for them. - We need outreach, support, counseling, and drug and alcohol services that respects their dignity and is client centered and easily accessed. - We need home based services to explain about normal development and baby needs. - The teen mother needs to be reminded that to be a good mother you don't need lots of money. - A fragmented and grossly under-funded program is not the answer. - Oregon has done a poor job in funding prevention programs. - Agrees with Duncan Campbell about the Children's Agenda. - Recommends reading, and reads excerpts from "Within our Reach" by Elizabeth Shore (House Human Resource's staff has it available for members to borrow).

TAPE 143, SIDE B

045 BOB DONOUGH, TRI-COUNTY YOUTH CONSORTIUM: Submits and reads written testimony on examining the way services are delivered to children (EXHIBIT B), focusing on problems and solutions for the social service system.

240 BARBARA REGAN, STATE AND LOCAL VOLUNTEER: Testifies on examining the way services are delivered to children. - Everybody is dancing as fast as they can to keep up with the needs; the motivation is there. - Within the current system it is hard to figure out how to deliver services to a child with multiple needs. - Receiving treatment locally, reduces the state hospital population. - Preventative treatment can prevent the need for future treatment. - I recommend that each community access to array of service needs and good

organization linkage. - There is much discussion if a child is a state or local child - they are all the same children, this is a bureaucratic jungle. - Direct services can be provided locally for young children and young adults. We need proper support from professionals and state funding. The Department of Human Resource's agencies need to merge. - Suggests that a state plan be developed; counties have been developing plans for many years.

REPRESENTATIVE BARNES: Should we be encouraging existing organizations to merge or create new organization?

REGAN: Local commissions do a good job for needs assessment; there needs to be a comprehensive county plan.

TAPE 144, SIDE B

020 JEAN PHELPS, LANE COUNTY RELIEF NURSERY, INC: Submits and reads written testimony on examining the way services are delivered to children (EXHIBIT C), focusing on child abuse service needs.

183 BARBARA GRAY, STATE AND LOCAL VOLUNTEER: Testifies on examining the way services are delivered to children. - Gives background on volunteer services. - For many years, I tried to get training for 4-H leaders to recognize abuse - unsuccessfully. - Describes experiences being a CASA

and an educational surrogate. - Describes situations with extremely distributed children. - Discusses unavailability of CSD and AFS staff in rural areas. - Describes long distances traveled when working with CASA cases, especially in rural areas. These volunteers should somehow be compensated.

TAPE 145, SIDE A

010 LESLIE HAINES, CITIZEN ADVOCATE: Submits and reads written testimony on

examining the way services are delivered to children (EXHIBIT D), focusing on the need to coordinate a fragmented system.

160 JUDY McMACKIN, LOCAL VOLUNTEER: Testifies on examining the way services are delivered to children. - Gives background on volunteer services. - Explains that in a small community, such as Coos County, where there are very limited funds, everybody must work together or else nothing would get done. - Describes benefits of having local coordination. - The further away from the community decisions are made (and the more isolated) the less effective the decisions are. - If there is local empowerment, that must be respected. - Recommends empowering local communities, remembering that local choice may differ from State choice. Trust the local community.

REPRESENTATIVE BARNES: Should the State be playing a more supportive role?

McMACKIN: The State should trust the local commissions more than they currently do, letting them develop their own needs. But there are things that only the State can do. Would like to see more empowerment and staffing at the local level.

TAPE 146, SIDE A

MIKE GOLDRICK, SHARP PROGRAM: Submits and reads written testimony on examining the way services are delivered to children (EXHIBIT E), focusing on drug and alcohol abuse treatment.

245 ARNIE GREEN, PROVIDER: Testifies on examining the way services are delivered to children. - Tells of child who was raped and also felt raped by the system. - Discusses escalating and changing needs. - Recaps descriptive terms about the system heard throughout today's presentation: broken fragmented disjointed frustrating lack of vision wasteful unproductive convoluted turfistic disarray disaster grossly under-funded grievously flawed overly bureaucratic complex uncoordinated confusing limited in scope morass jumble dysfunctional difficult - Discusses the high number of studies, task forces, committees, and work groups which have been commissioned to look at the system. - Many of those committees did not even know each other existed - which is one of the greatest flaws in this system. - Discusses turf battles. - The only way we can proceed in coordinating services is to look at values, goals, and objectives. - Gives an analogy of the Persian Gulf war. - When helping children, the system should remain as invisible as possible. - Tells of a child, from a dysfunctional family, who received fragmented services and finally received the needed help by

committing a crime, for just that purpose.

REPRESENTATIVE CAMPBELL: Thanks participants.

Members thank participants.

CHAIR FORD: Adjourns the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

Submitted by,

Reviewed by,

Pamela Berger

Melanie Zermer

EXHIBIT LOG: A - Child care - testimony - Bolsted - 1 p. B - Child care - testimony - Donough - 12 pp. C - Child care - testimony - Phelps - 3 pp. D - Child care - testimony - Haines - 12 pp. E - Child care - testimony - Goldrick - 6 pp. F - Child care - testimony - Otte - 3 pp.