



Child Care Community Forum

February 21st, 2008
Harris Hall, County Courthouse
Eugene, OR
6:30pm – 8:00pm

Summary

Working Well

Local partnerships and collaborations provide support and financial resources
Child care keeps kids safe
Variety of child care options in Eugene

Not Working Well

Child care programs struggle financially to stay open
Competition from programs that are subsidized by 21st Century take children out of neighborhoods & programs lose money
Recruiting and retaining staff – lack of money to pay staff and compete with Head Start and School District
Lack of resources to serve high number of children with special needs

Should the definition of exempt care change? If so, How?

Some form of standards should exist such as criminal history
Public disclosure to parents if licensed or exempt, CCD should have record
Partner with insurance companies that require standards such as criminal history as part of general liability
Grandfather in any change of standards and recognize fiscal impact to facilities

Full Results of Workgroup Discussion

Working Well

Partnerships and collaborations provide support and grants
40 dev. Assets – trained city staff improves quality and communication
Youth network of partners in Lincoln county – partners strengthen all
Child care keeps children safe – abuse prevention
Collaboration keeps programs open
Parks and Rec programs and schools keep children safe
Unionized positions are working well for youth
Partnerships infuse money for youth programs
Child obesity is being addressed
Good communication with parents in Yachats – works well with open door process
Low cost child care - \$25/quarter
City of Eugene passed a property tax levy to support schools
Wide variety of options in Eugene

Partnerships provide grants

U of O gives 10% of student fees to child care

Inclusions specialists for children with special needs in Park and Rec programs

R&R's give training but no college credit

New child care networks provide support, training and financial incentives

Not Working Well

Child care programs struggle financially to stay open

Competition from programs that are subsidized by 21st Century – takes children out of neighborhoods & programs lose money

Choice of activities can destabilize centers due to inconsistent attendance

High number of children with special needs – diagnosed and undiagnosed

Burden on budget to support all children - in particular special needs such as autism

Gaps in child care such as services and/or programs for children with special needs

Getting and maintaining trained staff – competition with head start and school district to get/keep staff

Lack of school age training

No training at community college in Lincoln County

Lack of money to get and keep staff

Lack of training

Should the definition of exempt care change? If so, How?

Some form of standards should exist such as criminal history

Public disclosure – CCD should know, registration

Careful to implement the same standard – every regulation adds cost

Transition plan or grandfather in standards

Perception of parents/program is key characteristic such as sign in/out

Costs money to be licensed

Partner with insurance companies that require standards such as criminal history as part of general liability

Exempt child care should have incentives to license

Desire not to put people out of business

*how can we do two things at once to have standards that won't run people out of business

CCD needs to know what facilities are operating, some form of registration

Careful to have standards for all programs because every regulation adds cost

Programs struggle

Expectation between parents and program should be clear

Some parents have perception that exempt programs are licensed

Exempt programs should have some basic standards have incentives to be licensed

Truth in advertising – programs should tell if licensed or exempt

Web site to enable programs of all kinds to advertise what they do

Standards should take into account age different needs like a 5 yr. old does not have the same developmental needs as a 10 year old

Exempt programs often are subsidized by city/county

Costs money to be licensed

Insurance was primary decision to get licensed

Partner with insurance as an education piece

Insurance should be a requirement and a standard

Child care credits given to parents should go to licensed center or facility to provide incentives for licensing

Criminal history should be universal – not always required in boys and girls clubs