**Equity Implementation Committee**

**Minutes of Meeting Held March 21, 2017**

**Attendees:** (Chair) Eva Rippeteau; Lennie Bjornsen; Alysa Chatterjee; Carmen Ellis; Lillian Green; Joyce Harris; Sadie Holmes; Sue Miller; Kim Parker; Kelly Poe; Bobbie Weber

**Charter Report:**

* Equity Implementation Charter has been approved for six months.
* Main topic of discussions section, “Review of Grant Making and Requests for Proposals.”
* In September all of the committee charters will be reviewed to see how they are working.
* Questions on the target population and how it builds upon or contradicts what is already in statute. EIC may need to address this topic.
* The Council is developing a list of overall guiding principles.
* Foster care children category added. May add to purpose statement in six months.

**6 Month Work Plan:**

* The Plan looks at what the committees do and how we all work together to support the Council.
* Request that the draft for measuring success be pushed until April. Instead, review rules from the CCEC on the relief nurseries. Additionally, Spark rules will be pushed out further.
* Currently have our draft work plan - which is based off of other committee work plans.
* EIC will be developing their own action items that are not just based on the other committees.
* As stated in the Charter, we can invite community partners to talk about various policies they may be working on – if we have space in future agendas will build this in.
* When developing the framework for the work plan we went through and identified key areas that should correspond with specific items as requested in our charge. At the next meeting need to fill in some of those policy areas.

**Relief Nursery Report:**

* Currently the CCEC is reviewing rule that will guide the ELD work with relief nurseries.
* A brief overview and history of relief nurseries in Oregon was provided.
* Last Summer opened rule revision process to have new rules in place before ELD contract for 2017-2019 biennium. This Thursday we will report to the Early Learning Council all issues that need resolution in the rule making process.
* The relief nurseries have created an organization titled Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries. They have created a very extensive certification process for which they determine whether an organization can meet the criteria and standards of the model they have created. It is titled OARN Certification.
* They serve families with multiple high risks. Commonly people served have mental health, drug addiction, alcohol, and serious challenges. Model includes therapeutic classrooms for the children, small ratios, and include home visiting and parent education.
* CCEC has a set of equity questions we are reviewing. We are hoping that the Equity Committee can take a high level view of the rules alerting us to questions you want the rules committee or the Council itself to look at.

**Relief Nurseries Open Discussion:**

* Number of children and families served in a 2012 report (based on 14 relief nurseries): 2156 families served and 2685 children served between 2010 and 2012.
* Question asked if all areas of the state have equitable process to become certified. Discussion held on the certification process, costs, and barriers. Could be an equity issue here.
* Certification process and respective roles of the ELD and OARN were primary discussion items at our March meeting. Part of the certification process will be added to the rules.
* Discussion on licensing - relief nurseries will continue to be licensed as child care centers.
* Discussion on Page 6, Sec 0040, interfacing with the local learning hubs. How would the relief nurseries acknowledge the gaps in race, culture, and class? Would like to see the relief nurseries working on these gaps.
* Discussion on Page 9, Sec 0050, Therapeutic Early Education. Would like to add the disproportionate impact to children they would receive because of systemic oppressions.
* Discussion that the rules need to be more reflective of addressing those things that impact children based on their race, language, and their gender. Really need to be spelled out more explicitly and identified.
* Proper language on this topic: The way ELD has structured this conversation in the division is to say that responding to the needs of the individual child, community, and provider that is in front of you, and be able to see that child, community, and provider on a multidimensional model of who they are.
* Item B under Therapeutic Early Childhood Education could be updated to read, “Principles and guidelines for culturally responsive support.” This may give people a more clearer picture of children’s needs.
* Discussion held on the possibility of putting definitions in the rules that Council might consider. Committee will add that to their Work Plan - what definitions would be essential to all rules.

**Language & Translation Policy:**

* The Language & Translation Policy was developed to make sure we are following state and federal guidelines on discrimination and ensuring that we are producing materials in languages. This would ensure that we are creating policies and practices that are culturally responsive.
* An explanation of the Language & Translation Policy details was provided to the group. Discussions held on translations.
* This Policy was designed specifically for the Early Learning Division, and at this time these translation services can’t be accessed by the hubs or contractors.
* Generally the State will not be translating documents for groups across the State. There will be a list of the available documents that have been translated by the State.

**Final topic:**

* Help to advertise for openings for EIC. Encourage anyone who is interested in applying to follow links (which will be sent to you).