**Equity Implementation Committee**

**Minutes of Meeting Held June 20, 2017**

**Committee members participating:** Sue Miller, Joyce Harris, Sadie Holmes, Kelly Poe, Rashelle Hibbard, Carmen Ellis

**Staff participating:** Lillian Green, Peter Blume, Kelli Walker, Erin Deahn, Sandy Gorsage

**Guests participating:** Katie Jordan-Downs

Introductions and welcome

Minutes of the May 2017 meeting accepted

**Caring for our Children Standards**: (Presenter: Kelli Walker)

In November 2014 President Obama signed the Child Care Act. From that act subsequent child care rules have been developed. We are currently working through our current rule sets with a focus on equity, and what these new rules are going to do for us.

**Indoor Space:** Proposed square footage requirement to be added to rules.

At this time Oregon does not have a square footage rule for registered families. However, we do have square footage requirements for certified homes and centers. Currently there are 2200 registered care providers in Oregon.

The ideal minimum is 50 square feet of usable floor space per child (most states require 25 – 35).

Example: 140 square feet can serve 4 children at a 35 square foot rule.

***Option 1:*** Do nothing – continue to care in small spaces – discussed pros and cons.

***Option 2:*** Require 35 square feet of indoor activity area per child. This could have an impact on providers – they would have to accept fewer children. Discussed pros and cons – could affect 35% of Oregon providers.

***Option 3:*** Require 25 square feet of indoor activity area per child. The space must be fully utilized by children. Discussed pros and cons. May affect 25% of Oregon providers.

***Option 4:*** If space is 140 square feet or less, the number of children will be limited to 6. The impact on providers would be approximately 5%. Discussed pros and cons.

Kelli asked if the EIC could help them arrive at the best opportunity for children without having a devastating effect on providers.

**Open for comments and discussion:**

Kelli mentioned that it would be a substantial impact to our child care licensing staff to have to measure homes.

Comment by member - leaning toward Option 3 or 4 - to limit impact to providers.

Comment by member - leaning toward Option 4 – does not want to lose great providers for space.

Comment by member – stated that something to consider is to help people use the space they have. Do licensers have time to help with this?

Comment by member - it is so important for children to have space to develop; but on the other hand the quality of having providers is equally as important.

Comment by member - need to look at the unintended consequences of families who are being pushed into smaller living spaces due to our housing crisis.

Comment by member - concerned about losing providers - not seeing the benefit of creating space requirement rule.

Kelli will submit the EIC comments to the Child Care Education Committee.

**Staff Training – focus on family child care:** (Presenter: Peter Blume)

Oregon currently has less than what is required in most states.

Many Oregon providers do not speak English, and this can often present obstacles.

The national recommendation for small child care homes is 30 hours per year.

Oregon currently requires 10 hours every two years.

To make the jump from 10 every two years to 30 would be too much of an impact.

Proposing 15 hours during two years (does not include safety). This would minimize impact to providers.

In Oregon, most providers exceed 15.9 per license period annually on average.

We currently have trainings in many languages.

**Discussion held on proposed training options**:

Comment by member - ELD would need to help build trainings in rural areas. We do not want to put foreign language providers at a disadvantage.

Comment by member - if we do not have the capacity to provide the trainings, we need to carefully look at the provider’s cost.

Comment by member - need to be culturally responsive – look at the reality of the cost and time to provide foreign language trainings, and also the cost to the providers.

Comment by member - the State should first invest in the training before putting a rule in place.

Comment by member - additional groups such as African, Somali, and other immigrant groups - can we meet the needs of children who don’t speak the languages discussed here?

Question by member - do many trainings get cancelled due to lack of registration? Response - they often run training with only three participants.

Comment by member - how do we fill up the trainings that we do have? Are there any incentives? What are the barriers to people participating?

Comment by member - we need to do a deeper analysis as to what is the problem. How do we optimize the trainings we do have.

Comment by member - Focus Care Network is currently doing weekend retreats for trainings. They go to the mountains Friday night through Sunday afternoon. It is training packed with information – and has a great turn out. Participants do hands on exercises and go home with projects and tools. It is Hugely successful! There are some out of the box ways to deliver training.

Committee members felt that taking a look at something like a retreat is excellent. Need to work on innovative ideas.

Kelli stated that all the points we have submitted will be considered.

**Overview of HFO:** (Presenter Erin)

Erin provided a history of Healthy Families Oregon from the start in 1993 to current date.

Additionally, she provided a map of all the county regions.

Healthy Families America is a nationally recognized program.

HFA developed in 1992 by Prevent Child Abuse America.

How many families do we serve in Oregon? Just under 9000 for eligibility – and 2500 families each year for home visits.

**Central Administration in Oregon:**

Discussed reaccreditation cycle (must be done every 5 years)

April – Central Admin site visit

July & Aug – 8 local programs receive site visits

Reaccreditation, process continues in 2022

Site visits are done to half our sites

**Equity:**

Contracts include ELD’s equity deliverables. Goals identified have been added to HFO program plans.

Service delivery priorities - required to have a target population – Oregon is births.

HFA cultural sensitivity review will look at service area priorities – such as rural communities with no service. If they have the capacity they serve all eligible when they can.

Cultural Sensitivity Review every two years.

**Major buckets of work now**:

Reaccreditation

Database Development

2017-2019 Contracts

2018-2022 Strategic Plans

Bodies of work to bring to EIC: Strategic Plan & Cultural Sensitivity Review

How do you see EIC helping HFO?

Sue asked when they would bring the strategic plan and cultural sensitivity review to the EIC.

Erin stated they are developing questions and can bring comments for the strategic plan to the next meeting. Cultural sensitivity has not started yet. EIC would prefer to help develop questions by July 18.

Discussion held on some of the regions who do not provide standard services. How do we create a model for different communities to receive services and be cost effective.

**Discussion on the EIC meeting structure**: (Presenter: Sue Miller)

Meet monthly, alternating between meetings in person and on-line.

Time change effective September will be 9:30-11:30.

Can members adjust to these two new options?

Are we allowing ourselves the time we need in the time allowed?

Should we add an additional 15 minutes – discussion held.

No objections. Time will be 9:00-11:15 beginning in July.

Then in September the time will be 9:30-11:45.

If you have any comments regarding the work plan, please forward to Lillian.