

## CCEC Administrative Rule Briefing

Title/OAR #:	Relief Nurseries / OAR 414-600	Date:	March 7, 2017
Program Name:	Relief Nursery Contracted Services		
Staff/Office:	Dawn Barberis, Early Childhood & Preschool Specialist; Lisa Pinheiro, Policy Specialist		
Statutory Authority:	ORS 326.425(7), 417.788		
<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Rule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Rule <input type="checkbox"/> Amend Existing Rule <input type="checkbox"/> Repeal Rule			
Prompted by: <input type="checkbox"/> State law changes <input type="checkbox"/> Federal law changes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other			
Last Revised: By Commission on Children and Families January 2007: OAR 423-045-0101 to 0185 & 423-010-0024(8)			
Action Requested:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Adoption of Temporary Rule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adoption of Final Rule			

### Why is the Early Learning Council being asked to adopt Administrative Rules for Relief Nurseries?

Prior to 2012, the State Commission on Children & Families had authority for rule promulgation for Relief Nurseries. Since 2012, the Early Learning Council (Council) has been charged with oversight of early learning programs, including Relief Nurseries. The state, through statute, has established and articulated the following state policy regarding early learning programs and services, outcomes, and accountability for use of state funds.

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 417.827 states that the Early Learning Council

“...shall implement and oversee a system that coordinates the delivery of early learning services to the communities of this state through the direction of Early Learning Hubs.”

“The system implemented and overseen by the council must ensure that providers of early learning services are accountable for outcomes, services are provided in a cost-efficient manner and services provided and the means by which those services are provided are focused on the outcomes of the services.”

ORS 417.728 establishes the components of the early learning system to include, “services to support children...such as home visiting and community-based services such as Relief Nurseries, family support and parent education programs”.

ORS 417.788 establishes, as state policy, that Relief Nurseries shall “be consistent with the voluntary early learning system overseen by the Early Learning Council.” ORS 417.788 also calls out the responsibility of the Early Learning Division to support Relief Nurseries statewide and to contract with Relief Nurseries in order “to ensure service continuity and efficient delivery of contracted services”.

The Early Learning Division is currently engaged in work to operationalize support and monitoring of the services delivered to children and families through Relief Nurseries. A part of operationalizing support and monitoring will be the promulgation of Oregon Administrative Rules.

## What is a Relief Nursery and what services do they provide?

Relief Nurseries are community-based organizations that seek to interrupt the cycle of child abuse and neglect working among and alongside early childhood education, child welfare, behavioral and physical health and social services within private and public sector entities.

Services are offered within a comprehensive and integrated early childhood and family support system, including strength-based, culturally appropriate services designed to achieve appropriate early-childhood benchmarks and healthy family functioning. Parent and child participation in services is voluntary. Statutorily required services include therapeutic early childhood education programs, and parent education and support. ORS 417.788 (2). The statute further requires each Relief Nursery that receives state funding to have financial support from the community that is at least equal to 25 percent of any state allocation (match requirement). ORS 417.788 (3).

## Ensuring Appropriate Articulation and Implementation of State Policy

The Council, through administrative rule, policies, guidelines and contracts, supports and ensures services and outcomes are consistent with the comprehensive early learning system. Administrative rules or other statements of policy, as well as contract language, serve as a means to articulate expectations for state oversight and program and service performance. In order to best articulate policy and requirements:

### Administrative rules should:

- Establish and articulate state and Council policy related to Relief Nurseries;
- Establish and articulate the services to be contracted;
- Establish policy and guidelines to hold the Division and contractors accountable.

### Policy matters addressed:

- Establishment and articulation of services the state is funding;
- Principles, expectations and accountability for performance and delivery of services funded through contract;

### Establishing and articulating programs and services the state is funding:

- Early childhood and family support services to children and families to reduce incidents of abuse and neglect through certified Relief Nurseries
- Coordinated services for children and families through the regional Early Learning Hub.
- Services consistent with the goals of the state's voluntary early learning system
- Therapeutic Childhood Education (required by law)
- Parent Education and Support (required by law)
- Home Visiting
- Child Screenings and Assessments
- Basic needs supports and services

### Alignment with health, safety and quality guidelines:

To be eligible to receive state funds through contract, a Relief Nursery must:

- Be certified by the Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries as meeting the requirements and maintaining compliance with Oregon Administrative Rule;
- Demonstrate ability to meet established program and service standards

- Demonstrate ability to have infrastructure to provides oversight, responsibility and resources necessary to provide services on an ongoing basis;
- Be licensed by the ELD Office of Child Care;
- Demonstrate ability to collect and report accurate program and fiscal data as required and ensure all information and data demonstrating program compliance is made available upon request.
- Demonstrate ability to participate in state level program evaluation as determined by the Division

### Monitoring, Tracking and Reporting:

The ELD will monitor contracts and contract performance. Contracted Relief Nurseries shall comply with specified monitoring and reporting requirements.

### Other items for consideration:

- Hub/Relief Nursery coordination
- Mandatory Reporting (Child abuse and neglect)
- Staff qualifications /expectations for ongoing professional development
- Staff to Child Ratios
- Staff Training
- Outreach
- Crisis response
- Protection of child and family data
- Coordination of services with other home visiting programs e.g., Healthy Families Oregon, Oregon Health Authority
- Follow USDA standards for nutrition

### Equity Analysis:

- *Who are the racial/ethnic and underserved groups affected?* To be determined through CCEC deliberations and analysis of recommended rule language.
- *Do the proposed rules ignore or worsen existing disparities or produce other unintended consequences?* To be determined through CCEC deliberations and analysis of recommended rule language.
- *What is the impact of the rules on eliminating the opportunity gap?* To be determined through CCEC deliberations and analysis of recommended rule language.
- *What are the barriers to more equitable outcomes? (e.g., mandated, political, emotional, financial, programmatic or managerial)* To be determined through CCEC deliberations and analysis of recommended rule language.
- *How have you intentionally involved stakeholders who are also members of the communities affected?* To be determined through CCEC deliberations and analysis of recommended rule language.
- *How will you modify or enhance strategies and rules to ensure each learner and communities' individual and cultural needs are met?* To be determined through CCEC deliberations and analysis of recommended rule language.