Recommended Early Learning Components for 2012 Legislation

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Oregon Early Learning Council

Senate Bill 909 required the Early Learning Council to report back to the legislature through the Oregon Education Investment Board by December 15, 2011. The legislative bill request deadline is Dec. 5, 2011. This means that concepts included in this legislative request are not inclusive of all of the recommendations that will be in the final report; these are simply the existing recommendations most suited to legislative action in the 2012 legislative session. The broader charge of analysis and recommendations for system design over the coming years will be contained in the report in a more comprehensive format. The OEIB should also understand that these legislative submissions may change or be amended before February 2012 session as discussions occur with the Governor and legislators. The final bill submitted may contain additional items not contemplated at this time; likewise, some components could be removed by February 1, 2012.

Recommendations:

Oregon Commission on Children and Families

- Eliminate Oregon Commission on Children and Families (implement recommendations from OCCF)
- Transfer Healthy Start, Great Start, Relief Nurseries, Title XX funds utilized by OCCF and Home Visiting under the ELC, along with associated staffing positions.
- Streamline all of the existing youth councils and groups in state government (not limited to OCCF); merge JCPAC and JJAC (from OCCF, including Youth Investment funds) into one Youth Development Council with a charge around developing a continuum of programs and services that support academic success. This would orient programs around a prevention/development continuum that promotes educational goals to be overseen by the OEIB as the investor.

Childcare

- Implement Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System described in Oregon's RTT/ELCG proposal.
- Align the policies and outcomes of statewide subsidies, slots, and supports for helping children at risk access quality care and education services.
- Pursue the workforce development components of the RTT application.
- Pursue the outreach and marketing components of the RTT application.
- Eliminate the Oregon Commission on Childcare from statute. Transfer its key responsibilities to the Early Learning Council and direct the Council to organize a forum or structure for stakeholder engagement in policy development.

State Program Alignment

- Place Childcare Division (Employment Dept.), USDA Childcare Nutrition Program (Dept. of Education), Employment Related Daycare (DHS), Oregon Head Start/OPK (Department of Education), Even Start (Department of Education), under the ELC for policy direction, planning, alignment, and operational efficiencies toward a common outcome (Readiness for School). This is not a transfer of budget authority; it is not creating an agency. Other programs (i.e. WIC, EI/ECSE) will be studied further to determine system integration but remain on the ELC list of responsibilities for next phase (2013) system reshaping.
- Direct ELC to develop a financial model to construct a global budget proposal for consideration by the 2013 legislature; deliverable to OEIB by September 2012.
- Direct the ELC to inventory the existing performance of Family Resource Manager functions across systems (and include as part of RFP for HUBs) with a plan for alignment, accountability, and redeployment.
- Develop and align outcome measures across all state early childhood and early learning programs.
- Develop an interoperable data system for early childhood that aligns with healthcare and education. Consolidate and redeploy existing efforts.

Head Start Standards and Alignment

- Explicitly state in statute that Oregon shall comply and align with the Federal Head Start Act. This includes re-competition for OPK in a manner that aligns with new federal processes.
- Adopt Head Start Child Development Early Learning Framework for ages 3-5 across systems (from RTT).
- Align to K-12 Common Core State Standards (from RTT).
- Revise Birth to Three Standards to align with Head Start Child Development Early Learning Framework (from RTT).

County Commissions on Children and Families

- Remove all statutory requirements currently imposed on Counties related to County Commissions on Children and Families.

Administrative Hubs

- Direct the Issuance of an RFP for administrative hubs to serve children and begin using the family resource manager model; seed funding will be the System Development and Planning Funds currently in the Commission system ($10M biennium), and up to $7M in legislative Special Purpose Appropriation (if the money is after budget cutting). The goal is a more

coordinated, efficient administrative structure for deployment of funds and coordination of services toward a common outcome: preparing children for kindergarten. Administrative Hubs will allow for local customization of service structures and community engagement, building out and around the Family Resource Manager concept.

RFP should require:

- Broad based community oversight through an advisory or Governing Board with authority to call for audits, recommend contract changes, and report to the public and the ELC on outcomes. This can be a current body or a new one. Members of this body should include public officials currently serving or their designees; persons chosen through democratic selection procedures adequate to assure that they are representatives of the at-risk children and families in the area served; officials or members of business, industry, labor, religious, education or other major groups and interests in the community who are not paid employees, or who have other conflicts of interest, of the system over which they have oversight.

- Administrative hubs should strive to cover geographic areas which are representative of population and service delivery needs, rather than simply historical political boundaries. The state should not dictate regional configuration unless communities are unable to create configurations that cover all of Oregon's at risk children.

- Document collaboration with state and federal services including shared responsibility for specific child centered outcomes: Home visiting, Public Health, CCOs, Head Start/OPK, EI/ECSE, and Relief Nurseries. Include a plan for cost effective service integration and care coordination, including with healthcare.

- Document collaboration with non-Governmental programs and efforts in the community and commitment from partners to deliver outcomes within a system.

- Structure service alignment with K-12 service areas and healthcare.

- Achievement of specified market penetration, and a specified level of performance with the target population in exchange for state investment. Retention of hub status will depend on results achieved and compliance with requirements.

- Family Resource Manager– describe how this model of delivery will be deployed, aligned with other services, and the plan for training current workforce to perform these functions.

- Produce evidence of a track record of raising significant funds from private and philanthropic sources, demonstrated success with high-risk populations, and ability to innovate.

- 15% TOTAL admin rate.

System Evaluation and Accountability

- The ELC, Hubs, providers, and FRMs should be evaluated with a balanced score card along the following domains:
  - Community engagement
  - Child outcomes
  - Resourcefulness
  - Use of Evidence-based practices
- Report back on progress to interim committees on Education, Human Services, and appropriate Ways and Means Subcommittees.

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

- Set the date for statewide implementation of Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (October 2013) with pilot roll out in 2012 in 8-12 districts. Pilot districts will be selected by the Early Learning Council through an inclusive and voluntary process to ensure coverage of all demographics and reliability across the state.

Screening and Health

- Direct the ELC to work with OHA, DOE, and communities to select and implement voluntary screening tools in universal settings.
- Make ELC "home" for centralized state coordination of Home Visiting work.
- Require that readiness for school/Kindergarten be an outcome of the CCO system (this may belong in Health Transformation legislation).
- CCO adopt metrics to incentivize screening in health care settings (this may belong in Health Transformation legislation)

Jargon

- Change the name of Family Support Manager to Family Resource Manager.

Parent Education

- Include parent education and engagement in the charge for the ELC as a key component of early learning.

External System Alignment and Resource Leveraging

- Transfer statutory responsibility of the Children's Trust Fund to the Early Learning Council and direct the Council to organize a forum or structure for community engagement, parent education and child abuse prevention.