State Commission on Children and Families Transition Recommendations Presented to the Governor and Oregon Education Investment Board

November 4, 2011

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November 4, 2011

Governor Kitzhaber
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Governor Kitzhaber and members of the Senate Bill 909 Workgroup:

As you know, the State Commission on Children and Families was charged with the responsibility of making recommendations regarding the inferred transfer of the State Commission to the Oregon Education Investment Board by June 30, 2012. We have taken this charge seriously, with an in-depth look at all State Commission programs, initiatives and funding streams.

Our process involved the formation of four workgroups that worked thoughtfully and diligently to provide input on recommendations for merging, consolidating, and transferring programs, initiatives and funding streams. The membership was comprised of a wide variety of stakeholders from both inside and outside state government. Their consultation and dialogue with State Commission members has assisted us in making what we believe are comprehensive, well-developed recommendations for your consideration.

We would be remiss if we did not speak to the decades of excellent and vital work the Commission System has provided in communities across Oregon. We want to impress upon you the importance of not losing sight of what this system did best–engage and mobilize communities, often providing links to services which were not found elsewhere, particularly in the rural and frontier communities of Oregon.

The community mobilization, community capacity building, the development of local systems of support with pride and a true sense of commitment to evidence-based and best practices, the engagement of citizens to come together to address concerns in their communities, and the ability to leverage funds are all components of a statewide community-based prevention system. We strongly encourage you to preserve these components of prevention in the new systems currently under development.

We call the matter of community based, community driven prevention to your specific attention because so many stakeholders expressed concern about the potential loss of funding streams dedicated to this endeavor. We also call to your attention one other concern expressed by many, that of addressing the entire continuum of services across all ages, from prenatal to young adulthood, specifically for youth services and programs. You will find we have addressed this matter in these recommendations.

On behalf of the entire State Commission and dedicated state office staff, we thank you for the opportunity to submit these recommendations.

Respectfully,

R.E. Withnell
Chair, Oregon Commission on Children and Families

Jean Phelps
Vice Chair

cc: State Commission members
Iris Bell, Deputy Director, Interim Transition Director

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John Kitzhaber
Governor

State Commission on Children and Families Workgroups:
Summary of Recommendations
Presented to the Governor and Oregon Education Investment Board
November 4, 2011

Based on the inferred intent of the Senate Bill 909, the State Commission on Children and Families is slated to be transferred to the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) by June 30, 2012.

Governor Kitzhaber charged the State Commission on Children and Families with the task of making recommendations regarding the transfer of the agency to the OEIB, specifically addressing the transfer, merger, consolidation and elimination of Commission programs, initiatives and funding streams.

The State Commission formed four workgroups to provide input on those recommendations. Those workgroups were the Youth Services, Relief Nurseries, Healthy Start~Healthy Families and OCCF Merger-Transfer groups.

Given this charge, the State Commission makes the following recommendations:

Youth Services Workgroup

The Youth Services Workgroup reviewed opportunities for alignment and coordination of services for youth and agreed that consolidation of programs and funding for youth development and training needs additional time to be explored.

1) The State Commission recommends the formation of a Youth Development Council (YDC) under the Oregon Education Investment Board.

    - The **Youth Development Council** (YDC) will assess all existing programs and services in state government for youth prevention, development and training, resulting in a continuum of services for a youth population that is integrated, measurable, and accountable.
    - The **Youth Development Council** (YDC) would align and coordinate a statewide continuum of prevention and development services for youth ages 6 to 20 to ensure the attainment of the goals to be established by the Oregon Education Investment Board.

2) If the Youth Development Council (YDC) is formed, **we recommend moving the Juvenile Crime Prevention programs and funds to the YDC.**

3) Should a **Youth Development Council *not*** be formed by the OEIB, we recommend a tentative placement of the Juvenile Crime Prevention program and funds with the Criminal Justice Commission after June 30, 2012, until a more appropriate placement is identified.

4) Regardless of where they are transferred, **we recommend a merger of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Advisory Committee (JCPAC) and Juvenile Justice Advisory Committees (JJAC). (Statutory changes)**

Healthy Start~Healthy Families Workgroup

1) The State Commission recommends continuing the funding of the HS~HF Oregon model.

2) We recommend maintaining Healthy Families America (HFA) Multi-Site Accreditation for Oregon.

3) We recommend maintaining the minimum required functions for HS~HF Oregon HFA accreditation, with some possible functions to be shared across other early childhood programs.

4) We recommend reducing the number of programs and administration through consolidation while retaining statewide services, leading to a more cost-effective, administratively efficient system while also aligning with the proposed ELC structure.

5) We recommend continuing the use of the HS~HF data systems, integrating them with the ELC data system.

6) We recommend continuing the implementation of current five-year Federal Grants.

7) We recommend the OEIB adoption of the State Home Visiting System Framework.

8) We recommend changing the name from *Healthy Start* to *Healthy Families Oregon* (statutory change).

Relief Nurseries Workgroup

1) The State Commission recommends establishing Multiple Entry Points, including Relief Nurseries, to the early childhood system for families so they have direct access to Relief Nurseries and other voluntary services.

2) We recommend continuation of the work to secure Relief Nurseries as an evidenced based model, with additional research as needed.

3) We recommend continuing the leverage of state General Fund investment to maintain the current 25 percent cash match contributions required by Relief Nurseries.

4) We recommend creating a Relief Nursery coordination function within the Early Learning Program structure, to be shared across other early learning programs.

5) We recommend adopting the start-up process for new Relief Nurseries requiring the formal Replication Process which could be funded with designated public and/or private seed money.

6) We recommend that the ELC ensure data collection for Relief Nurseries.

7) We recommend maintaining the quality of Relief Nursery services, in alignment with ELC approach and outcomes.

OCCF Merger-Transfer Workgroup

Regarding the Safe and Equitable Foster Care Reduction/Casey Partnership:

1) The State Commission recommends that OCCF staff support for coordination of the Casey Partnership continue through the Casey Family Program's funding of the Community Engagement Coordinator. There are no general funds associated with this position.

2) When the OCCF office is eliminated, we recommend the transfer of the Community Engagement Coordinator to an entity which has a commitment to community involvement and engagement with partnerships and relationships statewide.

3) If the community convening/community engagement component of the partnership (the central role of both the OCCF and the Local Commissions involved) is jeopardized by the changing role or dissolution of the Commission System, we recommend organizations that have a statewide reach, a connection with Tribes, and that work in partnership with the Department of Human Services and Judicial Department.

    - Where the LCCF role is eliminated, we recommend utilizing existing Safe and Equitable Casey Partnership members, such as the Tribes or another private non-profit entity in the role of Conveners. In doing so, the essential community engagement component of the Casey work remains community-based and the remaining community partnerships stay intact.

Regarding Youth Investment – Title XX Social Services Block Grant Pass-through from the Department of Human Services:
The use of Title XX funding has been very flexible and is not defined in statute. Although there are administrative rules which have governed their use with the current population, Title XX funds are not restricted to any age group or purpose.

1) The State Commission recommends that these Title XX funds continue to be used to serve the non-adjudicated, chronically acting out youth population of 13-18 years of age, with considerations made for 11 to 12 year olds. The programs receiving this funding should be evidence-based, with measurable outcomes.

2) With the recommendation coming from the Youth Services Workgroup for the OEIB to form a Youth Development Council (YDC), we recommend sending all of the Title XX funding to the YDC.

Regarding Alignment and Continuity for Oregon's Prevent Child Abuse Chapter:
The State Commission recommends that after the sunsetting of the State Commission, the Early Learning Council replace the Commission as a partner with Children's Trust Fund of Oregon (CTFO) to allow for the alignment and continuity of the state's Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) Chapter.

Regarding Transition Continuity:

1) Finally, given the timing, planning and coordination necessary to develop, transform and sustain new learning and development models, the State Commission recommends maintaining necessary functions under the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) or new structure until such time that it is certain that the OEIB is fully operational to ensure the continuity of programs, initiatives and services.

State Commission on Children and Families
Transition Recommendations for Youth Development Services
Presented to the Governor and Oregon Education Investment Board
November 4, 2011

Overview:
Senate Bill 909 Section 6 (2) (f) calls for "…consolidating, aligning and coordinating governance, programs and funding for youth development and training, including the Oregon Youth Investment Foundation, juvenile crime prevention programs and services, the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps and the Youth Standing Committee of the Oregon Workforce Investment Board."

Transition recommendations have been prepared for the Governor's Office and Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) on the consolidation, alignment and coordination of programs and funding for youth development and training.

Background:
A Youth Services Workgroup was given the charge of making recommendations to the State Commission. The workgroup was to review all programs and funding for youth development and training named in SB 909 and was to identify several additional programs for youth in state government.

Outcomes:
The Youth Services Workgroup recognizes the need to maintain a statewide continuum of services for youth ages 6 to 20 to ensure the attainment of the goals established by the Governor and the Oregon Education Investment Board. All programs and funding for youth development and training reviewed by the workgroup contain academic achievement as a programmatic outcome.
These include:

- **Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP)** programs, which provide essential services for Oregon's high risk youth with an ultimate goal of reducing juvenile crime and preventing delinquency. The target population for JCP funds are youth who:
  - Have more than one of the following risk factors: antisocial behavior; poor family functioning or poor family support; school failure; substance abuse; and/or negative peer association; and
  - Are clearly demonstrating at-risk behaviors that have come to the attention of government or community agencies, schools or law enforcement and will lead to imminent or increased involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC) is part of the Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD). OYCC's Community Stewardship Corps are school-year based programs that are incorporated into alternative high schools.

Youth and Education Committee of Oregon Workforce Investment Board provides oversight to Workforce Investment ACT (WIA), a statewide year-round youth program focusing on attainment of basic skills, academic and occupational training and exposure to job market/employment, including tutoring and instruction leading to completion of secondary school.

Oregon National Guard Youth ChalleNGe (sic) **Program** is a statewide public alternative high school that serves failing students or dropouts. Youth ChalleNGe's educational purpose includes the opportunity to earn a high school diploma, GED or 8 Oregon certified high school credits and then re-enroll, with the goal of high school graduation.

Summary of Recommendations:

The Youth Services Workgroup reviewed opportunities for alignment and coordination of services for youth and agreed that consolidation of programs and funding for youth development and training needs additional time to be explored. The State Commission now makes the following recommendations:

Recommendations:

- **The State Commission recommends the formation of a Youth Development Council** (YDC) under the Oregon Education Investment Board.
    - The **Youth Development Council** (YDC) would assess all existing programs and services in state government for youth prevention, development and training, resulting in a continuum of services for a youth population that is integrated, measurable, and accountable.
    - The **Youth Development Council** (YDC) would align and coordinate a statewide continuum of prevention and development services for youth ages 6 to 20 to ensure the attainment of the goals to be established by the Oregon Education Investment Board.

- If the Youth Development Council (YDC) is formed, **we recommend moving the Juvenile Crime Prevention programs and funds to the YDC.**

- Should a **Youth Development Council *not*** be formed by the OEIB, we recommend a tentative placement of the Juvenile Crime Prevention program and funds with the Criminal Justice Commission after June 30, 2012, until a more appropriate placement is identified.

- Regardless of where they are transferred, **we recommend a merger of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Advisory Committee (JCPAC) and Juvenile Justice Advisory Committees (JJAC) (statutory changes required).**

State Commission on Children and Families
Transition Recommendations for Healthy Start ~ Healthy Families Oregon
Presented to the Governor and
Oregon Education Investment Board
November 4, 2011

Overview:
Healthy Start~Healthy Families (HS~HF) is Oregon's largest child abuse prevention program which utilizes evidence-based home visitation for service delivery. It is identified in the Early Childhood and Family Investment Transition Report as a program that affects statewide education outcomes but is delivered outside the traditional education setting.

Background:
HS~HF Oregon is fully accredited as a Multi-Site System by Healthy Families America (HFA) for following its evidence-based home visiting model that is shown to reduce child abuse and neglect, as well as impacting outcomes related to school readiness, child health, wellness and safety and family self- sufficiency. HS~HF Oregon is currently serving high-risk first-time parents with the HFA intensive home visiting model focusing on children ages 0 -3 which is a population often left out of early childhood services. HS~HF is most often the first "touch point" for new parents through extensive referral and screening relationships with community partners. Families determined to be at high risk for adverse childhood outcomes (through the use of a standardized research-based screening tool) are offered intensive home visiting services. HS~HF Oregon is a vital link in a network of integrated early childhood home visiting services.

HS~HF was created by the Oregon Legislature in 1993. It is a statewide program in Oregon's system of supports and services for high-risk families with young children in frontier/rural and urban communities. HS~HF offers consenting first-birth families screening and personalized referrals to community resources and services.

The infrastructure for the Multi-Site System is essential to maintain HFA multi-site accreditation. HS~HF Oregon would benefit from strengthened connections to other early childhood services including but not limited to: public education, Coordinated Care Organizations (medical home – physical, dental and mental health), public health and Relief Nurseries, resulting in increased coordination, shared training opportunities and shared administrative costs. Additional efforts are now underway, including state and local participation in the development of a Statewide Home Visiting System Framework across all early childhood home visiting programs and services. Healthy Start~Healthy Families has been involved in the development of this framework from the beginning and has seen impressive progress in cross-sector coordination. HS~HF Oregon could optimally serve all births. The program currently prioritizes high risk first-birth families and ensures the latest brain development and early learning research is incorporated into services.

Recommendations:

1. The State Commission recommends continuing the funding of the HS~HF Oregon model.

2. We recommend maintaining Healthy Families America (HFA) Multi-Site Accreditation for Oregon.
Roles and responsibilities for Healthy Families America Accredited Multi-Site Systems include:

- Retaining existing State Healthy Start~Healthy Families Advisory Committee
- Fulfilling requirements of HFA Multi-site Addendum by support of local programs through technical assistance, training, quality assurance, evaluation, and central administration to maintain HFA accreditation

- Providing on-site quality assurance and technical assistance site visits to every program at least annually
- Providing a minimum of two intensive role-specific trainings per year, delivered by nationally certified trainers
- Providing on-site training to all new program providers and new program managers in the philosophy, goals, program policies, and procedures of the new program and/or manager within 90 days
- Monitoring training for local staff to ensure adherence to HFA training standards annually
- Providing technical assistance based upon local program need, information gathered during site reviews, or through program evaluation reports
- Ensuring regular ongoing evaluation through a qualified outside evaluator, including annual reporting to maintain accreditation requirements
- Maintaining required statewide data systems, data safeguards and confidentiality
- Ensuring communication with all local programs regarding program implementation and delivery
- Working with Healthy Families America's national office in a variety of capacities, including serving on the Accreditation Panel, as Peer Reviewers for Accreditation, and as nationally trained/certified trainers

3. We recommend maintaining minimum required functions for HS~HF Oregon HFA accreditation*:

- Program Coordination
- Quality Assurance/Technical Assistance/Certified Training
- Statewide Quality Assurance and Evaluation
- Contracts, procurement and Medicaid Administrative Claiming administration
- IT/Networking/Web-based data system support

**These infrastructure functions should be shared across other early childhood programs.*

4. We recommend reducing the number of programs and administration through consolidation while retaining statewide services, leading to a more cost-effective system and aligning with the proposed ELC structure.

- Integrate program administration with the ELC structure.
- We recommend the ELC consider the following in its RFP process:
  - Implementation of performance-based contracting based on Family Service Units (FSUs) and performance indicator outcomes from 2009 Redesign process.
  - Consider the number of local service providers needed based on the demographics and geography
  - Opportunities for shared office space across early childhood programs
  - Existing relationships in place with early childhood providers
  - The HS~HF model will continue to be part of the home visiting system (see #7).
  - Align with Early Learning continuous quality improvement systems
  - Ensure curriculum supports ELC school readiness goals
  - Participate in shared professional development strategies and opportunities across the early childhood system of services

5. We recommend continuing the use of the HS~HF data systems and integrate them with the ELC data system.

- Utilize IT/Networking/Web-based data system infrastructure to maintain web-based data systems for HS~HF Oregon.

- We recommend maintaining and utilizing these data systems for data collection and case management used by local programs. Systems used by HS~HF Oregon programs are the Healthy Start Family Manager, Training Tracker, and Medicaid Online Time Tracker (MOTT). These systems provide necessary data for local program monitoring, statewide data reports, evaluation, Healthy Families America site visits, and accreditation.
- The current web-based data system is flexible enough to align with a proposed ELC data system.

6. We recommend continuing the implementation of current five-year Federal Grants:

- Random Clinical Trial (RCT) and Cost Benefit Analysis (October 2009)
  NPC Research was funded in partnership with OCCF for this clinical trial of the Healthy Families America model for home visiting as well as a cost benefit analysis of the intervention. RCTs are considered the gold standard of research.

- Oregon Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Grant (October 2010) - Oregon Health Authority/Office of Family Health was funded in partnership with State Commission on Children and Families and several other state partners for this home visiting grant. The grant funds state system development, as well as three local programs delivering Healthy Families America and two delivering Early Head Start home visiting services.

7. We recommend the OEIB adoption of the State Home Visiting System Framework.

Background: In some communities, universal screening services are conducted for several home visiting programs as well as other early childhood services and then triaged to the most appropriate program or service. This concept is currently being built upon by a statewide home visiting system framework design team to expand statewide and create a statewide home visiting entry process (intake/screening) that could be funded with federal Medicaid dollars.

The State Home Visiting (HV) System Framework was developed under the leadership of the State HV Steering Committee, with the input of more than 30 state and local representatives of the various HV programs in the state. The framework includes a set of guiding principles that lay the foundation for the system. The mission is to help pregnant women, children and families achieve optimal physical, mental, and social wellbeing through partnerships, prevention, and access to appropriate and cost-effective home visiting services and supports.

- Build a State Home Visiting coordination function within the Early Learning Council structure to ensure coordination across the home visiting network as well as coordination and linkage to other early childhood services. The purpose is to decrease duplication of services through increased coordination and reduction of agency level barriers to service delivery.

8. We recommend changing the name from *Healthy Start* to *Healthy Families Oregon* (statutory change).

- The initial recommendation came from the 2009 Redesign Process to provide clarity and branding of the Healthy Families America model.

State Commission on Children and Families
Transition Recommendations for Relief Nurseries
Presented to the Governor and
Oregon Education Investment Board
November 4, 2011

Overview
Relief Nurseries are identified in the Early Childhood and Family Investment Transition Report as a program that affects statewide education outcomes and is delivered outside the traditional education setting. These recommendations include the transition of Relief Nurseries to the Early Learning Council (ELC).

Background
Relief Nurseries are a comprehensive therapeutic family support program serving children under age six who are at high risk for abuse and/or neglect living in families with an average of 16 risk factors. These factors include: poverty, childhood history of abuse and neglect, single parent families, unemployment, drug and alcohol abuse, homelessness, domestic violence, mental health issues, and incarceration of a family member. These children live in multi-stressed home environments, requiring multiple services for the children and family. Children may present with significant developmental and mental health challenges, such as attachment disorders, delay in social/emotional growth and development, speech delays, hyper-vigilance, post-traumatic stress reactions, other developmental delays, and poor nutrition.

All Relief Nurseries have public-private partnerships, which include government funding and community donations. Each Relief Nursery is required to raise a minimum of a 25% cash match for its State General Fund allocation. All Relief Nurseries include the following components: therapeutic early childhood classrooms; parent education which includes monthly classes, support groups, parenting classes, home visiting; access to special education and mental health services; and flexibility to respond to individual community needs. Every Relief Nursery has a waiting list of children and families eager to participate in these successful programs.

The first Relief Nursery was developed in 1976 to address a child abuse and neglect case in Lane County. As of July 2011, there are 15 Relief Nurseries across Oregon in frontier, rural, and urban communities. Over the last three decades, Relief Nurseries have received national recognition[1].

Relief Nurseries across Oregon have built tremendous community partnerships and endeavor to increase collaboration with other early childhood serving agencies and programs including public education. Relief Nurseries are currently participating in the development of a Statewide Home Visiting System Framework across all early childhood home visiting programs and services.

Outcomes
Relief Nurseries improve lives, save money and contribute to school readiness.

- **Relief Nurseries keep children safe in their homes.** An independent evaluation found that 98.6% of Relief Nursery families remained free of abuse and neglect (2006-2010).
- **Relief Nurseries reduce the number of children in foster care.** Relief Nurseries reduce foster care placements and help children exit the foster care system twice as quickly as those not receiving services.
- **Relief Nurseries enhance early literacy and increase school readiness.** A recent evaluation found that enrolled parents reading to their children at least three times per week increased from 32% before enrollment to 52% after 6 months.

Relief Nurseries have a Replication process and Quality Assurance Standards. These outline how to develop new Relief Nurseries and how to maintain fidelity to the model.

Recommendations:

8) **The State Commission recommends establishing Multiple Entry Points, including Relief Nurseries, to the early childhood system for families so they have direct access to Relief Nurseries and other voluntary services.**
    - Most families self-refer to the Relief Nursery system. Relief Nurseries respond to crisis calls and/or visits from families as required by Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs). They respond immediately either on-site, in the home or in the community, with the immediate goal to ensure the safety of the children, provide support and problem solving for parents.
    - Ensure easy and voluntary access to services for the successful engagement of high-risk families. Relief Nursery Quality Assurance Standards require that families have flexible and direct access to Relief Nursery services.
    - Incorporate Relief Nurseries in the referral network for the redesigned early childhood system of services. Individual Relief Nurseries serve families in multiple elementary school catchment areas.

2) We recommend continuation of the work to secure Relief Nurseries as an evidenced based model, with additional research as needed.

3) We recommend continuing the leverage of state General Fund investment to maintain the current 25 percent cash match contributions required by Relief Nurseries.
    - Local fundraising by Relief Nurseries dramatically increases the number of children and families that can be served.
    - New contracts could be structured to take advantage of these powerful public-private partnerships that have been developed.

4) We recommend creating a Relief Nursery coordination function within the Early Learning Program structure.*
    - Support coordination across early childhood system of supports.
    - Oversee Relief Nursery services across Oregon.
    - Ensure fidelity to Quality Assurance Standards across the network.
    - Monitor quarterly budget and data reports for each Relief Nursery.
    - Ensure evaluation of the model through consistent data collection.
    - Include Relief Nurseries in the ELC's efforts to evaluate the most effective way to provide services and allocate funding to support high-risk young children and their families.

****This function should be shared across other early childhood programs.*

5) We recommend adopting the start-up process for new Relief Nurseries requiring the formal Replication Process which could be funded with designated public and/or private seed money.

6) We recommend that the ELC ensure data collection for Relief Nurseries.

- Utilize and enhance−as needed−existing web-based Relief Nursery data system to meet all data and reporting requirements to support ongoing evaluation and quality assurance of the model.
- Participate in the development and utilization of ELC data collection system for early childhood services.

7) We recommend maintaining the quality of Relief Nursery services* in alignment with ELC approach and outcomes, ensuring the following :

- Maintain a cohesive and consistent model across Oregon.
- Certify that new Relief Nurseries meet standards per OARs.
- Ensure ongoing fidelity to the Relief Nursery Quality Assurance Standards.
- Align with Early Learning continuous quality improvement systems.
- Ensure curriculum supports ELC school readiness goals.
- Participate in shared professional development strategies and opportunities across the early childhood system of services.
- Establish Performance-Based Outcomes in alignment with those set by the ELC.
- Maintain allocation and distribution approach for State General Funds to local Relief Nurseries, ensuring each Relief Nursery meets the cash match requirement of a minimum of 25% of State General Funds. (Since 1999, the Relief Nurseries have consistently raised at least twice as much as they receive from the state by leveraging other public and private revenue. As a network, Relief Nurseries are able to serve significantly more families with this approach.)

**This is currently done through the Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries, a 501(c)3.*

State Commission on Children and Families
Transition Recommendations for
OCCF Transfer/Merger/Consolidation/Elimination
Presented to Governor and Oregon Education Investment Board
November 4, 2011

Overview
Senate Bill 909 Section 6(d) has called for the merging of the State Board of Education and the State Board of Higher Education and transferring the duties of those boards and the State Commission on Children and Families to the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) by June 30, 2012.

The State Commission on Children and Families (SCCF) has developed transition recommendations for the Governor's Office and Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) on the transfer, merger, consolidation, or elimination of State Commission programs, initiatives and funding streams to the OEIB.

Background
A workgroup was given the charge of making recommendations to the State Commission. The workgroup has reviewed all programs, initiatives and funding streams of the Commission System. This resulted in the categorization of information into four (4) areas.

- First, there was the identification of programs, initiatives and funding streams targeted for the Early Learning Council (ELC).

- Next, there was the identification of programs that have been transferred to other agencies or that are slated to be transferred.

- Thirdly, there was identification of Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) Programs.

- Finally, there was the identification of remaining programs, initiatives and funding streams that did not fit into any of the categories identified above.

OCCF's programs, initiatives and funding streams identified for Early Learning Council:

- Healthy Start
- Relief Nurseries
- System Development and Planning Funds (state and local)
- OCCF State Staff Funds (central policy and commission staff)
- Community Schools
- Children, Youth and Families
- Great Start
- Family Preservation and Support

OCCF's programs and initiatives identified for transfer:

- Child Care and Development Block Grant. No longer in OCCF budget; transferred to DHS
- Runaway and Homeless Youth Initiative; transferred to DHS.
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA); to be determined by Legislative Taskforce

OCCF's Juvenile Crime Prevention identified as Youth Development and Training:

- Juvenile Crime Prevention Advisory Committee (JCPAC)
- Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC)

OCCF's other initiatives and funding streams:

- Safe and Equitable Foster Care Reduction/Casey Family Partnership
- Youth Investment Title XX; pass-through from DHS.

This is the entire complement of Commission System programs, initiatives and funding streams. Workgroups have been formed to make recommendations on the transition of Healthy Start~Healthy Families Oregon, Relief Nurseries, Juvenile Crime Prevention, and the one remaining initiative (the Safe and Equitable Foster Care Reduction/Casey Family Partnership) and one remaining funding stream (Youth Investment).

These are the State Commission recommendations on the Safe and Equitable Foster Care Reduction/Casey Family Partnership and the Youth Investment funding stream, Title XX.

The Safe and Equitable Foster Care Reduction/Casey Family Partnership: Title IV-E and General Funds pass through from the Department of Human Services.

On October 1, 2008, the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) and the State Commission on Children and Families (OCCF) entered into a partnership with Casey Family Programs (CFP) to safely reduce the number of children in Oregon's foster care system. The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) entered into the partnership shortly after. The leadership of the three principal agencies has been committed to the safe reduction of the State of Oregon's reliance on foster care. Toward this end, the principals have agreed to work together to achieve Oregon's Safe and Equitable Foster Care Reduction Goals.

Outcomes

The work of the partnership and counties and Oregon Tribes has helped the state make improvements in several areas. A comparison of statewide data from Federal Fiscal Year 2007 to 2010 shows:

- The number of children spending time in foster care declined by nearly 12 percent, from 15,060 to 13,275.
- The percentage of children who were re-abused declined from 7.5 percent to 4.2 percent.
- The number of children abused in foster care declined by nearly 55 percent.
- Of children leaving foster care, 9.2 percent returned to care in 2007 compared with 7.8 percent in 2010.
- The percentage of children immediately placed with relatives has grown consistently since 2007 and reached its highest level in a decade in 2010, when more than 25 percent of children were placed with family members compared with about 12 percent in 2007.

All partners have roles and responsibilities in serving children and families required by law and rule, which serve as the foundation for defining the role and responsibility of each partner.

Primary roles and responsibilities of Oregon Commission on Children and Families (OCCF) and the 11 Local Commissions involved in this initiative:

1. Supports local Commissions' work to engage communities in local planning efforts to safely and equitably reduce foster care.

2. Provides staff support for overall coordination of the Casey Project.

3. Supports the efforts of the LCCFs in convening and mobilizing communities around specific foster care reduction strategies and improved outcomes for kids.

4. Supports the LCCFs in serving as conveners or support persons for each of the Casey Project county planning teams.

5. In partnership with DHS, OJD, and LCCFs, develops county-level plans.

6. Mobilizes community support for the Partnership Agreement and other CAF/OCCF/OJD initiatives.

7. Provide information for quarterly updates as required in the Casey Partnership agreement.

We have discussed the potential Commission System transition with Casey Family Program's Project Manager who oversees Strategic Consulting, and the Senior Director of Strategic Consulting. Both of them agreed that the community engagement component of the partnership needs to be maintained.

Recommendations:

- The State Commission recommends that OCCF staff support for coordination of the Casey Partnership continue through the Casey Family Program's funding of the Community Engagement Coordinator. There are no general funds associated with this position.

- When the OCCF office is eliminated, we recommend the transfer of the Community Engagement Coordinator to an entity which has a commitment to community involvement and engagement with partnerships and relationships statewide.

- If the community convening/community engagement component of the partnership (the central role of both the OCCF and the Local Commissions involved) is jeopardized by the changing role or dissolution of the Commission System, we recommend organizations that have a statewide reach, a connection with Tribes, and that work in partnership with the Department of Human Services and Judicial Department.

    - Where the LCCF role is eliminated, we recommend utilizing existing Safe and Equitable Casey Partnership members, such as the Tribes or another private non-profit entity in the role of Conveners. In doing so, the essential community engagement component of the Casey work remains community-based and the remaining community partnerships stay intact.

Youth Investment – Title XX Social Services Block Grant Pass-through from the Department of Human Services

Background
OCCF Youth Investment funds have been defined for use as federal funded community prevention and intervention services grant funds that target at-risk, non-delinquent youth.

The youth are defined as chronically acting out and/or victims of neglect. Services for these youth have included positive self-concept, family support services, family crisis intervention, shelter care and community centers for the care and treatment of youth. The age range for this youth population has been 13 to 18 year old youth, and 11-12 year olds where appropriate.

Purpose
The use of Title XX funding has been very flexible and is not defined in statute. Although there are administrative rules which have governed their use with the current population, Title XX funds are not restricted to any age group or purpose.

Recommendations:

- The State Commission recommends that these Title XX funds continue to be used to serve the non-adjudicated, chronically acting out youth population of 13-18 years of age, with considerations made for 11 to 12 year olds. The programs receiving this funding should be evidence-based, with measureable outcomes.

- With the recommendation coming from the Youth Services Workgroup for the OEIB to form a Youth Development Council (YDC), we recommend sending all of the Title XX funding to the YDC.

Transition Continuity

- Finally, given the timing, planning and coordination necessary to develop, transform and sustain new learning and development models, the State Commission recommends maintaining necessary functions under the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) or new structure until such time that it is certain that the OEIB is fully operational to ensure the continuity of programs, initiatives and services.

State Commission Recommendation to Governor and Oregon Education Investment Board

Alignment and Continuity Recommendation for Prevent Child Abuse Chapter in Oregon

November 4, 2011

The State Commission recommends that after the sunsetting of the State Commission, the Early Learning Council replace the Commission as a partner with Children's Trust Fund of Oregon (CTFO) to allow for the alignment and continuity of the state's Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) Chapter.

Background:
The PCA Oregon chapter was formed on August 14, 2008, with a signed agreement between CTFO and the Commission to join forces to assure a strong foundation for a chapter in Oregon.
A joint advisory board, roles, common goals, a single brand identity* and a statement of partnership now exist between the State Commission and CTFO. The Guiding Principles of the Agreement center on the joint commitment to implement prevention strategies statewide. The Commission and CTFO facilitate the development of the statewide PCA effort in Oregon.

The original intent and the four goals established by the partnership identify **prevention** as the primary focus. The Commission's Healthy Start~Healthy Families and Relief Nursery programs were recognized for the significant role these two programs provide in the prevention arena. More recently, the role of the Statewide Home Visiting Framework has been recognized as a significant initiative addressing **prevention** with statewide reach.

Given the fact that legislation infers the State Commission will sunset, and the fact that Healthy Start~Healthy Families Oregon, Relief Nurseries, and the Home Visiting Framework are slated to transfer to the Early Learning Council, we recommend that the Early Learning Council (ELC) replace the State Commission in this partnership. We recommend the ELC enter into an agreement with CTFO to maintain the partnership and **statewide focus on child abuse prevention**. This would maintain the momentum and continuity already underway. This would also ensure that the mission of PCA–to create and advocate for statewide policies regarding child abuse prevention–is assured. We further suggest that a member of the ELC sit on the CTFO and/or the PCA Oregon Chapter Boards.

*PCA stationary and other logos on publicity materials note that Prevent Child Abuse Oregon is a collaborative initiative of the Children's Trust Fund of Oregon and the Oregon Commission on Children and Families. Both agency logos appear on PCA stationary.