

Issues Discussed in House Early Childhood and Family Supports Committee

For: House Early Childhood and Family Support Committee

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This document gives a general outline of issues discussed during and following informational hearings in the House Early Childhood and Family Supports Committee from February 2, 2017 to February 23, 2017. This is a working document that was prepared for the purposes of discussion on March 2 and March 7, 2017 and has not been adopted or officially endorsed by the Committee. Please refer to www.oregonlegislature.gov to find recorded content, meeting materials, and a recording log, which provides a complete, accurate, historical record.

Early Learning Division and Council

- Portion of budget for administration, roles and number of full-time employees
- Impact of new federal regulations
- Consistent application of Pre-Kindergarten across school districts

Home Visiting Programs

- Provision of culturally-specific programs and trauma-informed care
- Differences between Healthy Families under Early Learning Division and home visiting programs under Oregon Health Authority
- Access to dental services
- Measuring outcomes
- Significance of parent engagement
- Data systems: tracking and sharing

Early Learning Hubs

- Meeting performance outcomes
- Geographic distribution of services across rural and urban areas
- Partnerships with Coordinated Care Organizations
- Composition of Boards
- Addressing housing needs
- Data systems: tracking and sharing

Preschool Promise, Head Start, Oregon Prekindergarten

- Comparison of programs features, such as teacher degrees and competencies, program costs, teacher pay, program eligibility and performance measurements
- Child-to-teacher ratios and teacher salaries as cost drivers -Waitlists and unserved children and families
- Preschool Promise: measuring performance and start-up challenges

Early Learning Workforce and Child Care Subsidies for Families

- High cost of child care and cost burden on parents
- Tax credit utilization
- Relationship between low wages of providers, turnover and family stability
- Pathways to early learning workforce and degrees needed
- Portability of background checks for child care workforce
- Qualifications to receive child care subsidies and the “cliff”
- Equity in child care services

Relief Nurseries

- Funding questions around geography and location
- Agency responsible for relief nurseries
- Unserved children and families
- Data systems: tracking and sharing

K-12 Connections

- Evaluating high quality learning environments
- Differences across school districts with Pre-K
- Equity and access to preschool

Early Intervention in Special Education

- Funding has not kept pace with costs
- Services are below recommended levels
- Need improved screening and referral