

**OCF ELC**  
**APS/Child Care Sub-committee**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**May 2, 2006**

**Present:** Rose Handon, Tracy Bope, Eileen Dray-Bardon, Arnell Hurt, Rick Smith, Martha Arter, Kathy Oliver, Shelly Boyd, Leslie McGee, Michelle Albast, Kurtis Wingo, Terrie Hare, Mona Reilly, Bob Pourmoghadam, Patricia Sutton and James Lacks.

**Welcome and Introductions:** Rick Smith welcomed the group and introductions were made. During this time, it was recommended that the March 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting Notes on Page 3 reflect a change from “In vision...” to “Envision...” and on Page 4 from “The final report is due September 2006.” to “The final report is due May 12, 2006.”, respectively.

It was further recommended that the meeting notes be drafted, reviewed, distributed to all CDJFS Directors and placed on the OCF (Office for Children and Families) web page by ten business days of the meeting date. This timeline will be inclusive of a five business day review period by the APS/Child Care ELC Sub-committee members.

**HB563 (Law Revisions Governing Adult Protective Services) – Rose Handon**

HB563, proposed legislation, is intended to govern Ohio’s Adult Protective Services. This bill presents as non-controversial and has bi-partisan sponsorship as initiated by Representative Hoops. The focus of the legislation is to provide clarity and consistency in the Ohio Revised Code. Please click on the following URL for HB563, As Introduced: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=126\\_HB\\_563](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=126_HB_563)

Rick proposed that ELC committee members review the bill, and to share with one’s internal and/or external constituent groups. Feedback on the bill was encouraged for the sponsor’s legislative aide, Adam Hire at 614-466-3760. OCF/APS staff has also reviewed the bill and provided comments to Deputy Director, Rick Smith for the Elder Abuse Task Force Committee.

Rick shared that this bill is silent on funding. As a result, he asked the committee to determine the fiscal impact of this legislation on the 88 CDJFS. He also suggested that we look at total cost, on what APS fiscal service direct and indirect cost means for each county. The discussion from the group advised Rick that APS services in Ohio lacks funding and staffing resources. This is due in part to shrinking Title XX dollars and the challenges for communities to be successful in the passage of local levies. Another reality that the community faces relates to limited APS funding and the need to stretch or compromise services based upon limited staffing resources. Some communities have been very fortunate in regards to their delivery of APS services. Yet, some have shared duties between the APS and child welfare worker on the management of referrals. Some have found that they even have to manage the number of referrals that are accepted for investigation.

Rick proposed that the Office of Fiscal Services (OFS) draft a budget cost projection by county to highlight the implications on the county staff resources and the fiscal impact of

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this legislation. OCF will collaborate with OFS to arrive at a budget projection and a template before the next APS/Child Care ELC Meeting scheduled for June 6, 2006.

**APS Data Update – Shelly Boyd**

Since the last APS/Child Care Sub-committee meeting, three more CDJFS were trained on the new APS Data Reporting tool. As of this meeting, all 88 CDJFS staff has been trained. The committee was given a handout to show referral trends for this past quarter. The report is categorized by county and shows an accumulative tracking of data with Adult Protective Services referrals by Allegation Report Incident Count, and Incidents Completed, which denotes completion of investigation.

**ELI Update – Terrie Hare**

There were 8,339 out of the goal of 10,000 ELI authorizations as of COB April 21, 2006. OCF in collaboration with ODE with the 2007 allocation process. ODE has entered into a contractual agreement with both a marketing and research firm An Early Learning Initiative Committee Members list dated March 29, 2006 was shared as a handout with the committee members. Any ELI concerns of the APS/Child Care Committee can be shared with this group. Their next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 2006. NOTE: This meeting has been postponed – new date to be determined.

An ELI program eligibility case scenario was presented as a topic of discussion to garner input from the committee members. The case scenario involves a mother who is on FMLA and whether continued eligibility for ELI is good public policy. The consensus of the group was they were not opposed to the policy but have many concerns regarding the logistics and the challenges that the local partners will have in managing the ELI case scenario. It was agreed that discussion regarding this issue will be tabled until further research with the OFS and Office of Family Stability (TANF) has occurred.

**Child Care Market Rate Survey Process – Michelle Albast**

OSU will be finalizing the Market Rate survey and preparing an analysis. July 1, 2006 will be the effective date of the new reimbursement rates to child care providers based on the analysis of the 2006 survey. Over 3,500 responses were received. At this point in time, OCF is unsure about the rate percentile. They will be doing a further analysis and then submit their findings to the Office of Fiscal Services to decide what ODJFS can support. Next steps are to emergency rule file the rules relating to the reimbursement rates, forward them to the Office of Legal Services and the Governor's Office, and on June 2, 2006 distribute a MTL to the 88 CDJFS for a July 1, 2006 implementation date.

After the Market Rate project and policy implementation timeline was shared and the announcement that the policy would be emergency rule filed, the following concerns

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were expressed by Tracy Bope of Fairfield CDJFS. Michelle Albast, Section Chief for Child Care Policy and Legislation drafted the following responses to address her concerns. Michelle will also inform her staff to include such instruction within the MTL when it is distributed for departmental Clearance:

*Will counties need to inform all providers that the new rates have been implemented?*  
No, county staff are not required to disseminate new rates. This is public policy and providers are informed otherwise.

*Can the county use the information they have in their provider contracts on the providers' current rates to review whether amendments are necessary to accommodate higher rates that the county might now be able to reimburse?*  
Yes, counties can review existing rate information; when contracts are negotiated the provider would be expected to provide their most current rates for the county to examine and measure against maximum rates issued in policy.

*Can contract amendments occur?*  
If providers are aware of the new rates and request a review of their contracted amount, the county should accommodate this request. Administration of contracts is a county responsibility.

*Can a county choose to notify all providers and ask all for new rates for comparison to new reimbursement maximums?*  
Administration of contracts is a county responsibility. Although it isn't a recommended method of approach, a county could choose to manage the process this way.

The implementation timeline is on a very fast track, so it was recommended that it be distributed as a global e-mail from OCF Deputy Director Rick Smith to all 88 CDJFS, as well as published in Association's newsletters.

**Child Care OAC Rule Update – Michelle Albast**

Staff is reviewing the child care eligibility OAC chapter rules (Chapter 16). These rules must be filed by 9/30/06. Bureau staff began reviewing rules as phase one. Some county staff has already been invited to participate in a pre-clearance review. Other county staff is welcome to participate either via e-mail correspondence or by attending one of following two dates that have been set aside in June. The meetings will be held at the Office for Children and Families, 255 East Main Street, Columbus, Ohio on:

- **Thursday, June 15 - 12:30 to 3:30, 3rd Floor Conference Room**
- **Tuesday, June 20 - 12:30 to 3:30, 3rd Floor Large Conference Room**

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Bureau staff will take comments into consideration when preparing the rule revisions which will be placed into official Clearance in late June. It is anticipated that these rule changes will have an effective date of January 1, 2007. If you have further questions or comments feel free to contact Stephanie Shafer at [shafes02@odjfs.state.oh.us](mailto:shafes02@odjfs.state.oh.us)

Bureau and MIS staff discovered that Type A licenses had inappropriate information printed on them that could cause confusion for providers and families. A project plan for revisions to the license face has been developed for a speedy resolution and incorporates long term action steps for a more thorough review of this situation

**School Readiness Solutions Group- Terri Hare**

The School Readiness Solutions Group has submitted their Big Ideas for review and comment. There are 13 “big ideas” that are currently on the table for comment and the group is asking for input from stakeholders.

Many positive recommendations have been emerged, however, some concerns are as follows: 1) Is it feasible for all Center teachers to be required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood; 2) It is unclear about the professional development requirements for family child care; 3) The quality rating system recommendations are not supported based on current research; 4) Services for all children from birth to five is a challenge; and, 5) Potential cost of recommendations is unknown. One to two sub-committee meetings is left before the final recommendations will be drafted and submitted to the larger committee. Although the comment period is closed, comments are still being accepted. Troy McAllister of Guernsey CDJFS is the CDJFS representative.

A handout titled “Thinking About a Few “Big Ideas” On-Line News dated April 9, 2006 was shared with the committee members. More information about School Readiness and “Big Ideas” news can be accessed by clicking on the following URL:  
[www.schoolreadiness.ohio.gov](http://www.schoolreadiness.ohio.gov)

**Child Care MIS IFP – Martha Arter**

Works continues with OIT to have the release of the Information for Proposal (IFP). Plans are to finalize the IFP during the week of May 8<sup>th</sup> with the vendor being onboard by July 2006. Additional plans are for the ELC to work with the vendor to identify ten CDJFS that will participate in the research study.

Jennifer Smith of Clark CDJFS has been recommended as the local child care policy person to be on the Statewide Leadership Committee. The committee meets every Thursday from 9:30 am until 11:30 am.

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**Next Month's Agenda Items**

- HB563, (Law Revisions Governing Adult Protective Services) Fiscal Analysis for the 88 CDJFS;
- ELI Eligibility Expansion Case Scenarios.

**Next Meeting**

**Tuesday, June 6, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**  
**Office for Children and Families,**  
**255 East Main Street,**  
**3rd floor Video Conference Room.**

Meeting Adjourned.