

Mission

To promote an effective exchange of information between Family Child Care and other Childhood Care and Education System partners in order to enhance the quality of care for the children in Oregon.



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If you had a magic wand and could change anything about child care, what would you change?

This will be the question of the day at the Family Child Care Leadership Training in Bend on August 19th. All registered and certified family child care providers are invited. We are very interested in what you would use your magic wand to change.

On Friday night August 18th in the evening we will have an informal gathering with all providers to up date everyone on the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) conference. The discussion topic will be current information regarding strengthening associations. We can't wait to share that with you!

Saturday, August 19th we will start with a panel of family child care advocates for you to meet and talk with. There will also be morning and afternoon workshops in professional development with certificates that meet the Oregon Registry requirements, and lunch is on us.

The Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children (OAEYC) has agreed to sponsor our training so that you can apply for the John and Betty Gray scholarship and attend the training for free. (Please see the flyer in this newsletter for more info.) * Reminder, OAEYC conference is October 13th & 14th. For more information please call 1-800-452-3610 or check it out online www.oregonaeyc.org.

We have put this together with you in mind. The Riverhouse is waiting to cater to your every need. Please join us in beautiful Bend, Oregon for this fun, relaxing, informative summer training together with providers from all over Oregon.

Please get your registration forms in ASAP. Call me with any questions. Thank you!

Looking forward to meeting you in person!

Jeannie Suihkonen
OFCCN -Chairperson



OFCCN Leadership and Contacts

Chairperson:
Jeannie Suihkonen (503) 378-1596
jeanies8@hotmail.com

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ofccn1@gmail.com

Treasurer:
Lyn Mellon

Vice Chairperson:
Cheryl Reece

Board Members:
Becky Groves
Marian McDonald
Sabrina Anderson

Oregon Family Child Care Network:
E-mail us at:
ofccn1@gmail.com

Or visit our website at:
www.oregonfamilychildcarenetwork.org

A great big thank you goes out to:

Ann Forstie of Redleaf National Institute, for Providing us with the great information written by Tom Copeland.
Laura Weiss OEC
JaNell for providing us with the article written by Faye Zepeda
..... CCPT
Kathy Seubert OMH&AS
Noemi Garcia OCCR&RN

... without you this newsletter would not have been possible!

If anybody would like to have an article printed in the next newsletter, either watch for the email request from Jeannie Suihkonen or send them directly to ofccn1@gmail.com, and we'll see what we can do for you!

The Business Side of Kith and Kin

By Tom Copeland, Director, Redleaf National Institute



Tom Copeland

Those who get paid for caring for children in their home are running a business. It doesn't matter if it's called Kith and Kin, Exempt Care, Legally Unlicensed Care, or Family, Friends and Neighbor Care. It doesn't matter if the person is only caring for relatives or for one child of a friend. It doesn't matter if the amount of money paid for child care is less than \$100 a year. If money is exchanged for the care of children in the home of the caregiver, then the caregiver must face a variety of business responsibilities.

Kith and Kin caregivers are often unaware of their business responsibilities when they decide to care for children. This lack of understanding can create problems of federal and state taxes, exposure to the loss of homeowner's insurance, greater risks of liability lawsuits, and conflicts with parents over payment.

Taxes

Anyone who earns money caring for children in their home is responsible for reporting this income to the IRS and to their state (in most cases). Caregivers can also deduct business expenses, which will reduce their taxes on this income. If a caregiver is in compliance with her state regulations, she can deduct the same expenses for her business as a licensed caregiver. In other words, if state regulations say that a person is exempt from these regulations if she cares for children from one unrelated family, then this person can deduct the exact same business expenses as a fully state licensed provider. If a state has a system for certifying or registering Kith and Kin caregivers and a person complies with these rules, then the caregiver may deduct all business expenses, which include food, toys, supplies, car mileage, furniture depreciation, and house-related expenses such as utilities, property tax, house rent, house insurance, mortgage interest, house repairs, and house depreciation.

Kith and Kin caregivers who take advantage of claiming all of these business deductions on their tax return may discover that they have more deductions than their income. In this situation caregivers should not show business losses year after year because the IRS will not allow it. Showing a very small profit each year is acceptable. Some caregivers (grandmothers, for example) may earn little other money besides child care fees, and as a result they may owe little, if any, federal or state income taxes. However, caregivers who show a

profit of above \$400 will always owe Social Security taxes.

Some Kith and Kin caregivers may also be eligible for other federal and state programs that assist low-income families (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Food Stamps, General Assistance, Supplemental Security Income, and more). The income eligibility for these programs is based on a caregiver's "net income," not their "gross income." "Net income" is defined as business income minus business expenses. As a result, of the many deductions Kith and Kin caregivers can claim, their "net income" is probably very low and it is unlikely that their eligibility for these benefits will be affected.

Insurance

Caregivers who bring children into their home expose themselves to greater risks of injury to children, lawsuits, and property damage. Virtually any injury to a child will be the responsibility of the caregiver. Licensed providers can protect themselves by purchasing business liability insurance, but Kith and Kin caregivers generally cannot get such

insurance if they do not meet the highest regulation standards of their state (illegal providers will never be eligible for liability insurance). Many assume that their relatives and/or friends will not sue them if their child is injured. This can lead to tragic consequences.

In addition, although some homeowner's policies will cover the home and the contents of the home if the provider cares for fewer than six children, some policies don't provide coverage if the homeowner cares for even one child. In one state a provider's roof suffered hail damage and a contractor was fixing it when he noticed a sign in the window that said "Day Care." The contractor told the insurance company that there was a day care business in the home, and the company refused to fix the damage because the homeowner's insurance policy did not cover day care. Most Kith and Kin caregivers have no idea that they may lose their homeowner's insurance coverage by caring for just one child.

There is a similar problem with car insurance if a Kith and Kin caregiver is using it on a regular basis to transport children or for other business purposes. Most car insurance policies do not cover providers who use their vehicle on a regular basis in their business or will charge high commercial insurance rates.

"Kith and Kin caregivers are often unaware of their business responsibilities..."

Article provided by:
Ann Forstie
Redleaf National
Institute

www.redleafinstitute.org



Contracts

Even though a Kith and Kin caregiver may believe there is no need to prepare a written agreement with the parent describing the basic responsibilities of parent payment and caregiver work hours, the lack of such an agreement can create problems. Failure by the state to pay for care on behalf of a low-income parent may leave the caregiver in the lurch unless they have a written contract that states that it is ultimately the parent's responsibility to pay for the care. A clear but simple contract can eliminate confusion and make it easier for the caregiver to enforce their agreement.

Business responsibilities are probably the last thing that Kith and Kin caregivers think about when they start caring for children. But these

responsibilities won't go away, and ignoring them can have significant financial consequences. Caregivers should take advantage of the tax deductions when filing their business tax forms (Schedule C and Form 8829). Caregivers should talk to their homeowner's and car insurance agents about the impact of caring for even one child on their policies, and they should use a contract with parents.

For more information, see the booklet "Caring for Children in Your Home: A Business Guide for Legal Unlicensed Providers" (www.redleafinstitute.org). This booklet includes a sample one page contract that can be used with parents. For questions, contact Redleaf National Institute at 651-641-6675 or rni@redleafinstitute.org.

Are you Eco-Healthy?

Providing a safe environment for kids is a high priority for child care providers. Today, however, safety means more than just safety locks on kitchen cabinets.

Every day, new information tells us that environmental hazards like chemicals in cleaning products and weed killers are too risky for children. Children are simply more sensitive to environmental toxins than adults, so maintaining environmentally-healthy settings is particularly important.

Now there's help for child care providers who want to make environmentally healthy choices. Eco-Healthy Childcare is a program of the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC). It is a free, voluntary recognition program available to all childcare providers in the state. The goal of the program is to improve the environmental health of child care facilities.

Being Eco-Healthy has several benefits for both children and the providers themselves. Providers have said that the program offers them support when educating staff about the importance of eco-healthy choices. One qualified provider said that it seems to be a "plus" to the parents to know their children are being cared for in the best and safest way possible."

Child care providers qualify as Eco-Healthy if they can check 20 of 25 items on a checklist of eco-healthy best practices such as avoiding pesticide use, mercury thermometers, air fresheners and other potential environmental health hazards.

Qualifying facilities receive a sticker and poster that demonstrate their commitment to being Eco-Healthy.

From Albany to Warrenton, nearly 80 childcare providers have already qualified as Eco-Healthy. These facilities are listed on OEC's website – www.oeconline.org. Over 400 childcare providers have shown an interest in the program. OEC hopes to have 300 providers qualified in the next 2 years.

The program was awarded a U.S Environmental Protection Agency Children's Environmental Health Excellence Award this spring.

Childcare providers or parents interested in learning more about Eco-Healthy Childcare can visit OEC's website at www.oeconline.org and click on "Kids' Health" or call 503-222-1963, ext. 111.

Article by:
Laura Weiss
OEC



Article by:
Faye Zepeda
CCPT

Child Care Providers Together

oregonafscme.com



Registered and certified family child care providers are now represented by a union, Child Care Providers Together (CCPT) – AFSCME. A team of twenty family child care providers and three union staff have been working with the Child Care Division's and the Department of Human Service's Administrators, managers and staff since January 2006 through a "Meet and Confer" process. Meetings are to address the issues that were identified by family child care providers from around the state. The process is expected to be completed at our next meeting to be held August 12th. After the August meeting you will receive a copy of the final agreement between the CCPT and the state agencies. At this point the union and the state agencies have agreed on many issues including a Family Child Care Provider Bill of Rights, a substantial increase to the DHS subsidy rates for registered and certified providers statewide, and the right to have representation during complaint investigations.

In addition, CCPT has been working with the State of Oregon to identify different ways for registered and certified family child care providers to access health insurance. You should have recently received a "Health Insurance Survey". Please complete the survey and return it to CCPT/AFSCME. If you have not returned the survey yet, please make sure you return it as soon as possible. This survey is a critical step in our work to obtain health insurance for providers.

CCPT is preparing for discussions with the USDA Food Program and the Department of Education. It would be very helpful for us to hear from you about the experiences you are having with these agencies.

To stay up to date with what is happening in your union, visit our website www.oregonafscme.com and click on CCPT. Please contact either Faye Zepeda (800-521-5954, 503-370-2522, cell 503-949-5439 faye@zepedalearning.org) or JaNell Welker (800-792-0045, 503-239-9858 ext. 137, janell@oregonafscme.com).

Early Childhood Leadership Directions (ECLD)

Article by:
Kathy Seubert
Office of Mental
Health & Addiction
Services

Announcing a New Opportunity for Early Childhood Professionals!

Early Childhood Leadership Directions (ECLD) announces a statewide professional development opportunity for health, mental health, human service, and education professionals to strengthen their leadership capacity to improve child and family mental health in rural communities in Oregon!

Using a model previously developed and validated under a United States Department of Education grant and now supported by a grant from the Northwest Health Foundation, ECLD will facilitate Pathways to Excellence, a year long immersion program that includes three 4 day leadership development retreats, community applications, and ongoing mentoring. ECLD is housed in the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences at Oregon State University and facilitated by two nationally recognized early childhood leaders, Sharon Rosenkoetter and Diane Turner.

Pathways to Excellence begins with personal and interpersonal leadership qualities and skills, then progresses to build skills to lead high performing teams and sustainable organizations, and then to foster skills required to mentor others, advocate for change, and lead collaborative community, state, and national initiatives.

In 2006-7, Pathways to Excellence will be held at Silver Falls State Park:

Pathway #1:

Packing Our Backpacks. October 2-5, 2006

Pathway #2:

Building Our Trails. January 23-26, 2007

Pathway #3:

Breaking New Trails. April 30- May 3, 2007

Participants will be selected from interdisciplinary fields in agencies in rural communities that guide early childhood and family programs to improve health and mental health outcomes including mental health services, human services, health clinics, child care, Head Start, early childhood intervention, special education programs, and private providers such as family counselors and child psychologists. Preference will be given to interdisciplinary community teams of 4-5 members, but individual applications will also be considered. ECLD seeks especially to recruit individuals from under-represented groups, including individuals from culturally diverse backgrounds, persons with disabilities, and parents of children with special needs. Individuals selected to participate must commit to attend all three Pathways. Slots for participation are limited. Program costs are minimal. Applications will be available soon. For more information, contact Diane Turner at: diane.turner@oregonstate.edu.



Oregon Child Care Resource & Referral Network Directory

Information by:
Noemi Garcia
(Mimi)
OCCR&RN

SDA #1- Caring Options Program of CAT, Inc. Counties

Served: *Columbia, Clatsop, and Tillamook*
Suzie Whalen, Director, 503-842-3267
Email: caringoptions@oregoncoast.com
Hours: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Mon.-Fri., Tillamook County
Clatsop Caring Options- Astoria, OR
TOLL FREE REFERRAL LINE: 1-866-504-CARE
Hours: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Friday
Columbia Caring Options- St. Helens, OR
Barbara Brown, 503-366-6542, 1-800-404-3511 x277
Hours: 8:00 am – 12:00 pm, Monday - Friday, or by appointment
Tillamook Caring Options- Tillamook, OR
TOLL FREE REFERRAL LINE: 1-866-486-4391
Hours of Operation: 10:00 am – 3:30 pm Monday-Friday,
Referral Hours: 1:00 pm-4:00 pm, Monday-Friday

SDA #2- Child Care Resource and Referral of Multnomah County, County Served: *Multnomah*

REFERRAL LINE: 503-548-4400, 1-866-227-5529
Website: www.ccr-mc.org
Hours of Operation: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, Monday-Friday
Referral Hours: 7:00 am – 8:00 pm, Monday-Friday

SDA #3- Child Care Information Service Counties Served:

Marion, Polk and Yamhill
REFERRAL LINE: 503-585-2491, 1-800-289-5533
Website: www.open.org/ccis
Hours of Operation: 9:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday
Referral Hours: 9:00 am-3:00 pm, Monday-Friday

SDA #4- Family Care Connection for Lincoln County, County Served: *Lincoln*

REFERRAL LINE: 541-265-2558, 1-800-603-2728
Hours: 8:00 am-12 Noon & 1:00 pm-5:00 pm, Mon.-Thursday.
Referral Hours: 9:00 am-3:00 pm, Monday-Thursday

SDA #5- Family Connections Counties Served:

Linn and Benton
REFERRAL LINE: 541-917-4899, 1-800-845-1363
Hours of Operation: 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday
Referral Hours: 9:00 am-4:00 pm, Monday-Friday

SDA #6-Lane Family Connections- Lane Community College County Served: *Lane*

REFERRAL LINE: 541-463-3954, 1-800-222-3290
Website: www.lanecc.edu/lfc
Spanish version: www.lanecc.edu/lfc/espanol.htm
Hours of Operation: 8:00 am-4:30 pm, Monday-Friday
Referral Hours: 9:00 am-3:00 pm, Monday-Friday

SDA #7-Family Connections of Douglas County Counties Served:

Douglas
REFERRAL LINE: 541-672-7955, 1-800-443-0812
Website: www.ucancap.org
Hours of Operation: 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Monday-Friday
Referral Hours: 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Monday-Friday

SDA #8- CARE Connections Counties Served: *Cos and Curry*

REFERRAL LINE: 541-888-7957, 1-800-611-7555
Website: www.socc.edu/serv_resrc/careconnections
Hours of Operation: 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Mon.- Friday
Referral Hours: 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Monday-Tuesday & Thursday-Friday; Wednesday 9:00 am-6:00 pm
Curry County
1-800-419-1371 x224, 541-469-9299
Hours of Operation: 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday
Referral Hours: 9:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday

SDA #9- Child Care Resource Network Counties Served:

Jackson and Josephine
REFERRAL LINE: 541-776-5100 1-800-866-9034
Website: www.jobcouncil.org
Hours of Operation: 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday
Referral Hours: 10:00 am-2:00 pm, Monday-Friday

SDA #10- Child Care Partners Counties Served:

Wasco and Hood River
REFERRAL LINE: 1-800-755-1143, 541-506-6131 Monday-Thursday and 541-386-6300 x211 Friday
Website: www.cgcc.cc.or.us
Hours of Operation:
The Dalles, 9:00 am-4:00 pm, Monday-Thursday
Hood River, 9:00 am-4:00 pm, Friday
Referral Hours:
The Dalles, 9:00 am-4:00 pm, Monday-Thursday
Hood River, 9:00 am-4:00 pm, Friday
All Referrals are from the Hood River office on Friday

SDA #11-Family Care Resource and Referral Counties Served:

Gilliam, Wheeler and Sherman
REFERRAL LINE: 1-877-279-8262 300
Hours of Operation: 9:00 am-4:00 pm, Monday-Friday
Referral Hours: 9:00 am-4:00 pm, Monday-Friday

SDA #12-Child Care Resources Counties Served:

Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson
REFERRAL LINE:
Parents, 541-548-2380 x113 1-888-298-2672
Providers, 541-548-2380 x118 or 121
Website: www.cocaaan.org/ccr.htm
Hours of Operations: 8:00 am-4:30 pm, Monday-Friday
Referral Hours: 8:00 am-4:30 pm, Monday-Friday

SDA #13-Klamath/Lake Child Care Resource and Referral Counties Served: *Klamath and Lake*

REFERRAL LINE: 1-800-866-9835, 541-882-2308
Hours of Operation: 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Saturday
Lake County Child Care Resource and Referral 1-800-700-3613

SDA #14-Umatilla Morrow Head Start, Inc. Counties Served:

Umatilla and Morrow
REFERRAL LINE: 541-564-6878, 1-800-559-5878
Website: www.umchs.org
Hours of Operation: 8:00 am -4:30 pm, Monday – Friday
Referral Hours: 8:00 am-4:30 pm, Monday-Friday

SDA #15-Child Care Resource and Referral of Clackamas County, County Served: *Clackamas*

REFERRAL LINE: 503-675-4100, 1-866-371-4373
Website: www.clackesd.k12.or.us
Hours of Operation: 7:30 am -5:30 pm, Monday-Friday
Referral Hours: 10:00 am-5:30 pm, Monday-Friday

SDA #16- Child Care Resource and Referral of Washington County, County Served: *Washington*

REFERRAL LINE: 971-223-6100, 1-800-624-9516
Hours of Operation: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm, Monday-Friday
Referral Hours: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Monday-Friday

SDA #17-Child Care Resource and Referral/Training and Employment Consortium Counties Served:

Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Union and Wallowa
REFERRAL LINE: 541-963-7942, 1-800-956-0324
Hours of Operation: 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday
Referral Hours: 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday
Website: www.trainingemployment.org

County Offices:

Baker County 541-523-7838 x3254, 1-800-956-0324
Hours of Operation: 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday
Referral Hours: 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday
Grant County 541-575-0210, 1-800-956-0324
Hours of Operation: 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday
Referral Hours: 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday
Harney County 541-573-6676, 1-800-895-0641
Hours of Operation: 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday
Referral Hours: 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday
Malheur County 541-889-7864, 1-800-694-4558
Hours of Operation: 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday
Referral Hours: 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday
Wallowa County 541-426-2030, 1-800-956-0324
Hours of phone access: 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday
Referral Hours: 8:00 am-2:00 pm, Monday-Friday



Oregon Child Care
Resource & Referral
Network

Family Child Care Leadership Training*

presented by

Oregon Family Child Care Network



*"4,000 Voices -
Can you hear me now?!?"*



August 19th, 2006 at the Riverhouse in Bend, Oregon!

Saturday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Empower, Encourage and Energize
~ Focusing on FCCP's ~

*Child Care Providers will receive
certificates of training hours upon completion

Some of the panelist that you will meet:

Mark Anderson ~DHS
Merrily Haas ~OAEYC
Tina Kotek ~Children First
Heidi McGowan ~Oregon Commission for Child Care
Brent Demoe ~Child Care Division
...and many more!



Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children

**Thank you for being
our sponsor!**



LINKING FAMILY CHILD CARE WITH INFO & RESOURCES



www.riverhouse.com

Family Child Care Leadership Training Pre-Registration

\$60.00 Pre-Registration fee includes:

Please have pre-registration post marked by Aug. 10th if you are needing accommodation on Friday night. If it is after that date you will need to make your own arrangements.

- Training
- Lodging*
- Food

*Friday night only, double occupancy (shared room)

Did you know that there is MONEY\$\$\$\$\$ available to support YOUR professional development? The John & Betty Gray Early Childhood Initiative of the Oregon Community Foundation might be able to help YOU!

Registered Family Child Care Provider
Staff at a Certified Family Child Care Home

For information on scholarships and possible reimbursements, call:
The Oregon Center for Career Development in Childhood Care and Education; contact **Teresa Lee**: 503-725-8535 or toll free 1-877-725-8535
Email: centerline@pdx.edu
Or on the web at: www.centerline.pdx.edu Click on the Programs: OCF scholarship link

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Check YES, if lodging with us Fri. night: YES!

Person I would most like to share a room with:

(if applicable)

Your Phone _____

Email _____

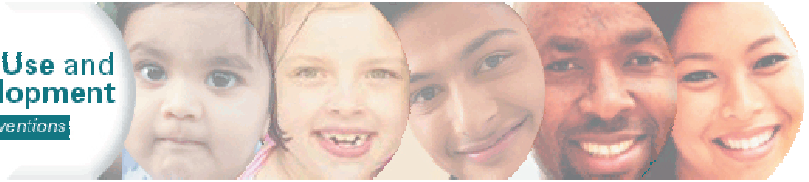
(for confirmation purposes)

**Remit form and check or
money order to:**
OFCCN
PO Box 12752
Salem, Oregon 97309-0752

If you have
ANY questions,
please contact
Jeannie Suihkonen
503-378-1596



**Substance Use and
Brain Development**
Impacts and Interventions



Mark the Date!

March 22-24, 2007

Substance Use & Brain Development: Impacts & Interventions

This conference will provide the latest cutting-edge research, prevention methods and best intervention practices regarding the impact of maternal & paternal substance use on child brain development.

When: March 22-24, 2007

**Where: Valley River Inn
Eugene, Oregon**

Who should attend:

- Social service providers
- Healthcare providers
- Prevention specialists
- Educators
- Parents/caregivers

For more information:

- Check out our website at www.healthybraindevelopment.com
- Contact C.A. Baskerville, Lane County Health & Human Services at 541-682-3031



OFCCN is a communication link between family child care providers and agencies throughout the state of Oregon.

OFCCN gathers the provider's voice through the use of surveys, personal conversations, and provider participation at community meetings, conferences, and retreats.

OFCCN works with local communities, organizations, agencies,

*"gathering voices...
working with
communities...
spreading the voice
of family child care
providers"*

legislators, and other childhood care and education partners.

Please help **OFCCN** spread the voice of family child care providers. Our voices together will advance our profession and the quality of family child care in Oregon.

OFCCN invites you to share your concerns, thoughts, and ideas with us, so that we can help your voice be heard!

Oregon Family Child Care Network
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