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OREGON STATE COMMITTEE ON CHILD CARE, HEALTH AND WELFARE

Minutes of Meeting

The regular meeting of the Oregon State Advisory Committee on Child Care, Health and Welfare was held at 10:00 A.M., on Wednesday, July 14, 1943, in Room 504, Spalding Building, Portland.

Those present were: Mrs. C. W. Walls; Dr. C. A. Howard; Mrs. Isaac Swett; Mrs. Della Miller; Mrs. E. D. Schomacker, representing Catholic Charities; Mr. Dan Northup; Miss Edith Baxter; Mr. Dan Prosser; Miss Elsie Arnott; Mr. Andrew Juras; Miss Dorothy Potter, representing Mrs. E. W. St. Pierre; Miss Gladys M. Everett; Mr. John Whitelaw; Mrs. Sarah V. Case; Mrs. Leon Kuhn; Dr. DeNorval Unthank; Miss Florence Beardsley; Mr. Clyde Getz; and Miss Marycarol Jones. Also present were the following guests: Mr. Pearce Davies, Assistant Regional Director, Community War Services; Miss Ada McLaughlin, Chairman, Clackamas County Advisory Committee; Miss Elizabeth Goddard, Multnomah County Committee; and Mr. Lestle J. Sparks, Chairman, Marion County Advisory Committee.

In the absence of Mrs. Dunbar, Chairman, Mrs. C. W. Walls, Vice-Chairman presided.

Minutes of the previous meeting were discussed. Mr. Prosser pointed out that in the report of the Committee on Community Organization, the Multnomah County Committee was referred to as not being truly representative. Mr. Prosser explained that the Multnomah Committee had been functioning primarily as a committee on day care and as such, the representation was adequate. However, in becoming the Multnomah County Advisory Committee, the representation would need to be enlarged, with the day care committee possibly serving as a subcommittee.

Guests were introduced by the Vice-Chairman. Miss Edith Baxter was introduced as the new member representing the American Association of Social Workers. It was announced that Mr. John Whitelaw would represent the Oregon Conference of Social Workers.

The Secretary reported on field trips to seven counties and the present status of the Advisory Committee in those counties. It was indicated that in the counties where application for Lanham funds has been made there is general discouragement over the length of time which has elapsed since filing the application.

Miss Bannister, Secretary of the Interstate Committee, reviewed the work done by that committee in relation to the Kaiser nursery plans. She read a telegram sent to the Children's Bureau asking for verification of approval of the Maritime Commission for the Kaiser project and the reply stating that such approval had been given. She also read a telegram to Mr. Kaiser asking for a meeting with the Interstate Committee and his reply accepting the invitation to meet with the Committee stating that "the only announced plan is that with reference to construction and design. No plan of operation has been announced nor will any be concluded prior to our tentative meeting the latter part of July". Miss Bannister reported that this meeting has been set for July 21, 1943. She also pointed out that nursery units are to be built by the housing projects in Vancouver to take care of 700 children. This information was known to the Maritime Commission at the time approval was given to the project.

Miss Beardsley reported on the present status of Senate Bill 1130, which provides for care of children of mothers employed in war areas. It is now in the House Committee on Education. Miss Beardsley also discussed Senate Bill 637, which is a bill to equalize educational privileges of children throughout the nation.

Under provision of the bill, funds are allocated to the States (1) to increase teachers salaries in order to keep them in the profession, and (2) to school districts where the need is great, due to inadequacy of facilities.

The Secretary reported on the support given by the County Advisory Committees to Senate Bill 1130. The State Department of Education assisted the Secretary in phoning the Chairman of the eight advisory committees to urge support of the bill, but all had not reported on action taken. However, the advisory committees in Multnomah County, Clackamas County, and Hood River County had wired their congressmen. It was also stated that a telegram had been sent to the Chairman of the House Committee by the Oregon State Planning Committee. The Vice-Chairman asked that a motion giving approval to committee support of the bill be made. Miss Gladys Everett raised a question as to the 50-50 matching basis provision in the bill. She stated that under Lanham funds waivers were provided the communities applying, which freed them of any obligation in case their full 50% was not contributed. She further stated that the only penalty to the community was disapproval of continuation of the project whereas under the provisions of Senate Bill 1130 operations could not be started without full contribution of the 50%. In the discussion that followed it was pointed out that in Senate Bill 1130 provision was made for administration and for meeting the 50% contribution on a state-wide basis. Under this plan it is not essential that each district contribute 50%. The comment was made that this differs from the practice as experienced in Oregon under Lanham funds. It was further emphasized that the essence of the bill is decentralization of administration, through federal grants in aid to state education and welfare agencies. A motion for approval was made, seconded and unanimously passed that the Committee support Senate Bill 1130.

Miss Goddard gave a report on community facilities in Multnomah County for care of children of working mothers. A copy of this report is attached to the minutes.

Mr. Prosser, Chairman of Committee on County Organization, reported that at a meeting of the delegate body of the Council of Social Agencies on July 12, 1943, they elected to serve as the Multnomah County Advisory Committee on Child Care, Health and Welfare and to have additional representation to conform with the recommended pattern of county committees. The present Committee on Day Care and the Committee on Youth in Agriculture of the Council of Social Agencies, will be subcommittees. Mr. Templeton, Chairman, Council of Social Agencies, announced at the last meeting of the delegate body, that this body together with additional representatives serves as the Multnomah County Advisory Committee of which Mrs. Walls will act as Committee Chairman.

Mr. Pearce Davies commented on the organization of committees in the Pacific area. He said that this development began as a program to meet the needs arising out of employment of women in industry. This was a matter of community-wide concern and therefore community committees were organized. He stated that in many localities these committees have developed principally along professional lines, consisting largely of representatives of welfare and education. He raised a question as to the role of industry and whether it has been given the attention it deserves on these committees.

He reported on committee organization in Los Angeles county where there were 45 municipal committees, and 1 county committee, making 46 committees in the one county. These committees could not agree on various problems and as a result a new "top committee" was organized consisting of representatives of government, Federal Works Agency, War Manpower Commission, labor, transportation, trade, and business.

Mr. Davies reported that the air-craft company in Southern California had come to the conclusion that if women with children were to be employed, some provision must be made for care and supervision of children. It was their opinion that it would be less expensive to care for these children now than to allow them to go without supervision and become involved in petty crimes, which would later be paid for by the community. They devised a plan of contributing to the care of such children whereby each child is issued 25 cent meal tickets and the charge is made to the industry or plant issuing the tickets.

Mr. Davies reported on counseling service in San Diego where there is both a city and county committee. The counseling service is supervised by the county welfare department, but is not located in the welfare office. This service is partially supported by Children's Bureau funds. In the case of a woman going into employment wishing care for her child, the counseling service interviews her to find out something of the background of the child. An attempt is made to find a foster home in the same neighborhood which has a similar background to that which the child is accustomed. If the woman is willing to take the child, the county welfare office makes the investigation, and if the home is approved a temporary license is issued at once.

In reply to a question raised by the Vice-Chairman as to what care is provided for children who become ill in day care centers while the mother is working, Mr. Davies gave the example of Dr. Dorothy Barrack's extended school services program near Los Angeles. She had an infirmary in connection with other services, to offer children of working mothers. She closed the infirmary since she could not provide the type of services needed on the fee of .60 per day. She now plans to reopen it with the agreement that mothers will pay \$1.25 per day for the care of any child in need of such services.

Mr. Whitelaw raised a question as to methods by which mothers could be given help in planning care for their children before accepting employment. Mr. Davies was questioned particularly as to the possibility of including in official News releases, which appeal to women to accept employment, a statement of the advisability of mothers making adequate provision for care of their children a prerequisite to accepting employment. Mr. Davies proposed that the Committee draw up a resolution giving its stand on this subject, which might be submitted to Washington. A motion to this effect was made by Mr. Getz, seconded by Miss Beardsley and approved unanimously by the Committee.

Miss Arnott reported on the program which provides services to the wives and infants of men in the armed forces through the State Board of Health. She said that 34 or more states now have such funds, but that Oregon is not participating in this program. She read the resolution passed by Legion Post I at their meeting of June 28, 1943 in which the Oregon State Board of Health was urged to formulate a plan whereby such health services can be rendered to the wives and infants of men in the armed forces on a state-wide basis. She asked that the Committee take such action on it and that the State Board of Health be asked to make a report at the next meeting regarding this program. A motion was made by Mr. Whitelaw, seconded by Dr. Unthank and approved by the Committee that the State Board of Health be asked to submit such a report.

The next meeting of the Committee was set on the regular date, August 4, 1943.

Respectfully submitted,

Marycarol Jones
(Miss) Marycarol Jones,
Secretary

PRESENT FACILITIES FOR DAY CARE IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY

GROUP CARE

1. Preschool children	Capacity	Average Daily Attendance June 28 to July 3.
a. Blessed Martin Day Nursery	28	20
b. Victory Nursery School	40	21
c. Portland Fruit and Flower Mission Day Nursery	80	71
d. St. Helens Hall Nursery School	31	19
e. Volunteers of America Day Nursery	70	52
f. Fargo Nursery School *	20	20
g. Portsmouth Nursery School *	25	23
h. Girls Polytechnic School *	40	16
i. Lents Nursery School *	25	16
j. Vestal Nursery School *	25	15
k. Neighborhood House Nursery School	25	17
l. Guilds Lake Nursery School *	<u>40 (Open July 14th)</u>	
* Supervised by public schools	449	290

All are open 6 days a week and Volunteers of America 7 days.
All but Blessed Martin, Victory, and St. Helens Hall open
from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

2. School Age Children

- a. 40 Portland Public Schools are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. 6 days a week. Over 1,000 children are taking advantage of this summer recreational and craft program. Lanham funds are allocated to care for 3,000 children if needed.
- b. Supplemental programs provided by 26 recreational areas supervised by Park Bureau 4 housing areas, community centers, summer camps, etc.
- c. Vanport schools have school and after school programs for children 5 to 14 years of age from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. seven days a week. Attendance has been averaging about 200 a day out of a school population today of 550 children.

Expansion within near future

Friendly House nursery school NW 26th and Savier capacity 40 children for pre-school. To be opened within two weeks.

6 Vanport nursery schools with capacity of 960 children. No definite date for opening, awaiting equipment. Registrations have already reached 150.

Volunteers of America Day Nursery can expand to 60 or 70 children if need arises over night.

Public schools have unlimited capacity for program for school age children, provided Lanham funds can be increased.

FOSTER DAY CARE

193 day care homes on register of counseling service with capacity of 290 children but with approximate attendance of 275.

Expansion - 44 additional homes with a capacity of 66 children within 30 days.

COUNSELING SERVICE

Offered by Multnomah County Public Welfare Commission, Children's Department, to mothers considering going to work and those already at work. Consultation may be had in the office from 9 to 5, in mother's home if she is unable to come to the office and in the housing projects. It is hoped that arrangements can be made to establish counseling service to mothers at USES after they move to new headquarters.