

**HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF OREGON**

HOUSING AND  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT

***INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM***

**TO:** Community Action Directors of Oregon Program, Policy and Planning Sub-Committee      **DATE:** April 6, 1995

**FROM:** Baruti L. Artharee, Director

**SUBJECT:** Review of OHCS Farmworker's Policy

**Background**

As you know, over the past year I have had presented to me many questions and concerns about the Farmworker's Policy adopted by OHCS in late 1993. My commitment to all parties concerned was to review the policy after it had been fully implemented statewide and after at least a one-year period of experience.

**Process**

We started the review process in February, 1995:

- February 16 - Review of current Farmworker Policy background, purpose, implementation and impact
- Listing of what's working and what's not working
  - Open brainstorming process without debate
- March 1 - List of what's working and what's not working is grouped and prioritized
- The sub-committee agreed that the major issues for resolution are:
    1. The role of OHDC to CAPS fiscally and programmatically.
    2. The definition of a farmworker and how to track services.
    3. The competition for funds creates distrust and divisiveness.
    4. The need for training and technical assistance.

**Key Comments of Sub-Committee Members**

Before the Farmworker Policy OHDC had more flexibility:

- OHDC has to participate in local planning process for funding;
- OHDC must be part of 6 planning processes and report to 6 different lead agencies;
- No flexibility to move funds around state; and
- Uncertainty of future funding.

John A. Kitzhaber  
Governor



Recommendations:

1. The 10% set-aside for farmworkers should go directly to OHDC and CAPS given flexibility in areas not served by OHDC.
2. OHDC and CAPS should be equal partners.
3. Planning process should coordinate all agencies working in the community.
4. OHDC should participate in local planning process and funds allocated to OHDC by CAPS should revert back to OHCS for administration.
5. We cannot eliminate the planning process and an organizational set-aside puts the organization over the delivery of services.
6. Review statewide goals versus the goals of the local planning process.
7. Eliminate the Farmworker Policy and put (promote? propose?) legislation to fund only designated Community Action Agencies.

Next Steps

Today's objective is to reach consensus on the changes to the Farmworker Policy. Exact language to be worked out after agreement is reached on what should be changed.