A. Header. Final Report

Title: A New Look at Out-of-Home Child Care for High-Risk Children: Child Care Use, Quality, and Foster Children’s Psychosocial Functioning

PI: Shannon T. Lipscomb, School of Social and Behavioral Health Sciences, College of Public Health and Human Science, Oregon State University-Cascades

Award: General Research Fund: $9,766.00 (December, 2010)

B. Project summary:

Objective #1: To document patterns of child care use (types, amounts) among families caring for young foster children.

Objective #2: To assess the quality of child care used by families caring for young foster children and to compare the quality of that care to national standards for child care quality, and to average levels of child care quality in the families’ surrounding communities.

Objective #3: To quantify the associations among child care use (types, quantity), child care quality, and psychosocial functioning among young children in the foster care system.

Objective #4: To provide a foundation (through Objectives 1-3) upon which to conduct future research examining the potential long-term impacts of child care experiences on the development of foster children.

C. Additional activities made possible, if any:

Through this project I was able to strengthen collaborations with colleagues at other institutions that are critical to my success in seeking external funding to continue this line of research. In addition, the larger investigation to which the current project was added will apply for a continuation grant to assess children through school age, potentially providing the opportunity to examine the effect of child care factors (assessed through this current research at age three years) on later development.

D. Summary of expenditures:

- Non-laboratory services for data collection: $5,022.39
- Incentives for research participants: $4,070.00
- Postage for mailing surveys: $300.75
- Remaining balance: $174.86

E. External funding requests:

I am currently working on developing a New/Early Stage Investigator R01 proposal to the National Institutes of Health for submission June, 2013. The research proposed in the NIH R01 application will examine features of early care and education (ECE) experiences that are important to the development of self-regulation and school readiness among children who have been exposed to early life traumas. Findings from the current study are being used as preliminary data on patterns of ECE use, ECE quality, and the associations among ECE and psychosocial functioning among young children in foster care.