



SOELS Governance Council

October 20, 2020

2:00-4:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://soesd.zoom.us/j/94868124175>

Attendees (Via Zoom): Adrienne Auxier, Katherine Clayton, Stacy Inman, KimberLee Whitney, Lisa O'Connor, Jessica Durrant, Martha Ibarra, Geoffrey Lowry, Eileen Micke-Johnson, Mary Wolf, Brittain Zimmerman, Susan Fischer-Maki, Laura McKeane, Jeanne Grazioli

Absent: Scott Beveridge (ex), Michelle Gallas, Kerri Hecox, Mary Hough, Crystal Rowbotham, Samantha Watson (ex),

Hub Staff: René Brandon, Teresa Slater, Chelsea Reinhard, Vicki Risner

Agenda Item

Call to Order Katherine & Geoff, Co-Chairs

Welcome and Greetings Katherine & Geoff, Co-Chairs

Gratitude for Susan Fischer-Maki's Contributions

This is the last official meeting for Susan. Members expressed their appreciation for her commitment, guidance, partnership, check in's, advocacy, her being a part of bringing the two early learning county centric groups together (prior to the HUB system) to build a regional focus, her passion, great support, keeping us on track and on agenda, determination, and her ability to make things happen.

Next Steps for new AllCare Representative

Laura has completed the Governance Council Member application, which will be shared with the group after the meeting. Members greeted Laura and spoke about how they

have worked with her in the past. There will be an on boarding process for Laura to make sure that she has a good foundation to start with this committee.

Additions or changes to the Agenda
No changes.

Katherine & Geoff, Co-Chairs

Approval of minutes from 7-21-2020
Motion to approve: Jessica Durrant
2nd: Kimberlee Whitney
Minutes have been approved.

Katherine & Geoff, Co-Chairs

How are our families doing?

Family Nurturing Center Presentation

Lisa O'Connor

Presented stats from various efforts in the:

Child & Family Resource Response Report (April 7-Oct 15) and

Community Assisted Short-term Help CASH Fund Report (Sept 14-Oct 8)

12% of clients lost their homes in the fires. 22% were temporarily displaced. 9% of their existing families reported that they are helping other families that were displaced by the fires. We are finding that the families we help are paying it forward in helping other families. 18% of our families have either lost their housing or jobs due to COVID. 9% have relapsed. 8% have been impacted by domestic violence. 5% have been impacted by suicide. 78% say that they are struggling intensely with the online schooling. 95% say that they have been impacted by one or more of those particular conditions.

We received funding from ACCESS to help preserve people's homes who were on the brink of homelessness due to COVID. Were able to house 34 families. Now up to 50 families helped and \$100,000 contributed. They've traveled over 18,000 miles to deliver needs to families in Jackson and Josephine Counties. A previous grant from the Southern Oregon Early Learning Council helped them purchase the van that was used.

With the partners who had already come together to help with COVID, the fire response was quicker than would have normally been available. Vacancies are typically between 9 and 15%. During COVID it went down to 2%. There is a moratorium on evictions, but we are down to 1% vacancies. We have 1,400 families that have been displaced from the Phoenix-Talent School District. 80% of that district is now considered homeless and they can't get back to school until at least 50% of their kids can attend online.

A lot of families were ineligible for FEMA. Phoenix was already a poverty hot spot. Families there were already experiencing a lot of challenges and barriers

that families experienced on a regular basis. A lot of those folks are not documented and are impacted either by public charge or are not able to receive the same level of support other folks are. Our board put together a fund-raising campaign. We were lucky enough to have a donor step forward with cash assistance and others followed. We've been able to provide cash assistance to over 650 families in the first 24 days. That number continues to climb as we are out trying to find the folks who have been displaced.

One of our Preschool Promise families came to our center to see a friendly face, someone familiar. They were greeted by one of our super star volunteers who thankfully is bilingual. He started talking with the mom and discovered all the different things that were going on. She had lost her housing due to COVID, everything she owed was put into storage and that storage had burned down. They were literally starting over with absolutely nothing. By the time she left, not only did her little get to see his teacher, not only did he get to pick out some toys because we are transitioning our classrooms elsewhere, they left with two huge boxes of food, left with cash in her pockets to take care of their basic needs, AND we were able to leave with first, last deposits and covered the application fee to get them into a place.

It's really beautiful that all of the people, the donors, the investors, our community partners, it takes all of that coming together in one thing to genuinely change someone's life and to put them on a different trajectory.

The trauma that families are experiencing, the trauma that our staff is experiencing is a totally different deal than we're used to. We're used to meeting people who have been navigating the system. Now we are meeting people who have never had to navigate the system in their life and genuinely don't know what to do or where to go. It's been quite a journey. There's been a lot of relapse. Kids returning to foster care. Families trying to get stable. Foster parents are struggling to school their children in remote classroom settings, especially when they have multiple age groups and or special needs. We have families who lost their mobile homes who were paying about \$500 a month and are now in apartments that cost about \$1,500 a month. We helped a mom who took in another displaced family from the fire and nearly lost her home in the process. There is a lot of survivor guilt. But it's beautiful to see a community come together.

DHS Presentation KimberLee Whitney

How do you talk about COVID, social unrest, an election and we're in a divided community, and then there were the fires? Watching all these waves that are really impacting our kids is incredible. And as adults, there isn't a lot of good behavior that is being modeled in the midst of all of this. That is also impacting

our kids tremendously. One of the biggest concerns we have right now is the mental health of our teenagers. When COVID started and there wasn't all this other stuff happening, using tele-mental health seemed to be working. But when the social unrest phase began, and our children who are struggling with finding their own identities, struggling with who they are and have already had many traumatic experiences in their lives, are now in their very isolated living situation where maybe they don't see the same way as the adults in the house see things and they are surrounded by that, that is really bubbling up in a way that they need connection and it's not there. We're seeing increased violence from our youth. Increased physical engagements with either their bio families or foster families. It's not because they are bad kids. It's hard enough to be a teenager and then you throw all this in there, it's pretty challenging.

When COVID first started, we saw an immediate drop off in screening reports through April. Then beginning in June, July and August we've seen an increase. In August we saw 233 screening in Jackson and Josephine counties combined. What we're really concerned about is the severity of the calls. It's significantly higher than what we saw a year ago. Domestic violence is increasing. Drug and alcohol issues are all increasing. Family Nurturing Center has been fabulous in many, many ways. The mental health and mental acuity of parents to navigate supporting their children is really diminished right now. Parents trying to manage work, childcare, remote learning, maybe teach their children, it's really affecting our staff and our clients trying to manage all of that. Foster families are my heroes. They are being asked to do so much for these children and we don't pay enough. They are not doing this for the money.

We're engaging with Rogue Tutoring, with Family Nurturing Center on some tutoring as well. The challenge is that there are more children who need tutoring than tutors available. There's so much going on out there and it's continuing to traumatize our youth. It's difficult to manage their face to face visits with their parents, that human engagement is so important. A lot of parents have been able to have more virtual visits with their children than the number of visits they had before. But it can't replace the importance of being together. We are doing educational sessions with our workforce around why the measures that are being recommended, the why behind it. If they don't understand the why behind it they are filling in the blanks with whatever social media formats they are following which are full of misinformation and distrust. Our youth seem to think they are invincible so we want to give them the why's behind the measures.

Food has been a real issue for people. We've received approval from our federal partners for disaster SNAP. This is food assistance eligibility for people who normally aren't eligible. Doesn't count against public charge. So many of our people of color in Jackson County who were impacted by the fires may be eligible for this. It comes without some of the fear. It allows them, depending on

their household size, to get one EBT card that is one full month of supplemental, food assistance benefits for them. Eight counties were approved for this and Jackson County was one of the eight. It's all done online so there are no in-person visits to apply for it.

Another issue we have is that there has been impact on our foster providers. We've had some who lost their homes. There are some who are struggling with whether they can continue to do this right now. We don't have a lot of placement options for those children.

Trauma Stewardship Events & Raising Resilience Campaign

Susan Fischer-Maki

Presented a series of trainings in November. Understanding N.E.A.R. by AllCare Health for the first two trainings. The second sessions are Self-Regulation & Resilience by AllCare Health.

Presented the opportunity to sponsor the Trauma Stewardship training and Trauma Stewardship for Supervisors training with Laura van Dernoot Lipskuy presenting.

SOELS Fire Relief Fund Proposal

René Brandon

We wanted to make an easy application for partnership who are serving young children to apply for funds if they've been affected by fires, and/or if they have families affected by the fires that haven't been covered by other funding sources. We would be utilizing HUB coordination funding rather than other sources. We would want a small sub-committee of this Governance Council to review the applications. We would like to launch it right away once it's approved. Applicants would hear of their award within two weeks of their applications. We opted not to go to the families directly which would be just one more process for them to go through. We feel our partners could do a better job accessing the needs of the families with their existing relationships with families. This is not to compete with existing programs, but to enhance what our partners are already doing.

Financial Update & Budget Discussion and Recommendations

René Brandon

Please see GC October 2020 Power Point Presentation for details, breakdowns and today's proposal.

Vote was taken for approval.

Motion to approve the budget: Jessica Durrant

2nd: Geoffrey Lowry

Passed unanimously.

Preschool Promise & Coordinated Enrollment Update

Mary Wolf & René Brandon

Slides presented in the Power Point presentation above.

- 1st Phase ~ 63 continuing children who were in Preschool Promise program last year.
- 2nd Phase ~ Approximately 109 conversion children. Children who were enrolled with a current or newly awarded Preschool Promise provider site prior to August 2020. Must meet eligibility requirements.
- 3rd Phase ~ New or Transfer Children: 107 spots plus 63 Head Start spots.

We need more publicity to get the word out about this opportunity. Spaces are still available at many locations. Statewide applications are down due to the COVID impact.

Adjournment

Next Meeting November 17, 2020

2:00-4:00 p.m.