



Southern Oregon Early Learning Services  
**Agency Advisory Council**

**Date:** 4/12/2019

**Time:** 10:00- 12:00

**Location:** AllCare Health

1701 NE 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Grants Pass

**Members in Attendance:** Peter Buckley (Southern Oregon Success), Susan Davis (Josephine County Library), Patricia Foster (The Family Connection), Darcy Larson (Douglas ESD EI/ECSE), \*Jessica Machen (DHS), Tami McGonagle (CPSD #6), \*Heather Olivier (FACT Oregon), Nancy Peterson (Jackson County Library Services), Rhonda Schock (Great Beginnings), Brystan Strong (Jackson County Library Services), Mary Wolf (CCRN & Family Support and Connections)

\*Via Zoom

**SOELS Staff Members Present:** René Brandon, Teresa Slater, and Karen Johnson

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

René called meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and introductions were made.

### FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLANNING

René shared data slides (*sent with these minutes*) from the January 2019 Josephine County Perinatal Task Force meeting outlining the struggles many families in our region are dealing with, including:

- Housing
- Poverty
- Domestic violence
- Teen and/or unplanned pregnancy
- High rate of tobacco and marijuana use (including during pregnancy)
- About 20% receiving inadequate prenatal care (<5 visits or 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester only)
- Postpartum depression
- Distracted/disengaged parents
- Child abuse and neglect
  - DHS has recently suffered bad press and changes are being made to improve the referral process.
  - DHS is now using a statewide reporting screening department for referrals; previously the assessments were done locally.
- Children in foster care
  - Due to lack of foster parents, children are being placed in homes out of state, while their caseworkers are located in Oregon.

- DHS is working with Every Child to help recruit foster parents and volunteers in Jackson and Josephine Counties.
- High stress and anxiety
- Substance abuse by parent(s)
- Lack of healthy social supports

*Please note: The Hub will compile data for Jackson County as well.*

The Josephine County Perinatal Task Force is using this data to identify priorities for 2019 and beyond. René will share with the Council once available.

In order to provide support to families struggling with these issues we need to reach them. The Hub meets with CCO partners once a month and the workgroup decided that a shared priority should be supporting providers serving pregnant women. Equipping these particular providers with needed resources can make a big difference in building trust with families from the beginning, and prevent them from “falling off the radar” after childbirth. This could make a significant difference in how children arrive at Kindergarten. Two OHSU nursing students (enrolled in a population health class) are participating in this workgroup and are going to help design a survey asking providers and groups of parents what resources they know about and how they best like to receive resources. (Other questions yet to be refined.) Using these results, we will create a plan to maximize outreach.

Some outreach suggestions made thus far:

- Professionally made video loop played in waiting rooms
- Poster with Quick Response codes
- iPad to search developmental information by age
- Pamphlets provided and referrals made by doctors
- Offer rewards for taking surveys
- Hub-sponsored “Family Fun Passport” (work in progress – plan for May rollout)
- First 2000 days campaign (or B2K!) to highlight importance of first 2000 days.

### **EQUITY ACTION FRAMEWORK PLANNING**

The Hub will send instructions and guidance on next steps related to racial equity in early childhood systems soon, and results of survey will be shared at our next meeting. (Please note: we originally planned to send in March.)

*Update: Karen sent Racial Equity Action Framework survey on April 24, 2019 to the group; results of the survey will be shared at our May 10, 2019 meeting.*

### **PROGRAM UPDATES**

- Douglas ESD EI/ECSE has requested additional funding for small classroom adding 24 slots.
- Douglas ESD EI/ECSE Coordinator Shirley Stinson is retiring. Early Childhood Education Director for Head Start, Stacy Inman, has been hired for the position.
- Douglas ESD EI/ECSE is recruiting for Teacher and Instructional Assistant positions in Jackson County. <https://douglesd.k12.or.us/employment>
- Central Point School District opening Early Learning Center at Asante.
- The Hub has started a Professional Learning Team group in Central Point.

- Public hearing was held on HB 2019, directing Department of Education to conduct study to determine adequacy of public education in state. For details go to: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Measures/Overview/HB2019>.
- The Health Care Coalition of Southern Oregon received a 5-year, 5.5 million dollar grant for Healthy Start in Josephine and Douglas Counties.
- Grandmas2Go is gaining national recognition, additional funding, and an increase in volunteer Grandmas.
- Southern Oregon Success started Self-Regulation Workshops and have bookings into October. For more information, contact Peter Buckley @ [peter\\_buckley@southernoregonsuccess.org](mailto:peter_buckley@southernoregonsuccess.org).
- Josephine Community Library postponed The Great Book Grab scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup> to April 28<sup>th</sup> due to rain.
- Josephine Community Library is currently hiring for a part-time manager for their Wolf Creek branch. For details go to: <https://josephinelibrary.org/get-involved/job-wc-branch-mgr/>.
- Jackson County Library is opening second Spark Space location in White City.
- Comic Con will be held at Medford Library, RCC Riverside Campus on Saturday, April 27 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 28 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. <https://jcls.org/mcc>
- May is fee forgiveness month at Jackson County Library (except fees related to RCC books).
- The Family Connection is finalizing the MOU with Providence Health Division to bring ACEs and Resilience and Self-Regulation trainings into parent education. Central Point Elementary will be a pilot location in October.
- The Family Connection Nurturing Hope initiative is going strong, with 50 families on waiting list.
- The Hub is sponsoring Teen Parent Support groups in Jackson and Josephine Counties.
- CCRN will be moving from their offices on Market Street to SOESD.
- CCRN received additional funding from the ELD; so, are hiring a Quality Improvement Specialist and Administrative Assistant.
- CCRN is sponsoring *Supporting Children with Autism and Other Developmental Delays in Early Childhood Education Settings* training on April 27.
- Great Beginnings was selected for the Preschool Promise Rural Expansion project - serving five or six additional families – and working directly with CCRN.
- FACTOregon is creating and finalizing a parent leadership and advocacy training at the state and local level for parents with children who experience disabilities.
- FACTOregon is hosting a regional conference in Klamath Falls on May 4, 2019. <https://factoregon.org/event/regional-conference-klamath-falls/>, and would like to host a conference – preferably in the fall - in Grants Pass next year. Please contact Heather Olivier @ [heather@factoregon.org](mailto:heather@factoregon.org) with any location suggestions.
- Shared opinion among the groups is that Kindergarten curriculum is not developmentally appropriate. Perhaps an Early Childhood panel could come together to present the problem to school board members.
- Head Start is still looking for an Executive Director to replace Nancy Nordyke. <https://www.socfc.org/employment/job-openings/>

Meeting was adjourned at 11:57p.m.

Submitted by K. Johnson