



Southern Oregon Early Learning Services

SOELS Agency Advisory/Council Meeting Agenda

Date: 02/14/20
Time: 10:00-12:00
Location: Allcare Health
1701 NE 7th St, Grants Pass

Members in Attendance: Kelly Belz (Healthy Families, Diana Bennington (The Family Connection), *Dana Brooks, (JCMH), *Peter Buckley (Southern Oregon Success), Susan Davis (Josephine County Library), Lisa Farlin (SO Head Start), *Cecilia Giron (LISTO), Bethanee Grace (TFC), Geoffrey Lowry (OCD), Jessica Machen (DHS), Katrina McGrath (CCRN), Brystan Strong (Jackson County Library Services), Susan Zottola (GPSD #7).

*Via Zoom

SOELS Staff Members Present: Rene' Brandon, Chelsea Reinhard, Teresa Slater, Molly McLaughlin

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am and introductions were made.

Update on ECE Expansion RFA

Currently we are in year 4 of preschool promise. With the passing of SSA, additional money is allotted for Preschool expansion. Southern Oregon will receive between 75-100 enrollments starting in July. The RFA was released at the end of January. CCRN is the point of contact for any TA needs related to the application process. We recently completed three information sessions for programs who are interested in applying for the RFA. The information session included the changes to Preschool Promise, a panel from existing providers. There were two meetings in Medford and one in Grants Pass. The application process ends April 2nd. The ELD will review the applications and determine the allocation for each region. Programs that are applying need to capture how they will meet the needs of the region by used the SOELS ECE Planning Tool Kit. Applicants can choose to contract directly with ELD or request a fiscal agent. There is also an RFA for the fiscal agents. The Hub's role will not contract management for Preschool Promise starting in 20-21'. We will be learning more about the Hubs role at the EL Hub Collaborative at the end of February. There is indication that the Hub's may have a role within the coordinated enrollment process, details are yet to be determined. CCRN has received a lot of interested programs asking about the details for Preschool Promise expectations.

Update on Strategic Plan for Southern Oregon

We compiled all of your feedback from the last few meetings when you brainstormed each goal/objective from the strategic plan. We will be flushing out the document and bring it back to AAC for more discussion and action steps.

SOELS Committee Updates

- **ECE Workforce.** This group is addressing the need for more workforce for ECE. Questions we are asking during the workgroup is: How do we recruit and retain the workforce? How do we address the ECE system barriers that are negatively impacting the workforce? The group hosted a table at Careers and Gears, almost 2000 high school students come to the fair to be able to learn more about different careers. There are a couple intern programs that we learned about for high school students to get practical experiences in different career settings. We also are talking about a sub pool through ESD as well as a Directors Association.
- **Educational Equity.** We are still figuring out this workgroup and the objectives. Currently, we are discussing the ECE Equity Fund RFA from ELD. We hope to have a submission from an entity in Southern Oregon. The RFA is targeting either programs that needs startup funds to begin delivering services or to expand current services offered. The RFA is specific to culturally responsive programs. LISTO and Kids Unlimited discussed working together to submit and application showing a strong partnership of services to Spanish speaking families. Deadline for the RFA is April 2, 2020.
- **Child & Family Wellbeing.** This group has been an existence for a couple years with CCO's. We have been working on behavioral health and Family Support services. We are going to formalize this workgroup as a subcommittee of the Hub Governance Council. As a subcommittee, we will have a focus on family stability, parenting support and resources. How to connect the needs for families and how they want to learn as well as how the provider (health care, ece, home visiting, etc) want to receive information to share with families.
- **Teen Parent Workgroups.** There is one in each county. In Josephine county, we are building a survey for teen parents and being able to capture their voice on navigating services, barriers they face and how to meet their needs. There are about 200 teen births in the region every year.
- **EI/ECSE & Mental Health Workgroups.** This group is regional for the partners providing services to children. We are talking about all partners using Rogue Challenge as the referral system for closed loop referral. We are also discussing professional development opportunities for parents and professionals.
- **Foster Care System Workgroup.** Includes partners who serve foster families. The group is focused on creating a region focus of how to support foster families best. We created a foster parent survey asking about their needs and what works best for them. Then the group will start working together to meet those needs. We are supporting FNC bringing KEEP, a support group for foster parents to the region. We are coordinating a quarterly newsletter to includes events and resources.

- **Home Visiting Network.** Meets the first Thursdays of the month from 3-430pm in Rogue River at the Fire Department. We offer presentations on best practices for home visiting, resources to share with families as well as trainings including Motivational Interviewing, ACEs, etc.
- **Closet Collaboration.** Partners that have “closets” for families including resources like clothing, materials and food. The partners come together to work together making sure everyone knows the needs of families. We also planned the Attire to Inspire event back in August 2019. We are going to offer it again August 11 and 12, 2020.
- **SOC-ORAEYC Winter Conference & No Small Matter.** 2/28/20 and 2/29/20, see conference brochure for details. REGISTER NOW! There is also a free screening of No Small Matter on 2/28/20 430-630pm. To register, <https://soc-oraeyc-nosmallmatter-event.eventbrite.com>.
- **CHIP Families Matter Objective Submission Form Request.** All partners have the opportunity to submit a form and/or participate in one of the three workgroups: Families Matter, Behavioral Health or Housing. The goal is to bring together all of the objective forms to one place and be able to share with community the work of the region and how the impact is being made. See attachment for details...

Program Updates

- **SORS.** Attended his second ELC meeting, they discussed the need for the workforce crisis. Taking feedback from families and how to write policies. Protective Factor Training available in April for community professionals, April 17 and April 22. Email Chelsea_Reinhart@soesd.k12.or.us to register. Save the Date for 6/30/20.
- **LISTO.** Supporting afterschool age children as part of their programming. Looking forward to partnering through the ECE Equity fund RFA. We are excited to see what is coming next for families!
- **Josephine County Library.** Sensational based story time is starting up again.
- **Jackson County Library Systems.** Launched “Library of Things.” We have seen an increase in members since launching the library. We have a few grants to be able to have social workers at the library as well as funds to provide snacks at the story times.
- **Healthy Families.** Graduating families that have been served for the last three years. Home Visitors are engaging new families. We are targeting prenatal families using the “growing great kids” curriculum. We conducted a home visitor survey to see ways that we could support communication in the home based on the feedback of the needs for families. Recertification will occur in 2021.

- **DHS.** KEEP and Safe Families are starting up in the region. KEEP is a foster parent support group starting in April offered through FNC. Safe Families is focused on supporting families for the needs of respite or resources that the family needs. The goal to use this program prior to a removal or for reunification. Mental Health navigators are available in DHS offices to assist families with referrals for mental health services. Participating in the direct service network team, which is a collaborative effort with Maslow, Hearts with a Mission, DHS, 715 ministries, RES Care, etc. to help wrap around families and children needing additional resources. Integrated Eligibility is getting closer to launching. The goal is to help with the eligibility for all programs for any families. This comes with a new system as well. Southern Oregon is a pilot site for this new system.

- **The Family Connection.** Workgroup meeting is scheduled after Hub AAC, please stay after to participate. We will be talking about roles and responsibilities. For programming, we have several classes in Josephine and Jackson County. We finished a Strengthening Families Parent Facilitator Training which targets pre-teen and teens. The training is available in partnership with DHS. The model for providing classes through family advocates and the Head Start centers are different where they are combining centers to increase attendance and partnership between centers. The Housing Authority has been a great partner for hosting parenting classes. Focus areas include: ongoing/consistent parenting classes, teaching classes in Spanish, rural communities, children experiencing disability, dad's and classes that will be contracted with head start and blend community involvement.

- **Head Start.** We are still working on workforce issues and reviewing the expansion opportunities trying to determine what will be best to apply for, for the program. Funding expectations are requiring teacher and teacher assistant increases but it doesn't allow for the rest of the staff to receive increases. Is considering moving PP slots to other sites based on the needs of families.

- **OCDC.** Providing opportunity to majority of staff to attend the conference and will shut down on Friday to allow staff to go. They are also working on parent surveys for OPK feedback.

- **CCRN.** preparing for the winter conference and helping providers with the RFA process for preschool promise.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm

Submitted by R. Brandon