



Southern Oregon Early Learning Services

SOELS Agency Advisory Council Meeting

June 12, 2020

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Zoom Call

Members in Attendance (all via Zoom): Adrienne Auxier - Kairos, Adrienne Liufau - Kairos, Brittain Zimmerman – Kid Time, Carrie Prechtel – 211info.org, Cecilia Giron - SOCFC, Christine Russo – Head Start, Jessica Machen - DHS, Katherine Clayton – Head Start, Katrina McGrath - CCRN, Kelly Wessels – Ucan (United Community Action Network, Lisa Farlin - SOCFC, Louise Horn – FNC, Mariela Owen – Reliance, Martha Ibarra – CCRN, Mary Wolf – CCRN, Michael, Mike Bonetto – Tenfold Health, Nancy Lawson, Peter Buckley – SO Success, Rebecca Tree – Roots & Wings, Ryan Bair ~ Rogue Challenge, Riki Rosenthal – Jackson Care Connect/Starting Strong, Sam Engel, Samantha Watson – Care Oregon, Sarah Northrop, Scott Beveridge - SOESD, Stacy Inman, Susan Fischer-Maki – AllCare Health, Wendy N, Whitney – FNC. SOELS Staff: Rene’ Brandon, Teresa Slater, Chelsea Reinhart, Vicki Risner, Molly McLaughlin

WELCOME:

Meeting was started shortly after 10 am due to Zoom issues.

ROGUE CHALLENGE PRESENTATION:

Rene’ Brandon: At last month’s meeting we talked about the work that Rogue Challenge has been doing. We brought them in today so we can all see their presentation.

We have recorded today’s presentation and will be included with the minutes. Please feel free to share with others who might benefit from it. We want to raise awareness of this and how it can benefit more partners.

PROGRAM UPDATES ~ COVID19 CHECK-IN:

RB: How are folks doing? How is your program weathering the current climate? I can share that with the passing of the Student Success Act and now COVID 19, that numbers are being recalibrated with reductions. Current service level of Preschool Promise, 13,000 slots, will not change. Information about the 75 to 150 additional spots that were to be added are delayed, how and if they will be granted.

- KC (Head Start): We are still in limbo with Head Start. End of June or first of August before we hear anything. We are still doing virtual learning for duration families. Not sure what September will look like. Putting a lot of plans together, A, B, C, and will see how many families and employed staff as possible when funding is announced.

RB: Funding and physical distancing needs impacts the program. We will be bringing back the directors' group. A good time to bring them together to lean on each other, navigating these challenges, share what you're thinking, etc. Hoping that it will alleviate a little bit of the stress being with folks experiencing the same thing.

- RT: Roots & Wings will not be opening this summer, focusing on the fall. Working on a grant for staff development. Looking at focusing on more social and trauma-based care. More focused on things other than the ABC's. Looking at self-care, working with families differently. It's going to be a different kind of process. How teachers balance that within themselves, within programs.

RB: Self care piece can't be overstated right now.

- PB (Southern OR Success): The recent report from Congresswoman Bonamici is really helpful.

RB: I will push that out to this group as well. Some good information.

PB: We are focusing on all new parents having the skills and supports for their kids to be ready for kindergarten and thrive.

- SI (Jackson Co Early Intervention): Started our evaluations again. In person start next week. We are excited to get this going again. Our home visitors want to see the families again. The overall sentiment is that they miss their kids and families a lot. Each day they are getting more families accepting virtual services. We are looking how to continue these virtual meetings. Participation has been better since families can utilize this method better.
- Nancy Lawson (EI/ECE): We've found that the EI families are really liking using the virtual meetings. More engagements within their population. A little different with the toddler families. We have some ideas how to drive even more engagement. We are serving over distance this summer. Going to have specialist meeting families in parks, community centers. Autism has been difficult in virtual settings, but feel that parks will have good success. We are staged and ready for summer. We don't know what fall will look like, but standing ready with what we've drafted.
- RB: We've had one KPI facilitator get really innovative. YouTube videos, physically distance groups in parks. We're working with her to get details to share with others.

TS: It's a really simple concept, came out of the need the families had for connections to other families. She started doing parking lot story times. She made chalk in shapes for the families even more than 6' apart. She used her phone as a microphone. They have been doing drive by book delivery of their book of the week. Started 5-6 families. Last week she had over 20 families participate. We have asked her to jolt down how she is making this happen so we can see how other agencies can replicate her efforts. The families love it. They want to expand it.

RB: Janet has gone through enough lessons learned of what to do and what didn't work. A good way to bring families together in a socially responsible way. Families are really needing these connections.

- RR (Jackson Care Connect): We are working on plans for Starting Strong. Expanding over the next couple of months. Dispersing funds to some community based organizations to supply diapers, wipes as requested. Let me know if you need more support. Sam Watson would be the best person to request funding information.

- CG (Listo): We excited in the final stages of hiring two new staff members. Listo will be providing serves through Kids Unlimited this fall. Offering 30 memberships to family boxes until the end of December. Listo staff is in temporary layoffs. I am leaving at the end of June and I appreciate and thank you all for making me feel like home.

RB: You've been a really great partner, really making sure that all of the families in our community are represented. Your enthusiasm. Thank you for that.

RECAP:

RB: Hopefully the demonstration was thought provoking for you. We want to make sure we can connect you with the folks who can answer any questions you may have.

We'll meet in July to keep this great work move forward. Keep working on self-care. Stay healthy.

NEXT MEETING:

July 10, 2020
10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Zoom Call

DRAFT