



## 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 Jackson Services, Brittain Zimmerman – Kid Time, Carrie Prechtel – AllCare Health, Cecilia Giron –LISTO, Christine Russo – Head Start, Jessica Machen - DHS, Katherine Clayton – Head Start, Katrina McGrath - CCRN, Kelly Wessels – UCAN (United Community Action Network, Lisa Farlin – Head Start, Louise Horn – FNC, Mariela Owen – Reliance, Martha Ibarra – CCRN, Mary Wolf – CCRN, Mike Bonetto – Tenfold Health, Nancy Lawson - ECS, Peter Buckley – SO Success, Rebecca Tree – Roots & Wings, Ryan Bair- Rogue Community Health, Riki Rosenthal – Jackson Care Connect/Starting Strong, Sam Engel – AllCare Health, Samantha Watson – Jackson Care Connect, Sarah Northrop - DHS, Scott Beveridge - SOESD, Stacy Inman – DESD CDS, 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 bringing partners together for a collaborative effort using a closed loop referral system to better support family needs. 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 the impact of COVID 19 on the state budget, early learning programs are facing unknown cuts. We do know that Preschool Promise will be protected at current service levels of 13,000 slots across the state. Information about the 75 to 150 additional spots that were to be added to our region are delayed, pending final state budget adjustments.

- KC (Head Start): End of June or first of August before we hear anything about fall. 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 move forward when funding is announced.

RB: Funding and physical distancing needs impacts the programs. 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 partners 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-emotional and trauma-informed 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. [https://bonamici.house.gov/sites/bonamici.house.gov/files/documents/200611\\_Child\\_Care\\_Report.pdf](https://bonamici.house.gov/sites/bonamici.house.gov/files/documents/200611_Child_Care_Report.pdf)

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.
- Nancy Lawson (Josephine EI/ECSE): 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 remotely 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 distanced 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 to stay 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 jot 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 to overcome the isolation.

- 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 are excited to be in the final stages of hiring two new staff members. Listo will be providing services at Kids Unlimited this fall. 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 has been refreshing. 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