



SOELS Governance Council

Southern Oregon ESD
 101 N Grape St., Medford
 March 17, 2020
 2:00-4:00 pm

Members Present (X):

	Scott Beveridge SOESD		Mary Hough S.O. Pediatrics		Pam Thompson- Arbogast, EI/ECSE
	Katherine Clayton SO Head Start	X	Martha Ibarra Hispanic Comm Rep		Andrea Wakeland Parent Voice
*	Susan Fischer-Maki AllCare CCO		Jennifer Johnstun Primary Health of Jo Co	X	Mary Wolf CCRN
	Michelle Gallas Imagine That		Geoffrey Lowry OR Child Dev. Coalition		Melissa Wolff DHS Self Sufficiency
	Jeanne Grazioli Medford School District		Karla McCafferty Options for So Oregon		Susan Zottola GP SD #7
	Michelle Gury Parent Voice	*	Eileen Micke-Johnson RCC		Kerri Hecox, MD Oasis Center
		*	Lisa O'Connor FNC		

*Via Zoom

Staff:

X	René Brandon Director	X	Chelsea Reinhart Early Learning Facilitator	X	Vicki Risner Administrative Assistant
X	Teresa Slater Early Learning Facilitator	X	Molly McLaughlin Early Learning Facilitator		

Via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND GREETINGS

Meeting called to order at 2:00 pm.

ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Add COVID-19 updates

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS

MEETINGS No minutes to approve due to no quorum.

GOVERNANCE COUNCIL & SUBCOMMITTEE RESTRUCTURING UPDATE

Rene: The executive committee has been working for several months on the restructuring of the governance council. Several members' second term limits will be expiring in April and the committee has been focusing on recruitment of new members. The draft recruitment letter was presented. The final version of the letter and link to the application form will be posted on the SOELS webpage. Current members are also encouraged to reach out individually to partners to encourage more partners to apply. The application was also reviewed. Deadline for applications is March 30th. Executive committee will review applications by mid-April. Other GC members can let René know if they would like to be included in the selection process as well. A slate of recommendations for new membership will be brought to the next council meeting on April 21st. Selected candidates will be contacted to begin the onboarding process. We hope to convene at the May retreat for outgoing members and welcoming new members. This may need to be reworked due to COVID-19 and social distancing.

COORDINATED ENROLLMENT UPDATE

Rene: Brief overview of February Early Learning Collaborative was given. The focus is on coordinated enrollment for families applying to Preschool Promise. This is a new area of focus for ELH system across the state. The goal is to build a coordinated approach with a single point of contact for families to discover the different types of programs to find what best meets their family's need. The Hub is working to create an interest form for those families who are already inquiring about next year. An approved application is not yet available. The interest form will catch their children's names, ages, needs, and contact information for follow up.

Mary Wolf: The role of the CCR&R will be to provide Technical assistance for Preschool Promise programs beginning in the Fall.

Rene: There isn't currently a database that can be utilized throughout the state. SOESD has a staff person who is skilled in data analytics and a meeting is set with him later this month. The Hub plans to have a platform in place for a smooth coordinated enrollment experience for families and tracking for ELD purposes.

Funding. ELD is anticipating at least a .75 FTE dedicated to coordinated enrollment. Additional funds will be set aside for marketing, travel, translation and interpretation services, etc.

Martha: Based on the previous Preschool Promise experience doing eligibility for Spanish speaking providers, the eligibility screening period is time intensive.

PRESCHOOL PROMISE RFA UPDATE

It is three weeks before the deadline and 247 applications have been started across the state. Approximately 100 are returning applicants. Mary Wolf talked about the technical support groups that they are convening to assist providers in completing the application process.

ECE WORKFORCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Eileen: The March meeting was postponed due to virus concerns. The committee had a meeting with RCC leadership to review Student Success Act funding and the role RCC could plan in skilling up and increasing the early learning workforce. This meeting has been postponed until a later date.

CHILD & FAMILY WELLBEING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Hub will host *In Utero* screening on May 29th, pending virus status at that time. Panelists have been identified. The panelists will underscore the hope and resiliency that families can experience when connected to the services they need. Panelists include: Hillary Handlesman/Asante Eat, Sleep, Console Program that supports mothers who deliver infants with opioid addiction; Linda Otto, Grandmas to Go home visiting program; Lisa O'Connor, Family Nurturing Center; Kerri Hecox/Oasis Center supporting families with opioid addiction receiving Medication Assisted Treatment; and Todd Bloomquist/GPSD and ACES trainer to speak on resiliency research.

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The committee has convened several meetings to assist partners in applying for the Equity Fund. Listo and Kids Unlimited are the two programs in Southern Oregon who have indicated interest in applying. ELD has not received as many applications as they would have liked across the state and is encouraging regions to continue to promote the Equity Fund.

COVID-19 UPDATE:

Mary Wolf: Child care programs that are not providing emergency child care must close and those interested in offering emergency child care must apply to ELD for approval. Information on emergency child care is rolling out quickly. CCRN is assisting programs in applying to be an ECC site. ELD's position is that Preschool Promise programs should not feel the financial impact of closing during this crisis. They will still receive their funding on time without adjustments. They may still feel the impact from other funding streams, not covered by Preschool Promise. Currently, Great Beginnings in Rogue River and Roots & Wings in Medford are open for first responders and medical. Rogue Valley YMCA changed their afterschool programs at 7 locations to emergency child care for first responders and medical staff families at multiple locations, working with four school districts.

Lisa: Family Nurturing Center is closed, but they are still doing home visits twice a week to support family needs. They can add additional visits for families in need who are served by other partners who have closed, for needs such as diapers, formula, etc. Wendy Nelson is the contact person.

Rene asked Teresa Slater to share a Kaleidoscope Play and Learn update, as an example of how our partners are rallying in this uneasy time. Janet Christian is a facilitator who has five groups - including two closed groups for families in recovery. Janet has started to record her story time, puppets and activity times and sending videos out to the families in her groups to utilize. The Hub is sharing these on social media as well. Janet is also having weekly check-ins with the families, either by email, newsletter, phone calls or safe distancing visits with higher risk families. Janet has drop locations where families can pick up the books and materials she will cover in her videos. She has about 75 families who regularly attend her groups. This is one example of how we can bring normalcy to children and provide supports for their families during a very difficult time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm

NEXT MEETING:

April 21, 2020

ZOOM call due to quarantine,

2:00-4:00 p.m.