



**SOELS
Agency Advisory Council
Meeting Agenda
November 13, 2020
10:00 - 12:00 pm**

Zoom Meeting

<https://soesd.zoom.us/j/98929771308>

Meeting ID: 989 2977 1308

Attendees: Peter Buckley, Crystal Rowbotham, Donna Lipparelli, Darcy Larson, Stacy Inman, Lisa Farlin, Michelle Gallas, Susan Fischer-Maki, Riki Rosenthal, Susan Davis, Brystan Strong, Devon Finley

Hub: René Brandon, Chelsea Reinhart, Molly McLaughlin, Teresa Slater, Vicki Risner

Agenda

Welcome & Partner Updates

Donna Lipparelli, program manager with the outpatient kids programs with Options in Josephine County. We're been open the whole time. Some in clinic visits, some through Zoom, some over the phones. All of our services are still available. We don't have folks on site at most places as of yet. We have one staff at Grants Pass High School. We start next week with 6 grade schools with skill trainers. We are finding that what we used to see as our higher functioning kids, well-motivated and organized, now need the most support because they have lost the most.

Darcy Larson & Stacy Inman, coordinators for Jackson County EI/ESCE. Still serving kids through comprehensive distance learning plans. Sending out activity kits to parents to go along with the videos the teachers are recording. Using the SeeSaw platform. Creating videos for parent coaching. Offering some teletherapy for speech. Been able to increase frequency and services for those kids due to teletherapy. Still doing evaluations. Supporting Child Find as much as we can. The EI program is transitioning our model to the Primary Service Provider Model. Separating service coordination from service, adding more therapy staff. Each family will be assigned a primary service provider with a whole team to back them up to promote continuity of service and care. The goal is to honor family priority and service.

Lisa Farlin, director, Southern Oregon Head Start. Dealing with exposures on a daily basis. Not at our centers but staff who have family members who are testing positive, they've been in the center prepping their classroom around other people. We hired a nurse this year. She's on the phone with public health almost every day, getting their advice. Phase 1, We started on the 26th

with 7 classrooms at half capacity. Then on November 9th we added 5 more. Currently serving 80 children in center base so far. In a typical year we would have been serving 164 early Head Start and 948 children in Head Start. We have been offering more duration Head Start, full day, so those numbers are slightly down from before when we offered more half day classes. The kids in duration classes get 3 days a week.

It's a modified schedule of 2 days a week. All of the rest are receiving virtual. November 30th we're opening 12 more classrooms. It's been a really slow trickle of children in. Our usual onboarding process has been shifted to online. Just got approval for Grab and Go meals starting with our center-based kids. When they leave after their 2 days they get to take a couple meals home with them. We are working to provide all of the virtual family's meals as well for at least a couple times a week.

Michelle, Kid Time. We are an emergency child care site since September when we opened up. We did have a positive case at one of our learning labs offsite so we closed that site down for two weeks. It remained isolated to that one child and their family so we were able to reopen. We are getting our Preschool Promise families now which is exciting.

We are gearing up for our Polar Express which is the biggest event that Kid Time does every year. We are changing to a virtual Polar Express experience so it will be different videos to watch online and then they can pick up kits that they can do some of the activities at home.

Susan Fisher-Maki, AllCare. Our staff continues to work from home, keeping no more than 30% of our staff in the building at any time. We are moving our Medford office to a more centralized location on Main Street. Looking at how we are caring for our staff in the midst of this time. Our Trauma Stewardship Introduction training topped out at 300 people. Thanks to SOELS we are adding a second training in January. The book Trauma Stewardship is a Ford Family Foundation books so you can go onto their website and ordered it for free. The session on the 30th really focuses on supervisors to give them additional tools in their belt during this unusual time.

Trauma Stewardship for Supervisors - November 30th from 9 to 11 a.m.
Presented by Laura van Dernoot Lipsky. REGISTER:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/trauma-stewardship-for-supervisors-tickets-125499044019>

AllCare is very thankful for our partnership with Jackson Care Connect. Because of that we are seeing some innovative forward-thinking opportunities that I would like to bring back to this group in the coming months. We are seeing a new infusion of dollars going out into the community so stay tuned for those announcements.

I would also like to be bringing back data sets to this group to share out. Would love to find out from you on a monthly basis what data would be needed to be meaningful to bring back to you on our enrollment, trends that we are seeing.

Riki Rosenthal, Jackson Care Connect. A lot of work around the equity work. We will be moving our Starting Strong location by February. We plan to stay downtown and are looking for a site that we can use more efficiently.

Crystal Rowbotham, Jackson County Parent Representative. Things have been exciting and overwhelming. My son started an in-person preschool in September at the Learning Tree. He just got accepted into Preschool Promise. After the two-week slow down was announced, we learned that his Preschool Promise was pushed back, then after a couple of days it was pushed back up. So, I'm balancing the two preschools to make sure that the one that we paid for is utilized, but not wanting to overlap them too much because of COVID exposure. That's always a constant pressure. I don't go out in public much. I have my groceries delivered. He does get sick easily so it is a concern. I'm actually really kind of scared going into this winter season.

René: I think you have just captured what every parent with young children is dealing with right now. The balance between getting to work, having child care or preschool opportunity, being safe, trying to figure out which decisions are best for your family without being able to read your crystal ball to see what that might mean. It's really a hard space that you are in right now. We appreciate you joining us, to remind us what it is like to be a parent right now because it is a unique perspective. We need to be reminded of your perspective constantly.

Crystal: Before, I could interact with other parents and get more perspectives besides my own. Since March I'm isolated and only have my perspective to give. As you were saying that it's taking families longer to respond to preschool forms, I'm in that boat. I would go to respond and then a week would go by and I would have to be reminded again. I'm grateful for the extra time and grateful for the extra reminders.

Susan Davis, Josephine Community Libraries. We're starting an early literacy media program for adults and children too. It's sort of like a story time, but with early literacy tips for the adults. It's called How to Sprout A Reader. Target age between 0 and 5. That starts next week. It is on our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/events/3393099857410095/> It is registration required.

Younghee Kim at SOU contacted me and we are partnering to give out early learning STEM kits.

Brystan Strong, Jackson County Libraries. Because of the 2 week pause, we are moving backwards and going back to front door services only. We were opened for limited hours, with limited number of people in the building. Still not doing in person programming. We are calling it enhanced front door service. We will have computer access by appointment at all 15 of our locations so people can apply for a job, or if they don't have internet access at home. You can book an appointment with a librarian if there is something you need extra help with. We have a readers advisory form now. Putting books on hold is great if you know exactly what you are looking for. This will help parents whose kids might really be into construction trucks right now know what books to look for. The form asks basic questions about like and dislikes, then gives recommendations. We still have *take and makes* that people can pick up at the front doors. We still have digital programming. We also partnered with SOU with those STEM kits so we'll have some of those to hand out too.

Devon Finley, CCRN. We are still doing everything we can to support child care providers. Distance trainings, sharing updates and guidance changes. Our child care providers are overwhelmed. They are getting so much information, dealing with stresses. We're noticing that we're having to resend and extend opportunities. We have been offering quite a few more Zoom sessions where we will offer Q&A support and allow people to contact us if they need

extra assistance, either with training opportunities or some of the grant support opportunities. People are saying that they saw it come in their email then they have so much more to do. So, we are trying to keep them on track.

The Cost of Quality Service survey was extended to November 30th. We're trying to make sure that we get a lot of response to that. We were able to offer the Conscious Discipline Start Strong Infant/Toddler Learning Opportunity around the state. We have had a huge response. We are offering weekly support sessions for people going through that training. We've got Preschool Promise, College Cohorts, lots of training opportunities. We are changing databases to Find Childcare Oregon which is simpler to remember. It goes live on Monday.

Peter Buckley, Southern Oregon Success. We had a wonderful screening of the documentary *In Utero* last night with 85 people online for it. Chelsea was the hero who figured out how to make it happen. It's a great film. You can also find it on Amazon Prime. We have a self-regulation workshop tomorrow. And a mindfulness workshop next Saturday.

We have four major workgroups this year. One with René being our leading force, is our preschool/K-12 alignment workgroup. We're developing two summits, one in April and another longer one in August, bringing together early childhood educators, kindergarten teachers, K-12 administrators, families, etc., to really focus on how we can align the systems. How we can make the transitions from early childhood into kindergarten work much better for families. We're developing a survey to send out on this so we really can use your help on that.

We have another work group that is developing a family advisory council for the region. The idea being having 7 or so family members, 7 or so people who work like in early childhood or other agencies, combined together to meet on a monthly basis to make sure that we have family voice in education, health care, human services, public safety. We hope to have this going in early 2021.

We have a group that's working to increase the number of school-based health centers to every school in Jackson County. All three clinics: La Clinica, Rogue Community Health and Siskiyou are committed to this. The districts are interested. Space is always an issue. The goal is to have a center in every school and members of the community will have access to them. A mother with a young child would be able to go to her local elementary school to see a nurse.

The work that's moving the fastest right now is focusing on expanding the number of parent/caregiver peer support groups. Particularly after the fire, there was an immediate request from migrant education to see if we might be able to help organize some parent support groups, Spanish speaking parent support groups. Rogue Valley Mentoring jumped to it immediately so we are starting the first group on December 1st. It will all be on Zoom. La Clinica is starting another one soon after that. There's interest in a number of groups paying to translate the Rogue Valley Mentoring curriculum into Spanish so that more Spanish speaking facilitators can be trained and get more parent peer support groups throughout the region.

Family Nurturing Center is doing great stuff. We want to support what they're doing and expand as much as possible as it works for them. The same with the Family Connection. If you haven't been to either one of those websites in the past couple months you should really check them

out. It's amazing how many offerings there are through the Family Connection and the Family Nurturing Center.

Early Learning Council update: We had a retreat last month. It focused on what the council wants to push forward in the next legislative session. Talked at length about the process of creating a new kindergarten readiness assessment. There isn't one this year and might not be one next year depending on the timing of this. ELD and Colt Gill from the Department of Education assured that they would be working together with early childhood educators, kindergarten teachers and families to develop a kindergarten assessment that actually makes sense and that prioritizes social and emotional development.

Preschool Promise is having the same issues statewide that we're having locally. We covered basic budget ideas for the next session. There will be a bill drafted, supported by the council, to streamline the background check process for folks in early childhood. Looks like it will move under ELD instead of being three separate agencies.

Molly McLaughlin, SOELS. Preschool Promise Coordinated Enrollment update. The Early Learning hubs across the state are not doing any placements for Head Start so for our region that looks like 280 children to place for the Preschool Promise Providers who are not under the Head Start umbrella. We had 66 continuing students. Providers could suggest conversion families to support continuity of care, identifying existing families in the program who qualify to apply for Preschool Promise. Most of those families who applied have made it through the process. We have moved into that final phase of working with the lottery for new families. 81 families have been pulled from the lottery so far. We did our first two lottery drawings last week and one this week. Of the conversion and new families, we have 104 families that have been processed with 93 that were determined eligible. So, we still have 121 placements to fill and confirm. What we are looking at now with our lottery is that the bulk of the remaining openings are in Medford. For the families that are still in our pool, since we weren't able to place everyone who filled out a screening form, there are 10 families that are still not placed because they wanted specific programs and those are full. They prefer to remain in the lottery pool and be considered when an opening occurs. There was a lot of demand for a handful of programs. Of those families not yet placed, 8 of them want White City spots. There's been a lot of demand for White City and most of the White City providers are full and still have families waiting in their lottery pool.

René: There are still more opportunities for more families. Please continue to share the flyers to get the word out. It's a statewide issue that fewer families are opting into preschool right now primarily due to concerns about COVID and being in that group setting. We're not sure we'll see full enrollment in the fall. We are not sure what the Early Learning Division will do about that going forward. With some families determined to staying in a lottery pool, we're not sure if the ELD will shift some of those enrollment possibilities to those programs with a waiting list after a period of time if other programs are just not able to be at capacity.

Teresa Slater, SOELS. We're trying to get reconnected with our schools and the kindergarten teachers. In January, we are hoping to restart our PLTs (Professional Learning Teams). They are a combination of early learning providers and kindergarten teachers. The schools are ready, the teachers want to do it. It will be virtual which will look a little bit different. They really love visiting each other's classrooms to see their environments, get ideas from each other which we

can't do at this time. We have some great online tools to use so I think we can make it beneficial for everyone.

I am also working with Central Medford High School to see how we can recreate a project we did a couple of years ago where Juniors and Seniors could take ECE classes through Rogue Community College so that once they graduate they could have a certificate and then enter the workforce right away. This is moving quickly.

We are still doing SOELS Story times, formerly Kaleidoscope Play and Learn Groups. Until the pause we had a space indoors where Jacksonville Presbyterian Church would move out all the chairs every week to create a giant space for all of our participating families. It became so popular we increased it to a third offering. While it's just a story time for the time being, it's reconnecting those families who feel so incredibly isolated right now.

Teachers are exhausted. They are using every single tool that they have in their tool kits and the thought of bringing anything else on is a bit overwhelming. And yet they still say that they want to do the PLT's and the ECE class offerings. If Time Magazine has person of the year, it's going to be a teacher or all educators.

Chelsea Reinhart, SOELS: We are running the Early Childhood Enhancement project for winter term which is full. We are offering that virtually. This was our cohort model where we offered onsite coaching, a community of practice (COP), an online course through RCC. We modified the coaching to be virtual and offering additional COPs for teachers to connect to each other and a dive deeper into discussion about the course.

Become a Champion for Promoting Protective Factors with the Families You Serve

Chelsea shared the final **Family Engagement Tool Kit**. It's built around the 5 Protective Factors. It's designed for use by both partners and families. The first two pages are designed for partners with talking points, definitions and resources. The last two pages are for families which you can print out and give to them (both in English and Spanish).

It was sent out as a pdf with the QR code separate so you can use the code wherever you would like to share it as well. We would love to hear as you are sharing it.

The email I sent out Thursday, November 5th has all the attachments needed. It also talks about ways that you can become a champion. We highlighted the Protective Factor training, which has an online version that you can attend. The HUB also has a face to face training, upon request. I did deliver a small group training face to face in October since they wanted to take it as a team. So, if you're interested in a small group training face to face please contact me and we can make it happen after the pause. In the email we also included the self-assessment tools for community-based programs, home visiting programs or childcare programs. These tools are useful for evaluating how well your program is supporting protective factors and can be used for organizational strategic planning.

Raise Up Oregon – Southern Oregon Early Learning System Strategic Planning

An overview to date: In early 2019, the Raise Up Oregon: A statewide early learning system plan 2019-2023 was released. It was the first time that the state agency heads of early care and education, human services, housing, K12 education, and health all came together to do a joint strategic plan with the acknowledgement that it doesn't make a lot of sense for these agencies to be competing for funding at the legislative level when in reality many of them are sharing the same families, just delivering different services to those families. The idea was to weave something together that comprehensively set the pathway to better serve families with young children.

Within the plan it calls out the 3 overarching goals of Raise Up Oregon:

1. Children Arrive Ready for Kindergarten
 - a. Regionally we changed that to "that they are supported to arrive ready for Kindergarten. Stressing that the responsibility is the adults, not the child.
2. Children Are Raised in Healthy, Stable, and Attached Families
3. The Early Learning System is Aligned, Coordinated, and Family Centered

Under each of the 3 goals are the 14 objectives. Under each of the 14 objectives are the state identified strategies to help reach those objectives.

We opened the attachment to the invite entitled: AAC Raise Up Oregon Nov 2020 Work Session (word document). Instructions were given on how the work session would happen. Today's session focused on the first 4 objectives, participants were allowed to pick which objective they wanted to work on.

Participants were able to choose from 4 separate groups topics for small groups going through that one objective. Making notes directly on the shared word document:

- #1 Families are supported and engaged as their child's first teachers
- #2 Families have access to high-quality (culturally responsive, inclusive, developmentally appropriate) affordable early care and education that meets their needs. (No one selected this objective today.)
- #3 The early care and education workforce is diverse, culturally responsive, high quality and well compensated.
- #4 Early childhood physical and social-emotional health promotion and prevention is increased

We hope to have good notes by the end of the session, with your thinking on it so that we can really start to go through those 14 objectives over the next couple of meetings with the idea that with this finished product, once it's ranked and we have the priorities that this group has identified, that this document will be what starts to shape the Early Learning Hub's strategic plan for the next biennium and the funding investments for our region.

SAVE-THE-DATE FOR OUR NEXT SOELS AGENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING:

January 8, 2021
10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.