



**SOELS  
Agency Advisory Council  
Meeting Agenda  
February 12, 2021  
10:00-12:00pm**

**Zoom Meeting**

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

Attendees: Peter Buckley, Lisa Farlin, Linda Otto, Chedric Monahan, Kelsey Dennis, Michelle Don, Darcy Larson, Devon Finley, Brystan Strong, Crystal Rowbotham, Jessica Machen, Katherine Clayton, Bethanee Grace, Sam Watson

Hub Staff: René Brandon, Chelsea Reinhart, Vicki Risner, Teresa Slater

**Agenda**

**Partner Updates:**

**Peter Buckley – Southern Oregon Success.** Town hall meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss a Family advisory council for our region. looking to recruit 10 people who work with families. So, if any of you are interested or know someone, please send them my way. This council will meet once a month to discuss issues that impact families. Our Early Childhood Supports work group is working on a project with the Family Independence Group. The goal is to have 20 families each from both Josephine and Jackson Counties. The Family Independence Initiative is an initiative that organizes families into teams, they set goals, help each other reach their goals, includes a small financial assistance to help those families meet their goals. About half of the families they have worked with are out of poverty within two years. Still working to expand school-based health centers. We have our preschool/K-12 alignment workgroup, working to have two summits, one in April and one in August. If you're not part of that yet and would like to be apart of it, just let me know. I'm also on the Early Learning Council. René made a presentation last meeting to them and did a great job explaining what a hub does.

**Lisa Farlin – So OR Head Start.** More than half of our classes are open now. Looking to hiring more staff so we can open some more. Our enrollment is 64% in Head Start and 95% in Early Head Start. We've had challenges getting engagement in our virtual services. We're kicking off meals for virtual families hoping that may help reengage them a bit. We are doing a vaccine clinic today for our staff with 65 people signed up. Yesterday at a meeting I heard a pediatrician speak, he wants to get the word out about Early Learning to other pediatricians. Benjamin Hoffman from OHSU was a dynamic

speaker. He wants to come here to speak to the medical community. He has a whole presentation and I can't wait to connect him with you René.

**Linda Otto – Family Nurturing Center & Grandmas to Go.** Grandmas to Go is now part of FNC. We are currently providing door step deliveries to families.

**Chedric Monahan –Kairos Jackson Services,** youth mental health with Jackson Co. We still have our open intake hours. Most everything is still over telehealth. We have a few skill coaches who provide from face to face sessions. We used to do a lot in school visit sessions, so we're interested to see how that goes as on-site classes resume. Feel free to send anyone my way who wants to have conversations about resuming these services on campus.

**Chelsea Reinhart – Early Learning Hub.** For Preschool Promise, we are still accepting applications. We have about 40 slots available. So, if you have families that are looking for preschool, all of our programs are offering in-person services. The screening form is on our webpage for parents to complete, as well as a list of all of the programs and their hours and program details. We conduct the lottery every Thursday. We would love to fill up these last slots.

Crystal: I have a friend who makes just a little bit too much to qualify for Preschool Promise, but can't afford to send her child themselves. Chelsea: Have them check out the ERDC program. ERDC goes up to 250% of the federal poverty level so it's a little bit higher than what Preschool Promise or Head Start can offer. Employment Related Day Care link-

<https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/ASSISTANCE/CHILD-CARE/Pages/Parents.aspx>

Chelsea: Before the pandemic, the hub coordinated a Community Resource Orientation with several community partners, delivering county specific community resources orientations on a quarterly basis to ensure that partners who are serving families really got a good exposure to available services. It's in the process of being revised and repurposed. We've decided to offer a series of community orientations that are topic specific. We'll have five sessions which include: mental health, children's services, medical field, social services, recovery and substance use. We'll start in April with children's services since April is Child Abuse prevention month. Then continue through August with the other topics. They will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 9:00 to 12:00. We are using EventBrite for the registration. I will send out the link through our resource emails. Next week, I will be sending out emails to our partners asking them if they would like to present on a specific topic.

**Kelsey Dennis – Faculty at RCC; Lead Teacher Roots & Wings.** We're settling in with our new department chair Bridey Mendoza-Moore, a nice welcome back to our team. We're preparing for our spring term which looks like we will be continuing to be online. We have been able to offer a limited number of practicums for students who needed it to graduate. We've been promoting the presentation by Rae Pica that's coming up.

**Michelle Don – Ivy School at Kid Time.** We have 4 Preschool Promise classrooms, one of which is full, the other 3 still have spaces available. We've had 4 lab classrooms where we are assisting students who are doing virtual learning from kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. 2 of the classes will remain with their parents switching them over to the Medford School online program. We are hiring!

**Darcy Larson –Jackson County EI/ECE.** We're hiring as well. We're returning to a limited in person instruction on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Once we have enough staff we will begin feathering additional kids in. A lot of our parents are looking at Preschool Promise too. We bought a new building and will be moving our administrative and evaluation staff into it. We will then do a little remodel at our Stewart

location to fit another classroom and speech rooms, which will allow smaller cohorts and give kids more time.

**Devon Finley – CCRN**. The Rae Pica presentation is on February 27<sup>th</sup>. We are currently supporting providers to get vaccinated and helping them find opportunities. We are in the process of hiring an inclusion specialist. We will have a new college cohort later this spring, open to anybody who is entry level. It will help them obtain their basic certificate, a step 7 by the time they are done. It's the same class requirements as a CDA.

**Brystan Strong – Jackson County Library Services**. We are still providing enhanced front door service. We are finishing our winter Rogue Reads program. Our spring theme is health and renewal with programs from mental health, physical health, and financial health for all ages. Our summer theme is Readers are Leaders focusing on civil leadership and civil engagement. The library will be hosting a Leadership in Literacy series for parents - teaching them the importance of early literacy, as well as giving them tips and tricks for them to use at home to empower them to be their child's first teacher, this summer

**Crystal Rowbotham – Parent Representative for Jackson County**. Providence Birth Place has a parent group that meets once a week, currently virtual. When I was part of it, it was in person and very valuable for our family. Tracy Hanson is the doula that leads the virtual group at Providence; she might know who will take it over when it goes back in person.

**Jessica Machen – ODHS for Jackson & Josephine counties**. Child welfare is working on a vision for transformation. We're looking at some of the practices we've engaged in over the past 50 years and recognizing that we need to be more culturally competent. We need to change up our practices a lot. We are doing a lot of training around cultural agility. I can share the document of the visions that we have.

**Katherine Clayton – Executive Director for Southern Oregon Head Start**. I'm sure Lisa filled you in. Our goal right now is getting those vaccines available, education about the vaccines and getting kids back into the classrooms.

**Bethanee Grace - The Family Connection**, the regional parenting education hub. We're excited to bring some different classes to our spring program: Parenting in Recovery; Infant Massage; Nurturing Parenting for Teens and Tweens. Crystal: I attended the Nurturing Health Class and also learning the transition from IFSP to IEP kindergarten from Fact Oregon. Those were great classes. Bethanee: Thank you. Those are great classes. The feedback that we've received from parents regarding the Ask an Expert class is that they feel honored that professionals took time out to talk with them. We are always looking for topics for workshops so if you have a workshop that you would like us to teach to the community we'd like to hear those ideas.

**Sam Watson – Jackson Care Connect**. We are just a couple of months away from launching Unite Us, which is the community information exchange that both Jackson Care Connect and Allcare have begun to contract with. If you have not received an invite to one of our demos or community tables, please reach out to me and I will be happy to add you to those invites. We continue to have wildfire funding available to CBO's that are supporting fire survivors. We have also received some dedicated funding in the amount of \$250,000, specifically for COVID relief. Locally we are still making some decisions about how to allocate that funding. We've identified that half of that will go to organizations that are providing COVID relief. We closed our Starting Strong office and continued to provide virtual supports through this past year. We're thankful to the Family Nurturing Center who

allowed us to place a drop box at their location. We are looking for a new location within the next few months so that we can open up when we return to in person work. We are hoping to expand the offerings that the new location can accommodate. If you have updates that you would like shared on our Facebook page, just let me know and we can get them out. My e-mail is watsons@careoregon.org, please reach out to me if you'd like more information on our grant programming, if you would like to be added to the Unite Us information distribution list for demos and community spaces, or anything else I may be of service in supporting you!

**René: The Early Learning Hub** we also have a fire relief fund available. We set aside \$250,000 and about half of that is still unclaimed. The fund is to provide funding to organizations serving families who have been impacted by the recent fires in Jackson and Josephine Counties. Qualifying organizations must serve children under age six and/or their families and deliver services in the two-county region. While the fund does not have a request limit per application, requests should be in line with the number of families to be served with the funding. Prioritization will be given to organizations serving the priority populations identified for our region: families whose home language is Spanish; families living in rural communities; families experiencing financial hardship; families with a child experiencing a disability; foster families; teen parents; and families in recovery from substance use. The funding can be used to 1) replace an organization's critical materials and supplies lost by the fires, 2) purchase materials and supplies needed due to the impact of the fires, and/or 3) provide other supports to families who are impacted by the fires. This application will be open through March 31, 2021, or until funds are depleted. Applicants will be notified of award within two weeks of application. An agreement will be drafted for organizations receiving an award and a reconciliation of funding received will be required to be submitted to the Southern Oregon Early Learning Hub by May 1, 2021. To complete the application, please click the link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfiNjWQT-zNVXlSSWnqOpDgltcW12OF8pAvnjYCKKW5\\_z6fGQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfiNjWQT-zNVXlSSWnqOpDgltcW12OF8pAvnjYCKKW5_z6fGQ/viewform)

We have previously promoted the Family Engagement Tool Kit. It really is a 3-prong approach: 1) inviting partners to attend the Strengthening Families Training, either a community training or a training specific to your agency, 2) using Agency Self Assessments; two for early learning programs, one for home visiting programs and another for community-based organizations. These assessments help to identify where an agency is strong in supporting families in addressing the 5 protective factors, and where there are some areas an agency has the opportunity to strengthen and what that might look like; 3) using the Tool Kit itself. As you are using the Tool Kit we'd love to get feedback, if it is helpful, any success stories using it, and any suggestions you might have for refinements.

### **Continuation of Strategic Planning**

René: We are finishing up the preliminary work around strategic planning. We are using Oregon's *Raise Up Oregon 5-year Strategic plan* as our template for this work. Under each goal there are several objectives and strategies. That's what we have been going through. We are using the state's template to help inform our own regional plan for the next biennium. This is the ground work for how we go forward with regional investments. What's happening in our region that is supportive of these and the efforts we might want to focus on based on the work that we are doing here today.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GYMD8t6KSHWOZ\\_v2HLXPzcT1tL3Z92X/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GYMD8t6KSHWOZ_v2HLXPzcT1tL3Z92X/view?usp=sharing)

Started at Objective 8: All families with infants have opportunity for connection.

Group went line by line through *What are we doing?* (left column)

Additions were made directly to the form.

Next the group went line by line through *What else can/should we be doing?* (right column) Additions were made directly to the form.

#1 Next Steps Identified:

- Create a video to be shown at the hospital for new parents in the hospital and/or pediatric offices.
  - Talk with Tracy Hansen, the doula, about video
  - Linda Otto has a videographer that she will put us in touch with

Next Meeting:  
March 12, 2021  
10:00-12:00pm