



## **Child & Family Wellbeing Committee**

**March 10, 2021**

**1-2:30 pm**

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/409812744>

Attendees: Tracy Hansen, Linda Otto, Diana Bennington, Sadie Emmons, Riki Rosenthal, Jennifer Gustafson, Christine Shepherd, Bethanee Grace, Susan Fischer-Maki

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

### **Agenda**

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Chelsea Reinhart – Early Learning Hub

Vicki Risner – Early Learning Hub

Tracy Hansen – Providence Birth Place

Linda Otto – Family Nurturing Center, Grandmas2Go

Diana Bennington – The Family Connection

Teresa Slater – Early Learning Hub

Sadie Emmons – Doula; works with mothers and infants, high risk community

Riki Rosenthal – Jackson Care Connect, Starting Strong Program Specialist

Jennifer Gustafson – Allcare Health, compliance manager

Christine Shepherd – WIC & Healthy Start in Jo. Co.

Bethany Grace – The Family Connection

Susan Fischer-Maki – AllCare Health

René Brandon – Early Learning Hub

#### **Raise Up Oregon Strategic Plan – Discuss Objective 8: All Families with Infants Have Opportunity for Connection**

*Referenced PowerPoint presentation.* Started with slide 3. Raise Up Oregon – Quick Recap. Objective 8 was identified in February's Agency Advisory Committee as a level 1; we really need to act now, to engage our families early.

This is the work that this committee will be focusing on for the next several months. About three years ago, our k12 partners called a regional meeting to discuss that they were seeing the majority of kindergarten children were arriving not attached to services that would have been beneficial for them. Not only were they not attached to services, but educators were seeing many more dysregulated children in kindergarten than previously. Most families receive prenatal care and most families do give birth in a hospital, but then the majority of

them were not on the radar again until kindergarten entry. By that time, we have missed an opportunity to engage those families in services early and keeping them engaged so that they get the services that are best suited for their children and themselves at an optimal time to receive them. This is the greater focus of work that we will be working on over the next year or so.

The Proposed Process thru July and beyond:

- Identify the services that are available to families at each stage: prenatal, infant/toddler, preschool, kindergarten entry
- Hear from pregnant women and families with young children regarding what they think they need, how they want to receive it, and why they do or do not access available services
- Create regional outreach videos & methods to share videos to reach families
- Identify how we will know if we are successful in reaching families

Today will be focused on prenatal and infant stages. How we are going to hear the voice of families to help guide our work to make sure we are on the right track. To discover the best ways that they want to receive information and what the best ways to get that information to them. More systemic coordination and referrals. How to get some outreach videos and where they would be best suited to be viewed by families.

**Today's Objectives.** During the discussion Chelsea entered those ideas, names and programs directly into the working document

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1j\\_TmsE0qm9s8HS\\_Zg5xtqYPTe9VLdXkt/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1j_TmsE0qm9s8HS_Zg5xtqYPTe9VLdXkt/view?usp=sharing)

- Review prenatal and newborn resources document
- Add missing resources and details about each response
- Discuss how we will engage families in our planning processes
- Discuss the types of videos/intention of the video:
  - Informational – video tells families how to navigate something, or raises awareness about the importance of something
  - Skill building – video teaches families how to do something
  - Overview of services – video with a broad range of snippets from community partners and what they can do to assist families

Susan: Have we cross referenced these lists with the resources in 211info that will help feed into the Unite Us system? I just spoke with Peg King with Health Share. They launched Help Me Grow Oregon and will be expanding into our region. There are similar activities and objectives.

René: Absolutely. This work will be connected with other local efforts and those strategies. A future conversation about how to do that cross walking to ensure that the agencies and entities that are listed here are in the 211 system is part of the next step to creating that coordinated process for our region. What we are focusing on initially is outreach and engagement for families with infants. The enthusiasm that was generated from that strategic planning is only one part of that. There is a lot more work to be done. There will be some ways that we can inform other work that is happening. We can have that as an agenda

item for the April meeting to identify some preliminary ways that we can move forward together.

### **How can we Engage Families in the Process?**

We need to identify a couple of parents who would join us in these meetings when we start to talk about video content. It would be wonderful to have a local family featured in the videos. We never want to do something to the families, but with the families, to make sure that we are hitting the mark and to ensure that we are successful.

- Identify families to participate in this project with us
  - \$20 gift card for each meeting. Support offered before and/or after meeting, as needed.
- Conduct empathy interviews with pregnant women and diverse families with infants (BIPOC, Spanish home language, child with disability, foster care, teen parent, dads, recovery) - \$20 gift card for interview.
- If you can think of any families who would be willing to join us through Zoom, willing to share some of their opinions, please let us know.

### **Sample Questions for Empathy Interviews**

We plan to put these questions in a Google format, not to be sent to families, but for you to capture what they say so that we can have all of that collected in one document for us to review at the next meeting. The questions are to get them talking, to share their experiences. It will help shape our video products and will help us with our future alignment and coordinating of services to know how they really want to be served. What works best for them and the pitfalls that maybe we can avoid.

- What services or programs are you aware of that are available to help you support the needs of your pregnancy or your baby?
  - Have a specific short list of services and partners for the interviewer to quietly check off during the interview. This information would tell us where we need to shine a light on programs that don't seem to be widely known in the community.
- Have you engaged in any of them?
- Why or why not?
- What would make you decide NOT to participate in a program?
- What would make it MORE likely for you to participate in the future?
- What do you wish programs understood about the needs of pregnant women or families with infants?

René: Regarding the SORS Parent Leadership Council workgroup, maybe having those folks complete this as well? Chelsea: We don't have the final group yet. From the current applicants: 15 parents, 5 of whom are considered community partners because they are working in the community. 1 was pregnant. A couple have infants. The majority have older kids. Maybe they could complete it as a "look back" from when they were pregnant. I think this would be a great task for

the group to do as they are coming together. Peter or I could interview the members to get that information from this group specifically.

René: We can also reach out to our partners who engage with families with really young children such as Early Head Start to see if they would be willing to dialogue with some of their families. We want a good number of family responses to start to drive some of our decision making.

Southern Oregon Success has recently done a few surveys for families and early learning providers. The results are really compelling. When people get to share their voice and their experience, it really is profound. I'm looking forward to this.

#### Next Steps:

- René and Chelsea will work together to create the Google document.
- René will send Empathy Interview Questions to Group
- If you are able, conduct empathy interviews with one or two families before the April meeting to gather their answers. Google Survey will be provided.
- April Meeting
  - Review results of Empathy Interviews
  - Go through the same identifying efforts for newborns as we did today for pregnancy
  - Identify next steps for outreach efforts
- We will continue this planning work through July with the goal of having materials and a plan for dissemination for September
- Get more information about whether families with private insurance are being required to pay \$5,000 up front or on a payment plan to receive care. A time to apply for OHP to help with the deductible for dual coverage.

#### Next Meeting:

April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Zoom