



SOELS Steering Committee
 March 20, 2018
 SOESD, 101 N Grape Street, Medford
 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Members Present (X): See attendance record

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| | Hannah Ancel Jackson Care Connect | x | Rosemary Jernigan DHS, District 8 | x | Nancy Nordyke SO Head Start |
| | Scott Beveridge SOESD | | Jennifer Johnstun Primary Health of Jo Co | x | Lisa O'Connor FNC |
| Arrived 3:55pm | Amy Buehler Jackson Co. Mental Health | x | Geoffrey Lowry Oregon Child Dev. Coalition | | Dr. Kerri Hecox La Clinica |
| | Susan Fischer AllCare CCO | | Karla McCafferty Options of So Oregon | x | Kelly Soter Jackson Elementary |
| * | Michelle Gallas Imagine That | x | Nancy McKinnis Jackson Care Connect ¹ | * | Pam Thompson Arbogast EI/ECSE |
| x | Michelle Gury Parent Voice | x | Eileen Micke-Johnson RCC | x | Mary Wolf CCRN |
| x | Martha Ibarra Hispanic Comm Rep | | Lee Murdoch Retired Physician | x | Susan Zottola GP SD #7 |

*Participating via phone

¹ Representing Hannah Ancel

Staff:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| x | Rene Brandon Director | x | Chelsea Reinhart Early Learning Facilitator | x | Karen Johnson Administrative Assistant |
| x | Teresa Slater Early Learning Facilitator | x | Molly McLaughlin Early Learning Facilitator | | |

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND GREETINGS

N. Nordyke called the meeting to order @ 2:10 pm. R. Brandon announced three new members of the Steering Committee: Position 1, Michelle Gury, a Parent Representative from Jackson County, Position 14, Geoffrey Lowry with the Oregon Child Development Coalition, and Position 17, Dr. Kerri Hecox, a physician at La Clinica.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from January 16, 2018 approved. Motion by K. Soter/Second by L. O'Connor.

ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

K. Soter made announcement regarding Pear Blossom event and working with Lithia, Rogue Federal Credit Union, and the Hub to put on a book drive for a target population of zero to five. The goal is to reach 1,000 books (gently used or new), and Lithia is spearheading that effort. There are blue totes at each of the Lithia dealerships, Rogue Federal Credit Union and the Lithia Starbucks at the Commons. Lithia has also offered to backfill in an effort to reach the 1,000-book goal. Please spread the word; donations towards purchasing books are welcome as well. There will also be a table at the Pear Fair on April 13th and 14th where community partners can share information about their programs and what services they offer. We may also be inserting materials in the books.

HUB FINANCIAL UPDATE

R. Brandon shared the SOELS' October-December '17 Quarterly Report, pointing out that this does not necessarily reflect the activity that happened October through December, but rather when Southern Oregon ESD completed the financial transactions for the actual activity. For example, for the period ending in December 2017, any programs receiving Hub funding were not required to submit their report or invoice until after mid-February 2018; therefore, that activity was not captured on this report.

As of that time, we had used about 8% of Hub Coordination funds. For Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation, the schools were just getting started and most of the invoices had not come in by the time of this report. The majority of the expenses reflected are for Hub staff time and helping the schools to get up and running. For School Readiness, we did not have our RFP process completed until January 2018, so no financial report would have been attached at that time. We are still in the process of determining how to best invest Healthy, Stable and Attached Families funds and Family Support Funds. Several emerging initiatives will be shared during the meeting. Total program expenses for the quarter are around 4% of our full funding.

SOELS PRIORITY INVESTMENTS

R. Brandon shared PowerPoint presentation: *SOELS Priority Investments Strategies – 2017-2019 Progress to Date*

- *The Challenges Families are Facing in Southern Oregon*
 - The majority of the more than 19k children aged birth to six in our region need the services offered in our community to reach optimal outcomes.
 - The younger the child, the more likely they are living in poverty.
 - 41.7% of children (aged birth to 18) in Jackson and 43.9% in Josephine County are living in households with Supplemental Security Income, cash public assistance, or TANF/SNAP benefits.
 - Out of 36 counties, Jackson and Josephine rank 30 and 33 respectively in terms of the most homeless students.
 - The numbers actually could be higher, as some families will not ask for services.
- *The Limitations of Early Care & Education Programs*
 - Of all the families who are eligible only

- 15% receive home visiting
 - 16% receive a Child Care subsidy
 - 9% have access to Early Head Start
 - 36% have access to Head Start, Oregon Pre-K, & Preschool Promise
- *Southern Oregon Early Learning Hub Focus*
 - Focus on deep systemic & sustainable impacts
 - Met with stakeholder groups to try to determine the biggest challenges families are facing and the best use of Hub funds. These are some common themes that came up:
 - Children are not socially and emotionally ready to enter kindergarten.
 - How can we better engage parents in the process?
 - Behavioral health concerns for children is causing stress for teachers and disruption in the classroom.
 - Our system partners need more professional development opportunities.
- *School Readiness Funds: Ready for Kindergarten*
 - RFP Funded Projects Awarded in January
 - LISTO – Offering programs 4 days a week (2 days in Medford and 2 days in Phoenix), serving 59 children and 85 parents. Also offering afterschool support with parent education classes.
 - CCRN Warmline – A way for parents and providers to get support. With only 10 hours per week, have been able to do 14 visits and address 9 emails and 28 calls.
 - Kid Time – Offering 65 Spanish and 154 bilingual classes.
 - SMART – Provide books to 88 families who are on waitlists at participating pre-K sites. Still trying to work out delivery of the books.
 - Sugarloaf Community Association, Preschool at Williams Elementary - 18 children currently enrolled, capacity is 20.
 - Early Learning Workforce Professional Development
 - A Special Needs Enhancement Workgroup – pulled together experts from early learning programs to plan special needs enhancement to support early learning teachers.
 - Identified Social Emotional Child Development course through RCC as the foundation for the training. It is 30 hours and providers will receive college credit. For their participation, they will also receive monthly coaching visits and, every other month, Community of Practice. We would like to adapt the model to use with other trainings offered at RCC.
 - An important piece of this will be identifying those coaches and trainers who want to be a part of the project, as well as educators who want to attend.
 - The Hub is blending \$18k in School Readiness funding with Preschool Promise professional development funds.
- *Preschool Promise*
 - Year 1: 180 enrollment opportunities in Jackson and Josephine County.

- Year 2: 7 % increase, with 195 enrollment opportunities. Prior to knowing about the increase, the ELD gave us the green light to ask programs to review their budgets and if possible, expand services. Two of CCRN's Spanish-speaking cohorts each added two slots for a total four. FNC was able to service one additional child. With the additional funds Kid Time was able to add a classroom.
- Last fall, we offered *Making the Most of Classroom Interactions* training to 35 Preschool Promise staff, which has 10 dimensions that are focused on child-teacher interactions and the effectiveness of those interactions.
- Year 3: We will be getting a 3% increase for year 3, but have not received guidance on how the funds are to be used.
- We are planning to provide teachers with more training and coaching, such as Lead, Learn, Excel, which is a coaching model to support leaders in early learning programs. C. Reinhart with the Hub is the PD Provider/System Leader. Wendy Nelson of Family Nurturing Center and Molly Clement from the Warm Line, are the Instructional Leaders.
- *Focused Child Care Network*
 - Seventeen providers 'graduated' from program last year and have star-rated programs.
 - New cohort of 20 is in place this year, with a waiting list as well.
- *KPI Fund: Transition to Kindergarten Initiatives*
 - The Hub is building relationships with elementary schools to create Professional Learning Teams with K-3 teachers and early learning providers, focused around elementary school catchment areas
 - Ready for Kindergarten Parent Training
 - Central Point and Three Rivers School Districts are new participating districts; teachers from Grants Pass School District will provide training.
 - Backpack Initiative
 - Train home visitors to unpack educational backpacks with families and teach them how to use the materials.
 - Pre-assessment and post-assessments completed to measure impact of investment, at \$30 per backpack. Post-assessment results are not in yet.
 - Summer Jumpstart
 - The Hub has commitments from Grants Pass School District, Central Point School District and all Three Rivers schools to do Summer Jumpstarts – that is a total of 18 schools and 360 children served.
 - Kaleidoscope Play & Learn Groups
 - Cost efficient as well as a gateway for other programs.
- *Family Stability Funds: Family Engagement Initiatives*
 - K-12 and early learning partners express that is difficult to engage parents when problems arise.
 - How can families feel more welcome at the school?
 - One suggestion brought up at our AAC meeting was to engage PTO/PTA members in helping to create a warm welcome for new families.

- Hub staff will be introducing concept to curriculum directors and superintendents.
- *Family Stability Funds: Finding & Supporting Pregnant & Parenting Teens*
 - Of the 3,000 births per year in Southern Oregon, 200 are to mothers under the age of 20 and 70 of these are under the age of 18. In any given year, there are 600-1,000 teen parents in our region.
 - On April 3rd the Hub is convening a work session for mapping of services in place for pregnant/parenting teens to:
 - Identify gaps with which Hub family stability funds could assist.
 - Create Kaleidoscope specific for teen parents.
- *Family Stability Funds: Children in Foster Care*
 - There has been a 2/3 increase in the last year.
 - Placement stability in Jackson County fell from #1 in the state in 2015 to #4 in 2016, while in Josephine County, rose from #9 in 2015 to #7 in 2016.
 - C. Reinhart is engaging the Foster Parent Association to determine what foster parents need in order to provide the necessary support for the children in their care.
- *Family Stability Funds: Family in Recovery*
 - It is a difficult population for which to find local data, in part due to many local leadership transitions.
 - If we can answer the following questions, we can decide how to move forward:
 - How many people enter treatment each year?
 - How many are parents with children birth to six?
 - What supports do they have once they leave residential treatment?
 - What is the relapse rate?
 - The Hub just sponsored *The Nurturing Parenting for Families in Recovery* training, and over 40 people signed up to be parent educators.
 - The Hub is entering into a pilot project with Oasis Center of the Rogue Valley to provide a cohort of 20 to 25 families in early recovery with wraparound support, in an effort to prevent relapse following release from a residential program. Support will include child care for the families and a Kaleidoscope Play & Learn group.
 - The Hub is planning to reach out to other treatment providers and offer Kaleidoscope Play & Learn Groups as an option for their families.
- *Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education*
 - EI/ECSE cannot have waitlists. If a child is eligible, he/she must be served and the current funding is not adequate to meet the needs.
 - The Hub has awarded \$45k to Josephine County and \$75k to Jackson County to provide for additional staffing.
 - There is a NW Health Foundation grant opportunity; the Hub, Bridging Communities, and The Family Connection are in conversations about bringing in Nurturing Hope (part of the Nurturing Parenting series). The model is for parents of children with special needs to teach and empower other parents to successfully advocate for their special-needs child.
- Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Program – MIECHV

- Forty MIECHV providers and home visitors received half-day training on *Infant Toddler Mental Health* in February and there will be two more offered (*Neonatal Abstinence and Early Intervention*) by the end of June.
- The Hub has surveyed home visitors to determine the biggest issues their families are dealing with and how we can best provide support.
- Other Updates
 - Joint Committee on Student Success
 - The Hub wants to make sure that our partners are represented if we have the opportunity to host a tour.
 - They are requesting an Early Learning Hub leader, a member of the governance council and a parent representative participate in the event.
 - Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework Training
 - This training is the next step an organization can take after receiving the ACES training.
 - Our trainers are scheduling and delivering this series.
 - Please share within your sphere of influence.
 - Family Friendly Business Project
 - We are ready to launch our Family Friendly Business Project! René shared the window decal for participating businesses to display. The goal is to engage businesses in a meaningful way so that they are aware of issues related to children and families both in terms of their employees and their customers.
- Update on Equity Progress
 - We are doing well with Preschool Promise.
 - We are analyzing Parent Survey data and are hoping to have that available by the May meeting.
 - The Hub is seeking a content expert to provide educational equity and service equity training.

NEXT MEETING

May 15, 2018
 AllCare Health
 1701 NE 7th Street, Grants Pass
 2:00-4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm

Submitted by K. Johnson