



SOELS Governance Council

January 19, 2021

2:30-4:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://soesd.zoom.us/j/94868124175>

Meeting ID: 948 6812 4175

Attendees: Katherine Clayton, Brittain Zimmerman, Geoffrey Lowry, Kimberlee Whitney, Stacy Inman, Martha Ibarra, Mary Wolf, Laura McKeane, Sam Watson, Adrienne Auxier

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

Agenda

Call to Order at 2:34 pm

Welcome and Greetings

Additions or changes to the Agenda

Yes. Addition of Discussion and potential action item.

Legislative Advocacy on behalf of the Early Learning Hubs

Approved

SOELS Fire Relief Fund Update: René Brandon

\$250,000 was set aside for community partners who serve families who were impacted by the local fires in September. 6 applicants so far requesting just over \$100,000. The review committee has approved 3 requests. Checks have or will soon go out. Working on more clarification for 2 additional requests. 1 has been set aside for now. It is a request for a van to transport clients. When the fires came they didn't have a way to get their residents out of the area. Waiting to see if there are any additional requests that are more in line with the impact of the fires. There is still quite a bit of funding left. Easy application and it is open through the end of March. Because it's hub coordination funds, if they are not spent, we will have any remaining funds for starting the next biennium. Kat, Sam and Jessica are part of the review committee along with hub staff. Kim noted that people are starting to appear again looking for help. She will communicate with them again about these resources.

Approval of minutes from 11-17-2020

Motion to approve minutes: Martha Ibarra

2nd Motion: Geoffrey Lowry

Motion Passed: Minutes Approved

Raise Up Oregon State Report and local progress: René Brandon

(Shared Raise Up Oregon ES file, 2nd page) This is the 5 year statewide Early Learning System Plan that all of the partners agreed to work toward.

Goal 1: Children arrive ready for Kindergarten

Goal 2: Children are raised in Healthy, Stable, and Attached Families

Goal 3: The Early Learning System is Aligned, Coordinated, and Family Centered
There are objectives and strategies listed below each goal.

(Shared Raise Up Oregon Progress Report 2019-2020, Highlights) This is the report on the progress towards these 3 goals. Beginning on page 7 they identified some of the highlights at the state level for each of these goals:

Goal 1: Highlighted what has been achieved for health care. Some of the CCO work was highlighted. What work has been achieved through the Student Success Act through funding and expansion of Early Learning opportunities. Some of the work around child care was highlighted, even with the impact of COVID on child care facilities.

Goal 2: Pilot programs rolled out for optional Home Visiting through Family Connects model. Paid Family Leave which is going to be launched in 2023. Family Support Services with quick responses, expansion of benefits and ease of applications. Housing has a lot of momentum in discussion, with early learning supports on site. Something our region is not immersed in right now.

Goal 3: Looking at Systems Equity. The Early Learning Council did put a focus on Systems Equity with a first roll out of the Early Childhood Equity Fund. Southern Oregon partners did submit a few applications for that fund, but none from our region were selected. More metro regions with more diversity attracted the majority of the funding.

Local Progress on Application and Data Systems:

Kim: The vision of the ONE IE System is that there's really no wrong door. People can walk in ODHS office, or online, and complete one application for TANF, ERDC, Snap benefits, along with medical, all in one application. We are completely enrolled in the ONE system now in both Jackson and Josephine counties. There are some glitches with ERDC payments in the new system. It's okay to share with providers that they can reach out to our branches for assistance with those issues. Kim will look into whether the system takes into consideration high needs and special needs rates and let us know. The system is supposed to take that into consideration. Kim will provide information to Chelsea to share out to partners. Geoffrey expressed gratitude for this fantastic change for families.

Also mentioned was notable progress in data collection across sectors to support improvement in service delivery models. The Oregon Child Integrated Data Set (OCIDS) is integrating data from across many state agencies to answer important policy and planning questions.

Early Learning System Coordination:

Passing of the Student Success Act (2019) was a historic win. ELD highlighted the pilot of coordinated enrollment for Preschool Promise through the Early Learning Hubs. This is the first year of implementing coordinated enrollment for Preschool Promise. There is anticipation to expand and include Oregon Pre-Kindergarten (OPK) and Baby Promise in the future. Also highlighted that the Early Learning Hubs, along with their partners, did a very rigorous regional early care and education sector plan, mapping of our region. René noted that the hope is that it will play a larger role in future preschool promise expansion. The utilization of the sector plans was very limited this first year, due to the quick roll out timeline caused by delays due to the pandemic. It's a tool that is available for any partner to reference as to access to child care, early intervention, early childhood special education, special needs across the region. There's a lot of good data in that plan.

The document called out priorities for each of the goals. Highlights of some of the efforts in our region are (let us know if you want to be involved with any committees or projects below):

- Early Care and Education Workforce Sub-Committee is identifying specific strategies to increase the supply of staffing, in partnership with our CCRN partners.
- Teresa is leading a pilot project at Central Medford High School, in partnership with Project Youth Plus, to utilize paid internships to bring new staff into the workforce. Possibly expanding into Grants Pass School District as well.
- CCRN's Warmline, providing support, observation, coaching to an early learning program that may be identifying children who need more supports.
- Chelsea is supporting the Early Childhood Enhancement Project (ECEP) program, with a new cohort starting. ECEP gives more supports and tools to providers.
- Chelsea convenes a monthly Home Visitors network of partners which has been ongoing for many years. We would be able to engage with expansion when it comes back around again. (First Thursday of each month).

Our Agency Advisory Committee is reviewing each strategy in the Raise Up Oregon Plan, step by step, to identify what strategies we are currently doing that support each strategy and identifying what else we can and should be doing for each strategy. The results will drive the work of the sub-committees that are best aligned with each strategy.

ELD Theory of Change Efforts: René Brandon

(Shared Oregon Early Childhood Systems Theory of Change) This is preliminary with a lot of work ahead. It dovetails perfectly with the Raise Up Oregon plan. The idea is that the first two columns describe what the Early Learning Hubs are which they are calling the *Collaboration Action* needed to make the other three columns work. If we are doing the *System Changes* well, we will see the *Early Outcomes* have the *Impact* we are striving for. It's linking the initial successes with the objectives in the Raise Up Oregon plan.

Hub Request for Proposals (RFP): René Brandon

There was a special procurement that allowed ELD to onboard the 16 early learning hubs quickly in 2015 and that agreement ends at the end of this biennium, June 30th. The ELD is in the process of drafting a new RFP for the hubs. There isn't an expectation that other entities would apply to be early learning hubs. There isn't an expectation for a disruption in the way the Hubs are designed and aligned. It shouldn't take a lot of time due to contracts needing to be in place by July 1st. We are not anticipating any regional boundary changes locally.

Budget Note Update on Feasibility of Consolidation of Early Learning Hubs and Child Care Resource and Referral entities: René Brandon & Mary Wolf

Back in the beginning of the last legislative session, legislators asked ELD to do some research to explore the feasibility of consolidating the early learning hub system and the child care resource and referral system. The ELD was asked to get their research submitted to the legislators by February, 2020. They asked for an extension which gave them until yesterday to submit their report. It's in the works. We're hopeful that we will get some feedback soon. Mary stated that they've heard that there won't be a consolidation this year, or at least through the biennium.

Rogue Hub Collaborative and need for consultant: René Brandon

Included in this leadership collaborative are: Southern Oregon Head Start, Rogue Valley YMCA, Options for Southern Oregon, Family Nurturing Center, Southern Oregon Success, Jefferson Regional Health Alliance, Rogue Community Health, and Health Care Coalition of Southern Oregon. They have been working as a collective for a few years now with a community information exchange, using a platform to enter the needs of families they are working for and to have that warm handoff referral and closed loop in the referral system for the families they are serving, creating a no wrong door referral process. The goal is that families don't have to tell their story more than once to get the services they need.

They are going through a transition with their current platform, Reliance, and shifting to Unite Us to be in alignment with our local CCO partners, AllCare and Jackson Care Connect. We want to ensure that the new platform works well for all partners and that the transition is smooth. I suggested that Heidi McGowan do a facilitation to support the

transition. Typically, she would do pre-interviews and then come together for a bigger conversation on how to move forward. 2 or 3 meetings in all.

Motion to hire a consultant by the Hub on behalf of Rogue Hub: Geoffrey Lowry

2nd Motion: Laura McKeane

No discussion about the motion. Motion Passed

Discussion regarding investing in the Early Learning Hubs legislative consultant: René

The Marion Polk Early Learning Hub reached to legislative advocacy organizations and asked for proposals to provide legislative advocacy on behalf of the early learning hub system in Oregon. An organization in Lake Oswego, Eames Consulting, was selected for this work. This has been in discussion for about two years. 8 of the 16 hubs have already signed an MOA with Marion Polk Early Learning Hub. The other hubs are still in discussions with their governance councils. The annual cost is \$60,000 a year (1-year MOA). The ask is \$3,725 per hub per year to go towards advocacy. Eames Consulting will be going to the legislators on behalf of the early learning hubs, not just the ones who sign on to this.

Discussion was made regarding: The advocacy is to raise awareness with legislators regarding what the work of the hubs is in alignment with the goals of Raise Up Oregon in reaching better outcomes for families.

It was decided to have additional information sent to governance council members and then an electronic vote in one week to allow everyone to review before making their decision. Results will be discussed at the February meeting.

Motion to adjourn: Mary Wolf

2nd Motion: Laura McKeane

Motion Passed

Adjournment

Next Meeting February 16, 2021

2:30-4:30 p.m.