



Southern Oregon Early Learning Services  
**Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date/Time:** 3/21/2017 4-6 pm

**Location:** ESD, Medford

**Members Present (X):** See attendance record

X	Scott Beveridge SOESD		TJ Jessup Parent	X	Lisa O'Connor FNC
	Amy Buehler Jackson Co. Mental Health	*	Jennifer Johnstun Primary Health of Jo Co	x	Kelly Soter Jackson Elementary
x	Susan Fischer AllCare CCO		Tonia Moro OnTrack		
	Michelle Gallas Imagine That		Karla McCafferty Options of So Oregon	X	Pam Thompson Arbogast EI/ECSE
	Kurt Higuera Siskiyou Comm Health	X	Eileen Micke-Johnson RCC	X	Mary Wolf
X	Rosemary Jernigan DHS, District 8		Lee Murdoch Retired Physician		
X	Martha Ibarra Hispanic Comm Rep	X	Nancy Nordyke SO Head Start	X	Susan Zottola GP SD #7

\*Participating on the Phone

**Staff:**

X	Rene Brandon Director	X	Chelsea Reinhart		
X	Teresa Slater		Molly McLaughlin		

**Guests:**

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**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND GREETINGS**

E. Micke-Johnson called the meeting to order @ 4 pm

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

January 2017 minutes approved. M/L. O'Connor S/S. Zottola

**MATTERS RELATED TO THE AGENDA**

No addition or changes

### **COMMITTEE POSITIONS RECRUITMENT, UPDATE**

René is actively recruiting for vacant positions on the Steering Committee. Rosemary Jernigan will fill the DHS position (#12). Welcome Rosemary! Geoff Lowry, Director at OCDC will fill the Early Childhood Care and Education position for Jackson County (#14). Tonia Moro with OnTrack has been suggested to fill the position for the Human & Social Services – Substance Abuse Treatment Position (#17). Currently, OnTrack is still in a transition situation and it is unclear if someone from the organization will be able to step in. Addictions Recovery Center is another option to represent our families in recovery. We have been without representation for several months. If Steering Committee members know of anyone to fill the Jackson County Parent Representative position (#1), please send recommendations to Sheila. The Hub will be creating a package soon recruiting for business representatives. If Steering Committee members know possible business representatives, please send recommendations to René (or Sheila). *Make It Your Business: A Conversation with Dana Hepper of The Children's Institute* was a success and thank you to Susan Fischer for including SOELS in the event. This was our first effort in identifying strategies to make meaningful engagement with our business community.

### **BUDGET REPORT**

Susan Fischer and René reported that grantees are making progress on spending down grant funds for the year. However, the budgets within each grant were estimates and there will be remaining funds. A plan to spend down the remaining funds will be presented at the May Steering Committee meeting for approval. The budget report presented at the current meeting is for spending through February 2017. René showed a budget report slide and an Excel spreadsheet that the Hub uses to track expenditures in current status, to ensure the team is able to communicate with each grantee and have conversations about spend-down plans.

### **ELD MONITORING VISIT**

On March 7, 2017, the first Early Learning Division monitoring visit took place. Denise Swenson and Sue Parrish from the Early Learning Division facilitated the day and Gwyn Bachtle from Preschool Promise met with Hub staff to get a better understanding of each hub. Several Steering Committee members came to lunch to support the Hub and to share about the great systems work happening in the region. Thank you, everyone, for such great support. The ELD indicated that the Hub has a solid team and that 'the right people are on the bus'. In preparation for the monitoring visit, the Hub staff and Executive Committee members completed a self-assessment on hub development. At the visit, ELD compared their assessment with the hub assessment and they were almost identical in every category, averaging between 2.5 – 3 on a 5-point scale. ELD acknowledged that this was an understandable score, considering the continuous upheaval in staffing and leadership over the last three years. ELD asked hub staff where they felt they should focus on the quality improvement plan and metrics tracking and data analysis were the two categories that rose to the top. It was noted that the hub is already working on these areas. During the visit, ELD encouraged more emphasis on systems-level investments and fewer

program-specific investments for the next biennium. The ELD Partner survey was also discussed. SOELS' survey had 51 respondents and 17 of those responses represented responses from the governance council. Thank you so much for taking the time to respond to a lengthy survey. The Hub staff appreciate that participation and support. It was noted that no business representatives responded to the survey. As mentioned above, this is a gap we are working to close. In reviewing the averages represented for each question in the survey, the Hub questioned ELD about how the responses were calculated and ELD said they will look into those numbers and the calculations and get back to us. During the next few months, the Hub staff will work through the partner survey responses to identify patterns of success to build upon and areas for improvement. A full monitoring report should be available in May.

### **REACH OUT AND READ**

Table for next meeting - May

### **KINDERGARTEN LAUNCH RESULTS**

Susan Zottola reported that the second Kindergarten launch was a success. All but four districts participated. Butte Falls and Pinehurst already know the families within their rural districts and did not need to host an event. Central Point and Eagle Point were the larger districts electing not to participate this year. Eagle Point was concerned with the open enrollment process before registration. Central Point had concerns about communication and reaching the right audience. Several participating districts did actual kindergarten registration during the launch. There was good advertising of the launch across the region, with many partners sharing flyers with families and/or child care providers. Child Care Resource Network and Grants Pass School District 7 partnered with updating activity booklets to families and getting them to each district. The next steps are to encourage districts to continue activities with the families who attended Launch. Grants Pass District 7's *Ready for Kindergarten* three-session parent training had 190 families sign up, which was 30 families more than last year. Thank you to Susan Zottola for promoting and coordinating Launch with each district.

### **KPI BUDGET AND PROJECT UPDATE**

- A second Kaleidoscope facilitator training was held on March 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. A total of 25 participants attended including staff from Kid Time, Table Rock Elementary School, Coos & Curry Parenting Hub, and Imagine That Creative Center. This is an important component in our system efforts to prepare young children for kindergarten and engage parents in getting their children prepared.
- Kid Time is using the *Bus is Us* to bring 12 Spanish-speaking providers and their children to enjoy the museum, for an hour to an hour and a half every other week. Approximately 100 kids will attend by the end of June. This is a tremendous achievement in bringing

equitable opportunities to Spanish-speaking providers, children and their families. Sunny Spicer, Director of Kid Time, identified the gap and took action to bridge it.

- OHA and ELD established shared metrics for CCO's and EL Hubs. One of those shared metrics is developmental screening for young children prior to age three. An unanticipated outcome of this metric is that many more children are being screened by physicians and then referred to EI/ECSE for evaluations. EI/ECSE does not have the capacity to handle the increased evaluations and subsequent service needs for children identified as needing services. The result is that *all* children receive less than the recommended dose/duration of services, as more children need to be served while resources remain the same.

EI/ECSE program managers in each county met with hub staff to review data and discuss ideas. Hub staff suggested that KPI funding could be used to provide additional capacity through 6/30/17. This is not a permanent solution but will ensure more children receive support until the system partners can identify a more sustainable option.

**VOTE:** KPI for funding for a Kid Time Spanish/bilingual support staff and increased use of KPI funding for Early Intervention, as described above. All in attendance were in favor. Pam and Scott abstained from vote, in accordance with Conflict of Interest Policy.

#### **PRESCHOOL PROMISE UPDATE**

There are 13 preschool promise providers; eight family child care facilities and five centers. 177 of the 180 spaces are currently filled. There has been little turnover, but a few families have not been able to continue for various reasons. The Hub will conduct quality assurance monitoring next year. A provider meeting is scheduled for May and the Hub will review the monitoring tool and solicit feedback from providers as to how the year went and what can be done differently in the future. There will also be an opportunity for families who are in preschool promise programs to give feedback to improve processes and service delivery.

#### **ACTOR MAPPING FACILITATION WITH HEIDI MCGOWAN**

During the AAC meeting in March, the group identified sub-populations of the hubs target population of 16,000 children birth through age 6 identified as 'at-risk' in Southern Oregon and the critical partners to engage for each category. The strategy is to bring together partners who can identify action that will increase supports to those sub-populations and improve outcomes. AAC members identified nine sub-populations and critical partners for each group. A survey monkey will be sent to all early learning stakeholders asking them to rank the nine sub-categories in order of urgency. The top four groups will move forward. These group members will be invited to participate in an FSG Actor Mapping session for each sub-population, facilitated by Heidi McGowan, to identify sector partners to engage in the work, identify existing relationships between sector partners, and areas where a relationship is lacking but

needed. We are hopeful that this strategy will provide the framework needed to improve system support for the 16,000 children and their families the early learning partners are striving to serve.

**INDICATOR GROUPS, METRICS & DATA MINING, NEXT STEPS**

The Early Learning Division has not yet moved forward with refining hub metrics. Surveys have been done but ELD does not know when we can expect improvements with current metrics. SOELS wants to have a localized strategy for metrics and is working on some drafts for partner review. This is critical to be able to justify early learning investments during times of scarcity.

AAC members have identified data points that will help guide our local work and priorities. A table will be distributed to Steering Committee members to add information as to who and where to gather and any suggestions for data gathering. Once complete, the data we wish to see will be submitted to OHA and DHS for next steps, to see what is possible to receive.

René also shared a draft community dashboard for early learning that includes kindergarten assessment data as well as data available from Children First for Oregon's annual County Data Book. This will continue to be refined with stakeholder feedback.

**Announcements**

4/20/17 – Rogue Valley Child Abuse Prevention Partnership is hosting a family-friendly event at Alba park and partners are invited to participate. Nominations for child advocate of the year will be announced as well.

Meeting adjournment: 5:53 pm

Submitted by S. Fortman-Craun