



**SOELS  
Agency Advisory Council  
Meeting Agenda  
April 9, 2021  
10:00-12:00pm**

**Zoom Meeting**

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

Attendees: Sonja Herbold, Devon Finley, Peter Buckley, Lisa Farlin, Maureen Honeycutt, Jessica Machen, Bethanee Grace, Riki Rosenthal, Kelsey Dennis, Darcy Larson, Stacy Inman

Hub Staff: René Brandon, Chelsea Reinhart, Vicki Risner

**Agenda**

**Welcome & Partner Updates**

**Lisa Farlin - So OR Head Start.** Have 44 of 68 classrooms open. Many of the duration classrooms are going 4 days a week. Only one COVID exposure that closed a classroom which was in the beginning. Working on recruitment for next year. Current enrollment is 60%. Surveying families now. May have 1 or 2 virtual classrooms for the fall, remainder in person.

**Peter Buckley – Southern Oregon Success.** Preschool K12 alignment summit will be held twice next week. Summit is to connect people from early childhood and the K12 system, review the guidelines from ELD for early learning and kindergarten with an emphasis on social/emotional learning. Then we will start planning for a longer August summit to align preschool and K12.

We have a workgroup that is starting a pilot project with the Family Independence Initiative which is a nationwide initiative that recruits families, help them set goals, organizes them into teams of 5-8 families, the families help each other reach their goals, leverage their social capital, with a small investment of \$750-\$800 per family, per year, to help them reach their goals. Has a great track record of families in poverty working with the Family Independence Initiative, 50% of them are out of poverty within two years. Starting with 20 families in Jackson County and 20 families in Josephine County.

Launching our Family Advisory Committee next month. We have 21 people from all over both counties, all sorts of different demographics. If your program wants input from a family perspective, we have an ongoing council that you can bring your ideas and proposals to get feedback. It's a very diverse council.

We have our work group that is working on school-based health centers to establish school-based health centers in every school in both counties. There is a bill in front of the legislature right now that passed out of the house committee unanimously that would create three pilot projects. One of the pilot projects allows for a school-based health center model that has more flexibility to use telehealth in addition to use a nursing staff model, instead of an advanced practitioner model to give more flexibility, to get more resources to more school, including behavior health. We have a behavior health workforce group that is meeting next week to try to figure out different pathways into the behavior health workforce, including on what's been called upscale and backfill with K12. It takes K12 folks that are interested in behavioral health and gives them training through the ESD community partners. You begin with skills trainers and mental health counselors to help expand the workforce in K12 but also overall.

**Maureen Honeycutt - CCRN, Inclusion Specialist.** I am the new inclusion specialist with CCRN. I've been immersed in trainings. I've been in early childhood for about 30 years.

**Jessica Machen – ODHS for Jackson & Josephine counties.** For our self-sufficiency programs, our zero copay ERDC employment related daycare has been extended through June 2021. There have been changes to our emergency allotments for our SNAP programs. In April, all SNAP recipients received a minimum of \$75 in emergency allotment benefits, unless they are already receiving more than \$95 in those emergency allotments. We're working on the vision for transformation in our child welfare programs. There are trainings on anti-racism and systemic racism, being held in brave space rather than safe space, which helps push that conversation and change forward. There is lots of work being done in all of our programs around racial equity. The threshold for income eligibility has returned to 185% of the federal poverty level, down from the temporary 250% during the height of the pandemic.

**Bethanee Grace - The Family Connection.** Last night we launched our parenting and recovery class. We're starting all of our spring classes. There is room in all our classes for more families. Also offering Make Parenting a Pleasure and Strengthening Families. We have 35 boxes to go out to families next week with Family Connection swag, handbooks, extra books to read with children and all kinds of goodies. Christina, my practicum student from last term is returning so you may see her more as she learns more about the community. In July, we are working with Josephine County Prevention to bring a curriculum training in active parenting. Starts with the first five years, then five to 12-year-old and then a teen curriculum.

René: I just wanted to do a plug for the tutorial video that Bethany and Diana put together to walk families through how to register for a parenting series. It is so down to earth and friendly. If I was a really hesitant parent, seeing the two of you and your authenticity would definitely encourage me to think that I could do this, that you are people just like me. I really appreciated the way the video is so accessible and user friendly.

**Sonja Herbold – Healthy Families.** Just hired two home visitors in Josephine County and looking to hire two more for Jackson County. We are reestablishing relationships in the community to build stronger partnerships. We know that the business day looks different than it used to a year ago. So, strengthening those partnerships and learning where we can send families with clear understanding of what each agency is doing and participating> Whether their doors are open or if they need to make phone calls. Trying to that legwork for families. We have some really strong connections. We are working with OHA to make guidance to return to homes right now. We're still doing telehealth visits and phone calls with families, but know that isn't good enough. With

guidance we're looking to send home visitors back into homes, meeting in backyards or in a park.

**Devon Finley – CCRN.** Maureen Honeycutt has just joined us, taking over for Molly Clements who did the Warm Line. Molly is now be the Preschool Promise coordinator. Since several organizations have a warm line, our warm line is being renamed The Inclusive Support Line. We are looking to hire another inclusion specialist. We will be moving in May to a new location, near where we are now. We have tons of trainings, the first week of RCC classes, six cohorts of child care providers going through the RCC classes. Both English and Spanish language, people starting brand new from the beginning, taking the introductory classes as well as people who have doing it for years. It's a great way for us to support their professional development, more in depth and a coordinated approach.

**Riki Rosenthal – Starting Strong, Jackson Care Connect.** Starting Strong location is still closed. We don't have a new location, maybe the later part of this year or beginning of 2022. We are putting more emphasis on housing needs. Continuing to do the no contact order process, have added some new items to what the members can order. We are doing a lot of Spanish language outreach.

**Kelsey Dennis – RCC.** Just recovered from a ransom ware attack. We just started week one of our spring term. We are working towards more in person courses this summer, and expand in the fall as well.

**Darcy Larson –Jackson County EI/ECE.** All kids are returning to classes. We will be seeing them on or before April 19<sup>th</sup>. We will be moving to a new building in June, 640 Superior Court in Medford. This will house our administrative staff, secretarial staff, evaluations, along with infant/family teachers. Our Stewart location will have one more classroom.

**Stacy Inman –Coordinator, Jackson County EI/ECE.** Still supporting virtual services. We've been meeting families in their front yards or in parks with safety protocols. We just posted for a new job, a family counselor position for our early intervention program. It will allow for us to address the full child and family in a way we haven't been able to yet.

**Vicki Risner – SOELS.** We're still actively enrolling for Preschool Promise for this program year as well as getting ready to start coordinated enrollments for the fall. It is a two year program if the child is still age eligible for Preschool Promise in the fall.

**Chelsea Reinhart – SOELS.** We have our first Community Resource orientation on Tuesday. We're offering one session a month from now through August on the second Tuesday of every month, from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. The first session is on Children's Services. We will have presentations from Head Start, Listo, The Family Connection, DHS, Child Welfare, Early Intervention, ECSE, Family Nurturing Center and Childcare Resource Network. You're welcome to register through Event Bright. For the month of May, it will be on mental health services. Other topics after that include Recovery and Addiction, Medical Services and Social Services. All of the information will be on the hub's website. We'll have a presenter directory that you can refer to if you want to follow up with any of the partners or if you were unable to attend one of the presentations.

## **Raise Up Oregon – Southern Oregon Strategic Planning**

We started this journey in 2019 when the state of Oregon released their five-year strategic plan called Raise Up Oregon. We have been chipping away at the different goals, strategies and objectives to identify the best pathway forward for our region. While there will be some additional critical initiative that will be included in the near future, you can get a sense of the enormous amount of work that our Southern Oregon partners are doing to improve the outcomes for families with young children in our region. It's astounding how much we're doing collectively. The document that we will walk through will inform our hub's work plan for the next year. What we think we can accomplish with our community partner engagements for the next program year of 2021-2022. Everything that we're going to looking at is what will be going into our strategic plan for this coming biennium and probably into the next biennium.

René shared SOELS Raise Up Oregon Summary of Objectives & Actions for 2021-2023 document.

We ranked each one with a one, two and three:

1. We are already engaged in this work. We believe that our early learning system needs to take the lead on it and progress is already being made.
2. We think our early learning system partners play a key role of building support around the objectives. We think we should see meaningful progress within this next biennium.
3. Although very important, either the Early Learning System partners are not the lead for the effort, or there is more work to be done at the state level before we can take significant local action. Expect to see significant work locally within three years.

Presentation was made for the three system goals, as well as the different objectives and strategies under each of those. (See attached document for reference.)

René: We are collectively doing a lot of work and I want to express my appreciation to everyone. We will continue to refine our work as we start to identify those data points and will be able to celebrate more things as we are seeing those outcomes.

If there was anything that was new to you and you would like to know more about it, please let us know. If one of these committees resonates with you and would like to pop into a meeting to see if it would be a good alignment with your work, we would love to have that happen. If there are other community partners that you don't think are involved but you think would be a good fit, let us know. There are lots of opportunity for future engagement.

### **SAVE-THE-DATE FOR OUR NEXT SOELS AGENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING:**

**May 14, 2021**

10 am – 12:00 pm