



SOELS Governance Council

May 18, 2021

2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Attendees: Adrienne Auxier, Brittain Zimmerman, Eileen Micke-Johnson, Jessica Durrant, Laura McKeane, Lisa O'Connor, Martha Ibarra, Mary Hough, Mary Wolf, Sam Watson, Scott Beveridge

Absent: Crystal Rowbotham (ex), Geoffrey Lowry, Jeanne Grazioli, Katherine Clayton (ex), Kimberlee Whitney (ex), Martha Ibarra (ex), Stacy Inman(ex)

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

Agenda

Call to Order at 2:35 pm

Welcome and Greetings

Acknowledgement of the passing of Mary Curtis, founder of the Family Nurturing Center and champion for children and families.

Additions or changes to the Agenda - none

Approval of minutes from 3-16-2021 - No quorum at start of meeting and technical issues with attached minutes, moved to next meeting.

Legislation related to Early Learning

René shared the Eames Consulting Bill Summary by Priority Report from May 7, 2021. Highlighted the following bills: HB 2053, HB 2054, HB 2055, HB 3073, HB 3334 A, SB 236 A. (Mary Wolf sent in information to share regarding HB 3073.)

Senator Art Robinson, who is on the Senate Education committee, reached out with questions and meaningful conversation about the KPI bill and the impact based on the proposed changes. Representative Duane Stark and Representative Gary Leif, both on the Ways & Means committee, have scheduled meetings with Eames and René as well.

Bilingual Staff Recruitment

René: We need to bring on another staff member to support Coordinated Enrollment. We are looking for a bilingual person. We've modified the job description from a systems facilitator to administrative assistant. They need to be friendly, knowledgeable about the program and can speak with the families in both English and Spanish. Chelsea will send out the job posting to the distribution list. Please share it far and wide. Best case scenario we would bring them on now, have them trained and ready for the summer coordinated enrollment activity. William North, Rogue Community Health, has very generously offered to loan a community health worker to assist the enrollment process, if needed.

KPI Summer Funding

Chelsea: ELD just shared additional funds are available for summer kindergarten transition activities, \$63,071 must be spent by June 30th and \$189,202 to be spent between July 1 and September 30th.

Option #1: Kindergarten Readiness Kits from Lakeshore focusing on math, literacy and social/emotional wellness. We would like parents who receive the kit to attend a training on kindergarten readiness skills as well information on the materials in the kit. We are reaching out to community partners to recruit families. The Family Connection may use their parent facilitators to train the parents. Still discussing the schedule for the trainings and delivery of the kits.

Jessica Durrant offered to send out the information to her schools who are doing Critter Camp the week of August 16th. Also suggested recording the class for parents so that they would view it when they were available, answer a Google form for confirmation vs having to attend a class. Confirmed that current kindergartners would be eligible for the kits. Lisa O'Connor offered to deliver using their distribution center, from Ashland to Cave Junction.

If you have ideas and ways to promote this please reach out to Chelsea. Identifying the facilitators is key. Any additional facilitators would be welcomed. Train the trainer classes would be in July. Parent classes will be held in August. Kits are \$150.00 each, as well as pay for the facilitators. We are still working on the budget.

Option #2: Kindergarten Readiness Funding for Summer to provide scholarships for families of children entering kindergarten in the fall to attend onsite preschool opportunities during the summer. The application for programs to participate was sent out last Friday. We have 5 applications submitted to date.

Hub Contract Update – Coordinated Enrollment

René: ELD is revising the CE manual outlining how the hub performs recruitment, eligibility and placement. There were a few places in the draft document that we had concerns about being in line with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). During a feedback session with ELD, we encouraged them to vet any changes with an attorney who is versed in disability law. Children experiencing disabilities is one of our priority populations. We learned that when families are hearing about the opportunity and engaging, we have some work to do to make sure that the process works and everyone has clear roles and their responsibilities and that we are in alignment with disability law.

Early Learning and Disability Partner Collaboration:

René: Once we increased our outreach to families with children experiencing disabilities, more families applied for Preschool Promise. On the screening form, parents indicate which provider they want their

child(ren) to attend. Once selected from the lottery pool, they complete a full application which is where they indicate whether or not their child has an IFSP or needs any other kind of additional supports. If they meet all of the eligibility requirements including age, income and residency, and are approved, then we shift the application to the receiving program to begin enrollment. Current barriers include: the receiving program may not have the supports in place to immediately receive and begin delivering services to that child and/or they don't have the staffing and the resources to make those accommodations that the child needs.

Tomorrow is our kick off meeting with ECSE, PSP providers, FACT Oregon, Bridging Communities, DD services, to begin identifying opportunities for system improvement and building processes and supports.

We have so many partners engaged to make system improvements and next steps for planning. In our June meeting we will have Hub staff highlight some of the different ways that we are doing systems work and will highlight this initiative as well.

Meeting adjourned

Next Meeting: June 15, 2021
2:30-4:30 p.m.