



**SOELS  
Agency Advisory Council  
Meeting Agenda  
May 14, 2021  
10:00-12:00pm**

**Zoom Meeting**

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

Attendees: Devon Finley, Peter Buckley, Lisa Farlin, Bethanee Grace, Kelsey Dennis, Darcy Larson, Adrienne Auxier, Stephanie Finch, Katherine Clayton, Sasha Cunningham, Heather Olivier, Brystan Strong, Jessica Machen

Hub Staff: René Brandon, Chelsea Reinhart, Vicki Risner

**Agenda**

**Welcome & Partner Updates**

**Adrienne Auxier, Kairos, Jackson Services:** Have increased in person services at Main Street location. Still doing virtual appointments and intakes as well. Now have outpatient, crisis respite and treatment foster care services under the same umbrella. Need more treatment foster care providers, so if you know of anybody you think would be a great treatment foster care provers or respite provider, please contact us at our Main St. office.

**Stephanie Finch, 0-5 Assistant Director, Southern Oregon Head Start:** Working on program planning for next year and will be presenting to the board and policy council soon for approval.

**Lisa Farlin, 0-5 Director, Southern Oregon Head Start:** Not opening any additional classrooms at this time. Currently have 49 out of 69 classrooms open. Have increased duration classes to four days a week. Hopeful to be back to full time, in person in the fall. Plan to have one virtual class of 20 slots. We lost our Hillside site. Hopeful to find a new physical location.

**Kelsey Dennis, Rogue Community College:** Slowly bringing our classes back to in person starting with some in the summer term. Zoom has offered flexibility to some of our students so some courses will still continue with a zoom option to support busy schedules.

**Sasha Cunningham, Children and Family Services Manager, Oasis Center:** Our OB services are up and running. We are accepting referrals for pregnant people with substance use disorder. We have a community vaccine site with appointments available.

**Peter Buckley, Southern Oregon Success:** Held our first Preschool/K12 alignment summit in April with 84 participants focused on the early learning and kindergarten guidelines, with the possibility of having a common student information form for kids to make a transition into kindergarten. Looking to expand our school-based health centers in Jackson and Josephine counties. Siskiyou Health is opening a new school-based health center in Hidden Valley High School in the fall. Starting to work on North and South middle schools towards the end of the next school year. Rogue Community Health and La Clinica will be talking with the Medford School District in the fall about expansion.

Our pilot program, the Family Independence Initiative, has changed their name to Up Together. The program helps families set goals, organizing some into teams to help each other reach their goals with small investments for each family. We're starting with 20 families in Jackson and Josephine Counties. SOU is doing a research component to see what's the most effective way to work with the families and set a pattern to expand to other families in the future.

Our Family Advisory Council launched on May 4<sup>th</sup> with a diverse group of over 20 people. The goal is to increase family voice in education, health care, human services, public safety, state and local government. If your program has things you want feedback from a diverse group of parents and caregivers, that council is available to you. We meet once a month. Just contact me to get information on that.

We're working to expand the behavioral health workforce. Working with SOU on a micro credential program that would team up community trainings like Southern Oregon Success and ESD. Jackson County Mental Health, Options, and other community trainers with SOU to help create a program so people could follow a pathway into the behavioral health workforce to be a skills trainer, mental health counselor or hopefully a school psychologist.

**Darcy Larson, Coordinator for ages 3-5, Jackson County Early Intervention, Early Childhood Special Education:** We are excited to welcome a new coordinator. She will be coordinating programs for the specialist like OT's, PT's, SLP's. She'll take on the evaluation team so that we can really work to focus Stacy, Anna and mw on different areas of the program as we grow. EI is still virtually parent coaching, doing tele-therapy and most of their programs virtually. We are hopeful to return to home services soon. We are offering in person classes for ages 3 to 5. ECSE is doing some tele-therapy for speech, depending on what the parents want. Parents are saying that they like the tele-therapy. We're doing a hybrid of in person classes. We are doing evals both in person and virtually now. We're creating our service area plan and hopeful that it gets approved.

**Devon Finley, Child Care Resource Network:** We are planning to move to our new location this month. It's not too far away from our current location. We are looking to hire at least one more person. There has been some updated guidance from the ELD and we will be helping to support that rollout. There will be evening webinars in the last week of May and first week in June, explaining those guidance changes.

**Heather Olivier, FACT Oregon:** We are the parent training and information entity for the state of Oregon, providing support to families who have children who experience disability. Our call volume is off the charts right now as kids transition back into the classroom. The individual situations are much more complicated. We soon will have seven trainings online. We currently have an IEP training and a transition to kindergarten training. By June 1<sup>st</sup> we are adding Behavior

and the IEP, Assistive Technology and the IEP, One Page Profiles, and Person-Centered Planning, also IEP Mid High (transition specific to Mid High). Then Transition to Adulthood. We want to make sure people can access those at any time. Online allows us to have trainings that are a bit more responsive to what families are currently experiencing. Our planning for the fall includes our first parent leadership cohort and an early learning summit.

We're finalizing a state complaint toolkit. ODE asked us to look at how we could support parents in understanding their dispute resolution options specific to state complaints. The whole first section is around healthy team dynamics. It has worksheets and walks them through that process. We'll have that in multiple formats and recognition that families who experience additional barriers have not had access to dispute resolution options that are afforded to them as part of IDEA.

**Brystan Strong, Youth Services Coordinator for Jackson County Library Services.** The libraries are open again for browsing. The lift in morale was immediate. Summer will be our first foray into in-person again. We've done a couple outdoor programs like yoga and bike repair. Children's programming will start in the summer in conjunction with our summer reading program. Summer reading is for all ages so participate, read books and win prizes.

We have a social worker now who is available for appointments and calls, to connect patrons to community resources as their needs come up. We also have an education services specialist who is our liaison between the public libraries and the schools in the county. In two weeks, we'll have our community literacy library for youth services out there for students and kids. Doing programming with the juvenile detention center. We hope to bring back story time in the fall.

As part of our summer program, we are doing a series, both in English and Spanish, for parents, coaching them on story time and the importance of story time and reading to their kids in general. It's an introduction to Ready to Read in the five skills: read, write, sing, talk, play.

We are also doing an early literacy series for parents that is entirely in Spanish. There will be an author talk with Dr. Dana Suskind, the author of *Thirty Million Words: Building a Child's Brain*.

**Jessica Machen, Department of Human Services:** Our hotline has been very busy with long wait times over the past few weeks. We are working on that. There is a call back option which works well, often with a call back within the hour.

### **Opportunities to be aware of:**

**Rising Tide Conference:** Rising Tide Conference in June with amazing keynote speakers. Dr. Bruce Perry, part of his focus is going to be the book that he co-authored with Oprah, *What Happened to You?* This is a trauma conference with racism topics entwined with it. Stuart Abion is a great speaker, along with Bryan Samuels and Gina Samuels. It's over three days, 18 breakout presentations from nearly two dozen industry experts. Option of attending some in person sessions in Grants Pass or all online. Peter: If you decide to be online they'll still send you conference swag like some of the coffee that they're serving at the conference along with your name tag, etc. It's \$199 for in person and \$169 for virtual participation.

**Preschool Promise/Coordinated Enrollment:** Outreach committee has been diligent in strategizing ways to improve outreach to our priority populations: Spanish speaking families,

families who have children experiencing disability, and families living in rural communities. We've discovered opportunities for system improvement for our families with children experiencing disability. We have the opportunity to bring all the partners representing different pieces of the disability community and some of our Preschool Promise providers who are navigating that enrollment process and determining how they can serve children experiencing disability. We are starting the conversation with shared learning, identifying pieces of the system that aren't working optimally and figuring out together how better to improve that for the families and programs. Enhancing the coordination with all of the partners. We're kicking that off next week.

**Summer programming- school district plans, private summer camps and activities, early learning opportunities:** Chelsea presented a worksheet with resources for summer programs. Attached. Most of the school districts are offering some type of summer programming. The list will be updated as we get additional resources. Regarding tuition assistance or scholarships, parents should ask the program directly. If you know of a camp to add to the list, please email Chelsea with the information.

**Vaccination sites:** Chelsea presented a with local and statewide locations. Attached.

**Family Engagement Toolkit:** Chelsea shared our QR Code for the Family Engagement Toolkit. You are welcome to use the QR code on your website. There is the Strengthening Families training that your team can participate in. There are agency self-assessments to see how well you're promoting protective factors for families.

The Child and Family Wellbeing workgroup is pulling together different YouTube videos that we can promote to families on different topics for parenting and child development. Plans are to include videos from the Center on the Developing Child, Harvard, Vroom, Kid Time and other partners. There are some really great short videos on specific topics that we can utilize and share with families.

René: We really want to put as many tools as we can into the hands of our partners to discover new ways to support families. We're willing to do the legwork to find those resources and get them to you in an easy way. We continue to ask for and encourage you to share any additional resources that maybe we've missed.

**The Family Connection (TFC) Programming:** Bethanee stated that they are hoping to offer three different programs for families: one will target mothers of babies (under 18 months); a series of active parenting for kindergarten readiness at the end of August; and Family Boxes. The Family Boxes will include items for parents to work with their child to get ready for kindergarten. They have professional development trainings in July, offering train the trainer for Active Parenting curriculum. Please share with coworkers and others. The Family Connection is our region's parent education hub. If your organization is offering any parent education, please reach out to TFC so they can make sure that all the parent education for our region is available through their website to be as inclusive as possible.

**ECE Summer Institute:** Chelsea stated that all of the ECE Summer Institute sessions in June are full. Check back with the website in case registrations change or people drop.

**Community Resource Orientations:** The first was series was focused on Children’s Services. The second one was on Behavioral Health Services. They are scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month from 9-12. June’s topic is Substance Use Disorders. July will be on Medical Services. August is on Social Services. You can go to the Hub’s website, search the Community Resources tab and the topics and dates will be there for you as well as a link to Eventbrite to register.

**Preschool Promise update:** Most programs are coming to an end in June. The Hub is waiting for final orders from ELD to begin reaching out to families for fall programs. ELD is still working with current providers to see if they will continue with the Preschool Promise program, if they are looking to expand or reduce spots. There is potential for summer programs as well.

**Summer programming for children entering kindergarten in the fall:** The hub is about to roll out funding for summer early learning programs, especially for programs who are not receiving any state funding, that may have families on a waitlist or are interested in programming but don’t have the resources to pay for summer preschool. We are focused on children who will be entering kindergarten in the fall. We are accepting applications from early learning programs and will share more information once contracts are in place.

The hub plans to meet with Bethanee and Diana at The Family Connection, as well as a couple of our partners who serve our Spanish speaking family population such as Listo and Kids Unlimited, to explore the possibility of those sites hosting parent engagement activities focused on kindergarten readiness and kindergarten transition. We will be purchasing kits with the goal that they will train families on how to use those materials to promote early literacy, early math and social emotional development.

**Next steps recap:**

Chelsea is finalizing the summer camp information and will send it out. That has the summer programming information, vaccination sites, QR code for the Family Engagement Tool Kit.

We will let our partners know when the Ready for Kindergarten kits are ready for families to be referred to the trainings.

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

**June 11, 2021**

10 am – 12:00 pm