



Educational Equity Committee

June 24, 2021

10am-11:30 am

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 487 642 8933

Purpose of Meeting: The Southern Oregon Early Learning Hub's Agency Advisory Council has identified educational preparedness for young children of color in Southern Oregon as a priority focus area. We are convening partners representing early learning, K-12 education, high education, health sector and culturally specific family-serving organizations to drive this work forward. Families with lived experience will guide our work.

Attendees: Younghee Kim, Janell Haataja, Geoffrey Lowry

Absent: Bridey Mendoza-Moore, Christine Shepherd, Eileen Micke-Johnson, Martha Ibarra, Meryl Roberts, Marisa Poling Jackson, Mary Wolf, Brent Barry, Elise Travertini, Ceci Robe, Jacquie Jaquette, Andrea Partsafas, Devon Finley

Hub Staff: René Brandon, Teresa Slater, Vicki Risner

Link to Shared Vision Statement:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/11C97TVQvNs-wUuHp8ITtNaJzsKe7_zCg/view?usp=sharing

Welcome & Question: What is some good news you can share with us?

Geoff Lowry: Program Director, Oregon Child Development Coalition: It rained and stormed! We need as much rain as we can have in this area.

Younghee Kim, Coordinator for the Early Childhood Development in the School of Education at SOU: We had some successful graduations. Almost finishing up grant we received from CCRN, serving 50 students this summer for tuition and books. Students are offering heartwarming testimonials from students.

Janell Haataja, School Psychologist, Central Point School District: This fall she will be joining Meryl doing early childhood special education evaluations for the district. Started as an early intervention home visitor, then went into school age services and now back in early childhood education and is thrilled to return to working with the younger children.

René Brandon, Director, Southern Oregon Early Learning Hub: After meeting with legislators during this session, am happy to announce that the 1.4 million dollar cut that was levied against the early learning hubs has been rescinded. We will be operating at current funding levels this coming biennium. It would have meant about \$250,000 fewer dollars going out into the community for programming.

Language Accessibility

Language accessibility issues have been raised as a concern, especially as Covid hit when people couldn't get information easily in Spanish. Wasn't timely or accurate to know what was going on and what they should do. Then when the fires hit, it was an extremely dangerous situation. Not being linked to the emergency alert system. The loss of life could have been so much worse. Showed the need for our agencies to expand their communications

Shared and discussed Peter Buckley's Network Meeting Slides & Notes from the Southern Oregon Success Network Meeting the previous Tuesday.

Younghee shared the impact that a simple smile made a huge difference as she experienced racism when she first came to the states for school.

Geoff shared that they go to where these folks are, whatever setting they would like. That they will hear them and pay attention to what they say. People need to know that you see them and hear them. That you understand. How you make that connection is the most important thing you will ever do with them. Building up that trust.

Janell shared that they have some liaisons to bridge language issues. We have one school, Jewett, with immersion classrooms. When I can secure a native language speaker the family opens up more and shares their needs and information vs just someone who can interpret. We are now getting more Russian speaking families. Web-based translations are not working well.

Professional Learning & Discussion: Floyd Cobb & John Krownapple's *Belonging Through a Culture of Dignity*

Chapter 4 - *Beyond Strategy: Culture*

Chapter 5 – *Beyond Respect: Dignity*

Chapter 6 – *Recognize Distortions of Dignity*

René shared a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the 3 chapters. Will finish the review of the chapters next month. In September, we will finish the book, discussing the next steps for implementing this information.

Closing

Next Meeting:

Next Meeting: July 22, 2021

10-11:30 am