



Educational Equity Committee

July 22, 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, Geoffrey Lowry, Elise Travertini, Eileen Micke-Johnson, Martha Ibarra, Christine Shepherd

Absent: Bridey Mendoza-Moore, Meryl Roberts, Marisa Poling Jackson, Mary Wolf, Brent Barry, Ceci Robe, Jacquie Jaquette, Andrea Partsafas, Devon Finley, Janell Haataja

Hub Staff: René Brandon, Vicki Risner

Link to Shared Vision Statement:

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

Welcome & Updates

Elise Travertini, La Clinica: Early on during quarantine we offered both limited in person and virtual appointments for families to work with their children's behavior problems, but didn't get a response. Now that the kids have returned to onsite, referrals just flooded in from teachers and families. I am happy to report that most school districts focused on social emotional connection for students, rather than a strong emphasis on academics. We're struggling with finding enough employees, like RN's and behavioral health clinicians, to support everyone. As an organization we split up one of our roles in the primary health center. Now we have Resource Support Specialists who will be school based this fall, starting in Phoenix/Talent.

Geoff Lowry, Oregon Child Development Coalition: We didn't have a specific summer program due to staffing issues. Our staff was just tired. Our migrant seasonal program goes through August 5th and then started back up on August 8th. Most of everything else starts again September 13th. Since we are a bilingual program, we are also having staffing issues.

Martha Ibarra, CCRN: Have 22 migrant children attending summer programs. Helping providers who are not with Preschool Promise or other programs with professional developments, especially in family homes. Working to get those programs involved in our networks for better support and improve their programs.

Christine Shepherd, WIC: Have been seeing people in person. Able to pick up more behavior issues with seeing the kids in person than over the phone or virtual. Struggling to get people on the phone due to burn out. Staff members are tired. We've become an easy outlet for folks to talk about all of their struggles through quarantine. Service area has expanded to include Curry Co. They were one of 7 awardees granted nationally, \$55,000 to get a mobile clinic. Having trouble giving away their fruits and vegetable vouchers and trying to understand why.

Eileen Micke-Johnson, RCC: Started summer term last week. We are looking at the possibility of best practice training to get more people in the field. Getting aides trained to become teachers. Looking at a grant from the Ford Family Foundation to promote this, in partnership with SOU. Transition from being grant funded to state funded.

Younghee Kim, SOU: SOU is working with RCC, SOU has a micro credential of about 12 credits for people who are already in the field, to invite them back to take a specific set of courses that can move them into a badge or micro credentials. Opening a door to recruit and retain folks in the profession, as well as encourage other majors to explore this possibility.

Rene Brandon: The \$1.4 million dollar proposed cut at the last legislative session has been rescinded so we should be at current funding levels. Advocacy that this was not the time to cut funding for children and families. PSP recruitment is in full swing, please refer families. Early Learning Division is convening a cross sector collaborative in August, to address recruitment and retention of ECE workforce. News regarding hub staff: Chelsea Reinhart is moving to Florida. Looking to hire for her position as well as someone to assist with Preschool Promise.

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

Chapter 7 – Develop Dispositions of Dignity – See PowerPoint presentation. Discussion of core dispositions: Empathy, Patience, Openness, Listening. The courage to Be Uncomfortable. Co-create Brave Space. Brave Space Conditions and Guidelines. The Dignity Journey Starts Within. False Dignity. Dignity Violations Also Start from Within. Cultivating Worthiness. Correcting Dignity Distorters and Nurturing Dignity Dispositions. Triggers That Close Us Off to Feedback. We will conclude our study of the book in September. And will discuss strategies for next steps in our work.

Closing

Next Meeting:

No meeting in August

Next Meeting: September 23, 2021

10-11:30 am