



SOELS Governance Council

July 20, 2021

2:30-4:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID 948 6812 4175

Attendees: Eileen Micke-Johnson, Martha Ibarra, Mary Wolf, Geoffrey Lowry, Katherine Clayton, Kimberlee Whitney, Jessica Durrant, Lisa O'Connor, Sam Watson, Adrienne Auxier, Brittain Zimmerman. Guest: Cassie Bruske

Absent: Laura McKeane (ex), Scott Beveridge (ex), Crystal Rowbotham, Jeanne Grazioli, Mary Hough, Stacy Inman

Hub Staff: René Brandon, Teresa Slater, Vicki Risner

Agenda

Call to Order 2:33 pm

Welcome and Greetings

Additions or changes to the Agenda: none

Approval of minutes from 06/15/20

Motion to approve minutes: Sam Watson

2nd Motion: Jessica Durrant

Motion Passed

2021 Legislative Wrap Up – Eames Consulting, Cassie Bruske

Cassie presented highlights of the activity for early learning in the last legislative session. A report will be sent when available. Achieved \$70 million in new investments, serving 4,000 additional children.

\$1.4 million dollar cut that was proposed was restored in the final budget for hubs. Rep. Marty Wilde was an early champion. Rep. Karin Power was the house chair for early learning. Not a lot of early learning expertise in the committee so a lot of work was needed to get them up to speed. Before session they met with newly elected legislators. They were engaged and eager to learn. Senator Deb Patterson, sat on several committees where she spoke about the role of the hub and importance of it.

Eames spoke with relevant representatives on committees, hearing questions such as:

1. Help me understand what you do? Hungry for tangible details.
2. Are you redundant? Can you be merged with another program?
 - a. CCRN's and Hubs are effective in their current roles.
 - b. A cut to hubs would mean a cut to services.
3. Help me understand what you can't do if you receive cuts.
 - a. René was effective in presenting data and explanations.

Some of the challenges:

1. This cut happening at the same time of reallocations. So not all hubs were receiving cuts. Key legislators were not experiencing cuts in their communities so not as informed.
2. Some players had questions and doubts about redundancies with the two systems.
 - a. Hubs are unique to each region.
 - b. They wanted more consistency throughout the state.
3. The legislative fiscal officer felt that there were redundancies.
 - a. There are expected transitions in this position as well as other leadership positions.

Some of the wins:

1. Saw dramatic investments
 - a. \$1.4 million cuts restored.
2. A letter authored requesting specific funding including funds for the hubs.
3. Developed champions in freshman senators
4. The relationship with the division was improved.

They pushed for a longer-term focus, helping legislators understand the hub system.

René: Cassie for learning what the hub does and articulating it so well and making the legislative session as easy as it could be for hub directors.

Jessica: Have to echo René how thankful we are as a board that we did this. So much professionalism and thought-provoking steps taken. Committee members agreed.

Changes/Updates to Governance Council and Hub Staff

- Lisa O'Connor has completed two terms. Last meeting, second and final term. Presented a Certificate of Appreciation: "True Compassion means not only feeling another's pain but also being moved to help relieve it." - Daniel Goleman. All of our agencies were figuring how to work from home and deliver services. Lisa repurposed her staff, vehicles and resources to step up for the families of the Rogue Valley. Grateful for Lisa's service to our governance council.

We need help in recruiting someone for the Family Education and Support position. Email blasts don't work, personal contact and asking folks to apply is a good fit to get people to respond. We will be sending out the application soon and ask you to encourage individuals to apply.

- Chelsea is moving back to Florida. She came to Oregon to find the rest of her family and now is returning to Florida. Thank you to Chelsea for her hard work and accomplishments to early learning.

- Geoff has agreed to another term as Co-Chair. Appreciate Geoff's willing to share the role with Kat.

ELD Early Learning Collaborative in August René

René: This August's collaborative is for hubs and CCRR's to come together for shared learning. This one is different. Focus is to identify the strategies that are needed to recruit, train and retain an early learning workforce. Each Hub and CCRR is asked to bring a team of 4 people to come support these issues. Jim Fong is interested to bring his counter parts across the state to discuss these issues.

ELD clarified that both the hub and CCRR can bring 4 folks each, so 8 folks from Southern Oregon. Eileen is interested. It's virtual. Introduction to state wide discussions. Some work groups, advocacy to legislators will be identified and goals set to move forward.

Let René or Mary know if you are interested or have suggestions of folks to invite, August 10th and 11th.

September meeting will recap the spending for the 2019-2021 biennium and review suggested strategies for investment priorities for 2021-2023.

Motion to Adjourn: 3:27 pm

Next Meeting

September 21, 2021

2:30-4:30 p.m.