



Early Care and Education Workforce Committee

July 1, 2021

10:30 am-12:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 926 5062 3888

Attendees: Greg Thweatt, Katrina McGrath, Devon Finley, Peter Buckley, Mary Wolf, Eileen Micken-Johnson, Ida Saito, Crystal Persi, Jen Perry, Jim Fong

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

Agenda & Welcome

Update: successes and lessons learned for CMHS paid internship project

Jen Perry from Project Youth Plus shared a PowerPoint presentation. 6 youth from Central Medford High School participated in the project/5 are still working as paid staff with early learning programs. The project engaged general education, special education and transition youth. Had partnerships with amazing local providers. Coaches worked along students from application, certifications, trainings to completion. Created classroom enhancement projects for the sites they were interning with. There are hopes to continue this program and potentially add another high school. Eileen mentioned that North Medford and Grants Pass, Hidden Valley High Schools also have similar programs and may be good fits for this program. René stated that the hub will evaluate the costs over the summer and hopes to have programs in both counties in the fall, pending available funding.

Discussion: Low enrollment for summer child care programming

Mary shared that some sites are fully enrolled, others are not. Many families are heading out now that things are opening up. Chelsea mentioned that the hub is about to begin enrollments for summer. Less than half of the providers opted to participate in summer programs since teachers wanted a break. We'll know more in a few weeks. Teresa shared that KPI received summer funds and have offered 92 summer spots for kids entering kindergarten in the fall. 60 were continuing, with 30 new spots. Providers are not expressing issues with enrollments.

Update: Child Care Professional Development Funding

Mary: there is a lot of funding coming from the ELD. Will share specifics at the next meeting. Eileen stated that they have funding to continue support for their cohort project. Scholarships will be available.

Update: engaging Rep. Marsh and/or other legislators in child care conversation

Peter stated that they are looking into free or reduced insurance for providers, looking at the insurance exchange at a federal level. René added that the ELD is hosting an early learning collaborative focused on building a supply, including retention. Rene will bring a small group of engaged stakeholders interested in moving this along. This group will be comprised of Jim, Peter, Ida, Mary and potentially Brad Russell with Rogue Valley YMCA. Convening is August 10 and 11, 9-4:30.

Jim shared that child care providers are having trouble keeping up with wages currently being offered in other industries and he plans to discuss this with our federal representatives. Central Point School District has a model that we should look more into regarding making child care part of the K12 system. Mary shared that other districts in Oregon and other states have been successful as well.

Other Business & Closing

Jim recommended a sub group to work on recruitment needs for the industry. Eileen mentioned that she is working on some pieces that would be good for that group and that CCRN may have some of the data needed already. Mary said that they would like to continue on this effort. René volunteered and stated that she and Jim have the systems perspective but need others to bring the details and believes that CCRN and RCC folks would be best to join to map out the system with them. Mary felt that the mapping done for the health care system that Jim referenced would be helpful for early learning. Jim will send out the results from those cafes. Crystal said that someone from licensing would like be involved as well. Greg mentioned that the work they have started with Rogue Careers might help; they created a pathways infographic. Timeline: convene in the end of July or early August to bring back results in September. Jim will send out the invite and Jamboard link to start.

Chelsea shared Child Care Needs for Families Survey Results. 229 responses describing their need for child care and the family's employment situation. A copy will be sent out to committee. Jim would like to share this information with another Workforce committee and pull a panel from this group. René said she would participate.

NOTE: No meeting in August

Next Meeting: September 2, 2021