



**SOELS
Agency Advisory Council
Meeting Agenda
October 8, 2021
10:00 - 12:00pm
Zoom Meeting**

Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 989 2977 1308

Attendees: Darcy Larson, Devon Finley, Peter Buckley, Stacy Fields, Bethanee Grace, Stacy Inman, Diana Bennington, Riki Rosenthal, Stephanie Finch, Debra Koutnik, Sadie Emmons, Melodee Baldrige, Carrie Prechtel, Darin Dale, Jessica Machen, Sadie Emmons, Kate Lasky, Katherine Clayton, Bob Hendrick

Hub Staff: René Brandon, Teresa Slater, Vicki Risner

Welcome & Introductions

Update on Project to Engage Pregnant Women and Families with Young Children

René: Our Child & Family Wellbeing committee has been merged into this committee. Our K-12 partners have been reporting that many children are arriving to kindergarten not prepared for it. We want to identify how to ensure families don't fall through the cracks, how to connect families to the services of benefit to them. This work is about relationships. The Hub is contracting with Sadie Emmons, she will begin to build a system of relationships, using the Unite Us platform, to build relationships with parents beginning during prenatal care and continuing through kindergarten milestone.

Sadie: I'm starting in Josephine County, finding out who's giving referrals and/or using Unite Us. What sort of services are being provided, what's working and what's not. I will be reaching out to more folks during the next few weeks regarding the pros and cons of reaching families. How is the new platform going to feel to families? Will it feel like a warm handoff? Making sure that its family centered. You're welcome to email or call me with feedback, concerns and ideas.

Peter: The Family Advisory Committee, the group of 12-18 parents, were split about trusting the system. If there is a navigator helping the family get onto the Unite Us system, they are more likely to trust the system.

René: Some of the reasons the closed loop system is so helpful is that families don't have to repeat their story every time they meet a new provider. Peter, using your Family Advisory Committee is so helpful. We are meeting with Lisa O-Connor at the Family Nurturing Center to see if they can do the same work for Jackson County, and potentially work with Sadie to coordinate efforts.

Debra Koutnik: Our systems are very siloed. It's amazing me how many providers aren't aware of any direct services outside of their own practice. Parents are good about coming to well child visits. Yet the primary service doctors don't seem to know the services available to refer families to.

Sadie: I am familiar with that. For systems work, it makes sense to build on what they are already doing and have established.

René: Is it common for most practices to have a go-to person who is knowledgeable about how to refer patients to outside services?

Debra: In the family practice setting, they are not well educated in pediatric needs.

Sadie: Each individual practice has their own individual culture and how things are done. I think there's a lot of assumptions of what is and isn't available.

Rene: Learning why things are the way they are first is important. It takes trust to build new collaborations between partners. When we surveyed providers a couple of years ago, when they did a referral they gave the client a phone number to get "X" service. What they found is that clients found that source full or not viable any more. There's always room for improvement.

Stacy Fields: Shared life experience. At two, my child was referred to speech therapy, which they didn't know had a 50 week wait for services. I didn't know about Early Intervention.

Darin Dale: In 2022, CCO's are rolling out a new social-emotional component.

Community Partner Updates

Diana Bennington – The Family Connection: Free Parenting Classes for any parent, grandparent or caretaker in southern Oregon: <https://thefamilyconnect.org/families-parents/> Feel free to have families sign up for this free service!

Kate Lasky: Josephine Co Library Services: We're looking to go back to in-person in two weeks, with masks. We have a family and youth section on our website. Book lists are updated frequently. How to sprout a reader program. Helping families learn how to do story time at home. Kits can be picked up with help to use them to build readers. We are starting Spanish offerings next month. We are actively including resource and information on our website. "Welcome friends" on our website with Community resources with categories, locations and where to find help or information. We will add you and keep your information current.

Stacy Inman and Darcy Larson, EI/ECSE: Darcy: We are looking to move to 4 days a week once we hire more staff. Early intervention should be in the home soon. Doing outdoor visits now.

Will utilize a hybrid model of virtual and home visits going forward. OHSU has helped us with studies on autism and going into pediatric clinics and inviting us to go along. Stacy: we are fully staffed. We have new staff position of Community Family Engagement specialist to provide those extra supports for social/emotional, and support to get other services.

Stacy Fields, Bridging Communities: Just received new funding for fire relief. Rosa, our parent representative, has a virtual parent group. Working on Covid outreach and education.

Debra Koutnik, MD, SOESD: Mainly working with autism and is available for anyone with questions about kids, behavioral issues. I tell myself this regularly: All pandemics through history have all ended one way or the other. And we often don't really understand exactly how and why they ended.

Peter Buckley, Southern Oregon Success: We're beginning to distribute "The Help that Helps Parents" booklet (<https://psi-south-coast-esd.square.site>). We've vetted this with many groups and it's getting a good response from people. There is a QR code on the booklet that will connect them to the Family Connection, Connect Oregon. Looking to get 1,000 copies. If the response is good we will expand. It's user friendly information.

We're working with a lot of partners, open enrollment for health insurance for the early learning community as well as others is happening in November again. No costs to meet with an insurance agency. You talk with them and they help you sign them up. Options has collaborated on micro credentials on behavioral health, 12 credits which are stackable for higher degrees. Multiple courses for college credit. Scholarships may be available. Meeting with former Governor Kitzhaber on Tuesday regarding his Child Success Delivery System. Wants to work with Southern Oregon as a pilot because we are known for great partnerships.

Bethanee Grace /Diana Bennington, The Family Connection: We have programming for the fall on our website. Class for Spanish speaking families. Class on conscious discipline. Class for dads. Class for parents with teenagers, with or without their teens. Printable flyers online. Calendar is filled with their programs as well as partner's programs. Feel free to send parenting education opportunities so we can include them on our website. Going to OPEC conference. Working to get the Help that Helps booklet out. Still teaching virtual classes and sending home kits. We'll be happy to send home items regarding your programs in the kits, just let us know.

Devon Finley: Training, Classes, Grants! Working on upcoming conference and training opportunities. Supporting providers to apply for the Child Care Stabilization Grant funding opportunity.

Katherine Clayton and Stephanie Finch/SO Head Start: We are severely understaffed. Not able to open all classrooms at this time. Providing virtual services for kids on the wait lists, goal is not to have them on virtual services for more than a few weeks before getting them into classrooms. 69% of staff is vaccinated, so mandate is an issue. Running with no program Head Start director, no health director. Just doing our best and keeping smiles. Stephanie Finch: Outreach to build on recruitment. Brought in grief support for staff who have lost loved ones.

Riki Rosenthal, Starting Strong/Jackson Care Connect: Still don't have a physical location yet. Co-locating with FNC as soon as possible. Asking to open to in person services, but still waiting for

approval. Will be reaching out to all program partners to schedule some presentations to let people know what has changed, what we have to offer. Finding ways to partner more closely to help the members reconnected back to our services. So many fewer families we are working with than before the pandemic. How to reach families before they have babies. Want to create a Starting Strong's own social media outlet to share what's happening in our program. Connecting them to learning opportunities and resource accesses. Bethanee would like to share those recordings with classes. If you would like information, just reach out to me at rosenthalr@careoregon.org.

Darin Dale, Jackson Care Connect: Focused on keeping services running. Workforce retention and recruitment efforts. Appreciation efforts for staff. Continuing to build on governance structure for providing care for the youth in our program. Working to reduce and eliminate barriers for services. Deepen our partnerships with schools. Oral health as well as behavioral health has been focused. Working with the Oasis center, focused on strengthening parents. We were granted funding for equitable housing from OHSU starting next year.

Sadie Emmons: Covid Vaccine Clinic tomorrow from 10-2 at the Williams Fire Dept. with \$25 Visa Gift Card for First Vaccine. All Day Tuesday from 8 to 7 at The GP Bottle Drop.

Bob Hendrick, Child Welfare: Trainings - We are replacing, updating our training for our resource parents, updated materials, complete overhaul. Been well received. Trauma informed parent focused. More inclusive of relative care givers. Have workgroups going through the materials to ensure that it's relevant for Oregon. Intention partnership ... recruitment for resource homes, resource parents. Started resource family support group, getting good feedback from them. Making changes based on what they say will work. They want resource mentors in place. We're reaching out to get as many trained as quickly as possible.

Peter: What is it to get someone to get involved as resource family? Is there talk about a campaign to engage more families? Bob: Looking at joint marketing with Every Child. There are multiple opportunities for people interested in helping.

Jessica Machen, DHS self-sufficiency, have started issuing PEBT benefits for families. About \$385, pandemic food benefits that don't affect their other benefits. It's Domestic Violence Awareness Month. On Monday, if you eat at the south Mod Pizza, it's a fundraiser for Domestic Violence. DV Awareness Walk Today at 3pm. Courthouse Steps 100 S. Oakdale street, Medford 97501

Carrie Prechtel: Community Benefit Grants, have a large amount of fund to go into the community. AllCare Community Benefit Initiative Grant Application link: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/fc3da7fbd8724920b958f0d2d2dbaf2d>

Teresa Slater, SOELS: Work primarily with KPI grant, transition from early learning into kindergarten. Our biggest update is that we are starting our new biennium. One of our biggest focus is the early learning workforce. The families need quality child care to place their kids so people can go back into the workforce. Project Youth Plus, working with paid internships, work with a navigator to fill out applications, go through interview, if hired, then training for CPR, food handlers. We worked with 16 students last year and had 6 placed. 2 other those students were hired and worked through the summer. It's been expanded for this year to offer it to all the high schools in both counties. Looking to work with 40 students during the next two years.

Looking to have a standardize outcome for the students that they will have a set group of skills that providers can count on for our graduates.

René: Coordinated Enrollment, Preschool Promise: Still have openings at a few places. Please continue to promote Preschool Promise with your families. We are also focused on some system-level improvements for the ECE Workforce and will have updates soon.

NEXT SOELS AGENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING:
November 12, 2021
10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.