



**SOELS Governance Council**

**October 19, 2021**

2:30-4:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID 948 6812 4175

**Attendees:** Katherine Clayton, Adrienne Auxier, Crystal Rowbotham, Jeanne Grazioli, Jessica Durrant, Kimberlee Whitney, Laura McKeane, Martha Ibarra, Mary Wolf, Sam Watson,

**Absent:** Eileen Micke-Johnson (ex), Geoffrey Lowry (ex), Scott Beveridge (ex), Brittain Zimmerman, Mary Hough, Stacy Inman

**Hub Staff:** René Brandon, Teresa Slater, Vicki Risner

**Agenda**

**Call to Order: 2:36 pm**

**Welcome and Greetings**

**Additions or changes to the Agenda:** none

**Approval of minutes from 9/21/21**

Motion to approve minutes: Jessica Durrant

2<sup>nd</sup> Motion: Sam Watson

Motion Passed

**Preschool Promise Coordinated Enrollment**

René: Shared slide. 287 Enrollment Opportunities: 76 continued from last year. 149 new placements this year. 44 pending eligibility review, with 18 remaining slots. Additional information: 85 declines, 8 ineligible, 18 wishing to remain in waiting pool. 23 Total sites, 8 with openings: 2 White City, 3 Medford, 1 Phoenix, 2 Grants Pass.

**ECE Sector Plan Update**

René: Shared slide. Our committee reviewed CCRN supply data, census child population data, and Head Start/OPK and PSP data to determine the cities in our region where an increase in PSP slots would respond best to demand. Lack of workforce makes the exercise more theoretical at this time; we do not want to send a message to the legislature that these funds are not needed; it's about the timing. Priority populations will continue as: Home language Spanish, Children Experiencing Disability, Families in Rural Communities.

Sector Plan Update Submitted:

Request for Jackson County: 25% or more of slots in these communities need to offer Spanish or Bilingual instruction, offers extended care. Central Point: 36. Eagle Point: 18. Medford: 75.

Phoenix: 8. Talent: 18. White City: 18. Primarily English: Ashland: 18. Butte Falls: 18. Shady Cove: 36.

Request for Josephine County: A variety of provider types, with majority preferring center-based, primarily English, offers extended care, 20-25% of families need transportation. Cave Junction: 10. Grants Pass: 36. Selma: 9. Williams: 20.

Discussion was had regarding the need to keep Gold Hill and Rogue River in mind for additional child care support in the future. Currently PSP supports 7 slots in Rogue River and 18 slots in Gold Hill.

### **Kindergarten Launch**

René: Shared slide. Goal: the 11 school districts in our two-county region participate in Kinder Launch events during the first week of March, inviting families of next year's kinders to come to school, meet staff, get questions answered, etc. PSA's to community. District then design ways to keep these families engaged from March until school begins in September. It was noted that some districts prefer to retain their current timing for outreach during April or May, and that may be what works best for those districts. The supports created for districts to promote family engagement would still be available to all districts, regardless of the timing of their outreach to incoming kinder families

Challenges: Prior to Covid, about half of the districts participated. Since Covid, it's been more challenging. Families need more support than ever, so engaging early is critical.

Strategies: We are rolling our Launch workgroup into the existing SORS Early Learning to Kindergarten Summit Workgroup and having two or three events that have Launch activities as part of the planning. Many districts are interested in strengthening relationships with the early learning programs who have their future kinders and we hope to leverage some of that engagement. The Hub sponsors summer jumpstart activities for interested districts.

Teresa: The Goal being contact and access to the families early so they can discover things that they can access in those few months before they start.

Rene: Maybe have our KPI folks offer an evening event at the school for incoming Kinders to get them comfortable with school, help parents better learn to engage with their kids, offer resources. Jessica shared their success with Critter Camps giving their kids a jumpstart and tracking data. Also mentioned that many school districts now have a public relations person. We should get them all together to help with the media campaigns.

### **Early Learning & Inclusion Partner Collaboration**

René: Shared slide. Goals: bring training, technical assistance and leverage inclusive partner supports for PSP programs to increase inclusionary practices for supporting children experiencing disabilities. Inform families of supports available to them. Create stronger relationships between providers, inclusion partners, and families.

Challenges: Creating these supports, building relationships and creating a system of communication and support takes time, but program and families need support NOW.

Strategies: Modifying flowchart drafted by ELD to fit our region; creating documents and processes to help programs identify what support they need to provide care for ALL children; continuously building relationships.

### **Southern Oregon Child Care Mapping**

René: Shared slide. Child Care System of Partners for Jackson and Josephine Counties. How to strengthen partnership, opportunities for improvements. Mapping what it's like for the current user to utilize the system. This will happen at the end of the month and be facilitated by Heidi McGowan. With hopeful outcomes of the meeting: 1: ID critical partners, where relationships are strong, where there's opportunity for improvement in the system, where there are gaps that impact our priorities. Together, 2) map process for end users to navigate the system and identify strengths, opportunities, gaps.

**Motion to Adjourn:** 3:40 pm

### **Next Meeting**

November 16, 2021

2:30-4:30 p.m.