



SOELS Governance Council

January 18, 2022

2:30-4:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID 948 6812 4175

Attendees: Katherine Clayton, Adrienne Auxier, Crystal Rowbotham, Eileen Micke-Johnson, Jeanne Grazioli, Mary Hough, Sam Watson, Scott Beveridge, Kimberlee Whitney, Geoffrey Lowry. Absent: Brittain Zimmerman, Jessica Durrant, Carrie Prechtel (ex), Martha Ibarra, Mary Hough (ex), Stacy Inman. Guests: Sadie Emmons, Janet Christian

Hub Staff: René Brandon, Teresa Slater, Vicki Risner

Agenda

Call to Order: 2:33

Welcome and Greetings

Additions or changes to the Agenda:

Approval of minutes from 10/19/21 and 11/16/2021

Motion to approve both minutes: Eileen Micke-Johnson

2nd Motion: Sam Watson

Approved

Gratitude for Jeanne Grazioli

René read from her Certificate of Appreciation: Thank you Jeannie Grazioli for your service to the early learning system in Southern Oregon. Thank you for your passion and decades-long dedication to children, educators, and our community. You are appreciated! "The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second-best time is today." Chinese Proverb

Family Engagement Improvement Project - René & Sadie Emmons

René: We've been working on strategies to get then keep our families with young children engaged. Most get health care during pregnancy and shortly after birth and take their child to a pediatrician. We just don't have warm hand offs to get them from the health care providers into the early learning system of partners. With the Protective Factors in mind, we engaged Sadie to uncover what partners are currently doing, what the families are needing, and what their engagement is with our other system partners. Sadie's focus has been in Josephine County to begin with.

Sadie: My professional career includes the director of CASA for over 10 years in Josephine Co., maternal health work working with high risk OB patients, and birth doula. I also have a background in child development and systems work.

Sadie shared PowerPoint presentation. Family Engagement Improvement Project (FEIP) to increase engagement of pregnant women and families with young children into services and to keep them engaged by creating a system of warm handoff referrals between system partners.

René: We are planning for Carrie Prechtel to share what AllCare is focused on with the Help me Grow program information at a future meeting.

René: Sadie shared this update last week with our Agency Advisory Committee. Autumn with WIC shared that they offered a peer support group even before the pandemic. It became less popular after time. While one type of support may not fit the need of every family, it is important to offer several options for families to become engaged. When it's drop-in, with no expectation families tend to show up more.

This is a living document that Sadie will continue to add to as she continues to listen to stakeholders and getting feedback from families. Public health 101 is that you don't come into a community and do something to that community. You partner with the residents and community members to build something that's meaningful and supportive for their own identified needs. That's what our goals are here. Part of what we are acknowledging is that we need more capacity, more play and learn groups, more story time, more support groups, and that requires community partners to identify a portion of an FTE that they could repurpose, maybe 2 or 3 hours a week to facilitate and host some of these programs. This would create a sustainable model of structure and support that families can rely on.

Mary H: Our most successful informal mental health groups started as a lactation group that turned into a peer support group that has grown through the pandemic. When families are in need, they usually have an immediate need. If we have a pipeline with a family ready to engage, it would be wonderful if we had a family hub. Maybe the WIC building in Medford. A place that shows that it's important and valued. A lot of families drop out of the system when they have to wait for support.

Crystal: As a family we struggled with finding respite care so that we could explore our own support and growth.

Adrienne: This is important information. There seems to be less infant and toddler mental health services in general. Parenting education, peer support groups is key.

Katherine: It's a true struggle to find support for the mental health of our students. We are working with Unite Us. We have a counselor come into each of the centers from Options.

Geoff: We're working with Unite Us as well. About 30% of our students are having major issues. Always searching to find resources to support them and their families.

Kaleidoscope Play & Learn Group Progress & Expansion – Teresa & Janet Christian

Teresa: We've had these groups for about 5 years. They are funded through our KPI grant. The premise of the Kaleidoscope Play & Learn (KPL) is a weekly parent/child 90-minute play group. Parents and caregivers come with the children to a place, drop in, have playtime with the kids,

adults get some networking time. There is a story, an activity and a snack. They get to know one another. Prior to Covid, our goal was neighborhood KPLs that would build support groups built on those protective factors that would continue into kindergarten and beyond. Janet has been one of our lead facilitators for over three years and has now taken on the role of our KPL coordinator. Our goal is to get back up to capacity during this biennium. Within the groups there is a focus on child development, parenting skills, concrete supports, and above all, it's the peer support for both the children and adults.

Janet shared her Power Point presentation. Included was where she started, where we are now, how it changed through Covid and more. Megan, a new facilitator has started a second group at Grace Point in downtown Medford. We are working with a couple other sites to get more groups up and running soon. We are looking for supports in Josephine County as well.

Sadie: We had dads and grandparents in our Kaleidoscope group as well. It helped moms with postpartum depression, supporting many who were waiting for professional help when it wasn't available.

Adrienne shared the need for more infant/toddler mental health supports.

René: The Early Learning Division is poised for some expansion on infant/toddler mental health consultation. It may be limited by the number of professionals in each area to provide these services. In the near future we should have some information to share about this.

Budget Update: Changes to Family Support Funding - Rene

René: Last week we heard from ELD that one of our funding streams focusing on Family Stability has been reduced. Under \$10,000 change for our region is expected. We don't have final numbers yet. It shouldn't impact any of the priorities that we have already identified.

Motion to Adjourn: Scott Beveridge

Seconded: Sam Watson

Vote taken

Adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Next Meeting

February 15, 2022

2:30-4:30 p.m.