



**SOELS
Agency Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2022
10:00 - 12:00pm**

Attendees: Alejandra Moreno, Darcy Larson, Debra Koutnik, Devon Finley, Riki Rosenthal, Autumn Chadbourne, Sara Hollingworth, Stacy Inman, Eileen Micke-Johnson, Kate Lasky

Hub Staff: René Brandon, Teresa Slater, Vicki Risner

Welcome & Introductions

Question – how are you, your programs, your families doing?

Sarah Hollingworth, Kairos: Still wearing masks in public areas. Really nice to be on site.

Debra Koutnik, SOESD: Have noticed that parents may need some support learning how to get down on the ground to play with their kids.

Stacy Inman, EI/ECSE: Coming off a 2-week spring break. We are in family homes in masks and meeting them outdoors unmasked. Eager to be in person but are continuing to support families virtually as requested. Families are excited to see people in person. They are needing more groups. (Wants to hear more about Kaleidoscope.) Seeing a lot more families who don't understand the importance of being face to face and floor level with their kids. ECSE, we raised our assistants' pay quite a bit and offered full benefits so hoping to add more staff soon.

Alejandro Moreno, Jackson Co. Mental Health: We are still working from home for the most part. Our clients across age groups really like telehealth. So, we are looking at going to a hybrid schedule when we return to normal. They find it easier to attend sessions. We are seeing a significant rise in referrals for babies up to 24 months. PCIT has only been over telehealth during the pandemic and it works. In the office we worked behind a mirror, so it works well virtually. We've only had a couple families that it didn't work for. Moving forward it would be considered on a case by case basis. Everyone would be wearing masks if they came into the office.

Riki Rosenthal, Jackson Care Connect: Still not meeting in person. Not having the same relations with members like we had before. Masks are voluntary for staff, but believe that if we meet with families, masks would be required.

Teresa Slater: Happy to be seeing coworkers in person. Families are craving connections with one another. We are looking forward to seeing what we can do to make that happen.

Devon Finley, CCRN: We are doing a mixed presence in the office. Offering classes and trainings in Zoom. We are getting feedback that virtual is more convenient. No travel times. It's a wait and see for the future.

Eileen Micke-Johnson, RCC: Just finished a 2-week spring break. First week of spring term. A little rise in enrollments. RCC is looking at significant budget cuts, an \$11 million deficit. Layoffs are happening starting today. We will know more after next week. All of our courses are still on Zoom. If an exposure event would have happened in our classroom it would expose programs and could have a larger impact.

Autumn Chadbourne, WIC: We are still providing remote services. It's scheduled to expire on April 16th. Not sure if that will be continued. If it's not, we will start in person appointments in July. For our busy families, they have really appreciated it. Yet it's hard to do iron screenings and evaluate risks remotely. We are getting ready to ramp up for our farm foods program on June 1st. Looking for approval for vaccines for kids under five which should help kids stay in programs and not quarantining.

Kate Lasky, library director for Josephine Community Library: klasky@josephinelibrary.org

Poll for Meeting Preference: Zoom or in Person?

Results: Zoom 75%, In Person 25%

Update on Family Engagement Improvement Project & Jam Board session

René share slides:

Family Engagement Efforts:

- Recapped of what has been learned with preliminary conversations with community partners.
- Kaleidoscope Expansion
 - Teresa shared several slides about the program.
 - Weekly Drop-in 90 minute Facilitated playgroup with caregiver and child
 - Pre-Covid we had 16 facilitators, some with multiple groups.
 - With Covid, most went away.
 - Right now, if you have space, if someone in your organization is interested, if you know of a space, please reach out to me.
 - Autumn asked about how to refer families. René: We had 1 facilitator who maintained her groups. Right now, we can't advertise the groups because we don't have the capacity. We need to focus on building that before we can market it. We need partners to provide the space and people to facilitate right now.
 - Teresa: Once we have increased capacity we will put the times and meeting out there but we are away out from that.

- René: We can provide funding for facilitator time, food, and materials.
- Stacy Inman: In the past, we had staff interested, but quickly grew exhausted by the amount of time they needed to invest every week. Could it be a job share?
- Teresa: The families get attached to their facilitator and they build a relationship. When something is going on with them they are more likely to go reach out to them.
- Sarah: We're interested in partnering with you.
- Debra: Maybe consider exploring assistants with high school students.
- René: We'll reach out to Project Youth Plus to see if this is possible.
- Debra: I meet with the Curriculum Directors of all the School Districts monthly, so if there is something specific I could bring to that group about engaging their preschools, I would love to do that.
- Help Me Grow in Josephine County – AllCare and Providence
 - Starting with the medical community to create resource link to partner with other resources. Abby Bush is the state coordinator. There will be more information coming soon. It's small rollout in Josephine County first, and we will share more when we hear additional information.
- Family Survey Project
 - We are working with 4 nursing students from OHSU. Helping us to craft the right kind of survey and in the right format to hear from families so we can invest our resources in the best way to support those needs.
- Early Learning Hub Parent Leadership Council
 - By June 2023, we will need to have this up and running. Not exactly sure how this will look, waiting for additional guidance.
 - Stay tuned for more information on this.

Early Learning Hub Priority Populations

The groups that need more support from us.

- Teen parents
- Children experiencing a disability
- Foster families
- Families in recovery from substance use
- Families in rural communities
- Families whose home language is Spanish
- Families experiencing poverty (under 200% FPL)
- Children without early learning opportunities prior to kindergarten (no child care, preschool, etc.)

Jam board shared:

<https://jamboard.google.com/d/1OJ9JUZ1xgG7RnI8eEDTwRjZS0lCSkl-RiIUa0katpk/edit?usp=sharing>

For each of the groups above, participants were asked to list questions that we should be asking families and where to reach them.

Tiered Support Model for Early Learning Programs

René: We know that our early learning workforce is struggling. Prior to Covid, we looked at national programs and how they are supporting the workforce. Arkansas's model really stood out to me. Below is my rough draft of how this could work in Oregon. The model doesn't take a lot of resources to launch.

Universal online referral request – Create referral link (within Unite Us?) and sponsor Support Specialist to be primary point of contact. Support Specialist triages requests and partners closely with various regional partners who have special content knowledge (child development, Preschool, quality coach, family support, mental health, inclusion, Early intervention, Conscious Discipline Coach, etc.). and this is the 'typical' for these partners. Sustainable model, leveraging partner services.

- Online Request submitted. Support Specialist interviews provide to gather more details of need.
- Support Specialist or regional partner above assigns case for support (utilize Unite Us CLRS or traditional outreach if partner is not using Unite Us yet)

Tier 1: Concerning behaviors are developmentally typical and provider frustration is not excessively high.

Support Specialists share information and resources with providers:

Online or paper resources regarding child development, developmentally appropriate practices, supportive environments, etc.
Referrals to training, support groups, play groups, etc.

Tier 2: Concerning behaviors are more serious and/or providers frustration is high

Short term technical assistance from a team of developmental/social-emotional or experts:

Inclusive Partners
Bridging Communities
CCRN Inclusive Support Line
Family Nurturing Center
FACT Oregon
Developmental Disability Services

Tier 3: Concerning behaviors are extremely severe, persistent and/or history of trauma or multi-system involvement.

Longer term support:

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation
EI/ECSE referral
Jackson Co. Cocoon Care Coordination

Stacy: We are just signing up with Unite Us. We are using other platforms as well. I like that families only have to tell their stories once. The outline makes sense to me.

Autumn: We've been using Unite Us since the fall. Our staff wouldn't be able to know these Tiers based on the current Unite Us Platform. You will need to get really well written referrals to be able to determine what tiers are needed.

René: We will have a point of contact to determine the tier and do the referral to partners. Will need a small steering committee to get this moving forward. We will need you all to ask questions, push back to help create something meaningful. More to come over the next year.

NOTE: We are shifting our meetings to every other month

NEXT SOELS AGENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING:

June 10, 2022

10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.