



Educational Equity Committee

February 24, 2022

10 am-11:30 am

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 487 642 8933

Purpose of Meeting: The Southern Oregon Early Learning Hub's Agency Advisory Council has identified educational preparedness for young children of color in Southern Oregon as a priority focus area. We are convening partners representing early learning, K-12 education, high education, health sector and culturally specific family-serving organizations to drive this work forward. Families with lived experience will guide our work.

Attendees: Martha Ibarra, Meryl Roberts, Cynthia Anderson, Eileen Micke-Johnson

Absent: Bridey Mendoza-Moore, Marisa Poling Jackson, Younghee Kim, Geoffrey Lowry, Elise Travertini, Christine Shepherd, Brent Barry, Ceci Robe, Jacquie Jaquette, Andrea Partsafas, Devon Finley, Janell Haataja

Hub Staff: René Brandon, Teresa Slater, Vicki Risner

Link to Shared Vision Statement:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/11C97TVQvNs-wUuHp8ITtNaJzsKe7_zCg/view?usp=sharing

Agenda

Welcome

Professional Learning & Discussion: Floyd Cobb & John Krownapple's *Belonging Through a Culture of Dignity* - Chapter 8 – Shape a Culture of Belonging and Dignity & Next steps for application

René' shared PowerPoint presentation. Discussion of the benefits of a Positive Climate. Discussion of future pilot groups, providing free books, surveys, collect data on how it is impacting families and staff.

Meryl: We're doing an initiative that is complementary to this program which is a *Creative Connections* in all kindergarten classrooms. We show two strategies a month then

highlighting the teachers who are using it. We are being mindful of the social and emotional health of our teachers who are in survival mode. I do think our teachers would be interested if it was simple and implementable. If they could read the book over the summer then get together afterwards.

René: Do you think incentives would be useful to have them engage over the summer.

Meryl: Incentives are good. What if we give them a choice on how to engage with the material and implement it?

Cynthia: Most of the teachers I've spoken with are looking for the break, but incentives would be welcomed.

Martha: The incentives would be great if they include hours of training credits. Money incentives were giving our providers the opportunity to pay for additional staff training and certificates. Needs to be translated into Spanish.

René: If we could create the pitch before the end of school: It's never been more important to create relationship with families. Summer is coming so we'd like to present the opportunity for summer reading that our Equity Committee has been working with, that sense of belong with families. Opportunity to get training hours or incentives if you choose, with the end product of the opportunity to implement an assessment with your incoming families in the fall. This would be a summer reading with the opportunity to join group discussions along the way.

René: We have the captive audience of the currículum directors and could get on their agenda to present this opportunity and why. But this could be an issue with it coming from the top down.

Meryl: I think it would be a great way to get the information out there. If it's optional, you would still get the people who are interested.

René: At our next meeting, I will have a prototype of the 18 questions in a modifiable form so we can make it more appropriate for early learning and kindergarten teachers and families. I can pull together some draft marketing materials.

Teresa: Teachers are burned out but they need the time together. The incentives will make them feel more appreciated, especially with their small budgets. The gearing up to be there is tough, but once they are there they always are happy to be there.

Applying an Equity Lens: Family Engagement Improvement Project for Southern Oregon

René shared the Family Engagement Improvement Project presentation and explained the background of the creation of the document created by Sadie Emmons.

For the survey we would like to send out, where are families getting information?

René: For families whose home language is Spanish, where are they getting information now? Martha: The Caminos magazine is only once a month but does cost the families. They may have a Facebook page. La Clinica. Yvonne Martinez is working with them offering trainings in social/emotional through Zoom meetings. Regular forums for Spanish speaking families on a lot of different topics. Southern Oregon Pediatrics has a large population of Spanish speaking families.

Once we have the survey available we can ask partners to share with any Facebook group that is family oriented to be able to post it.

Looking for facilitators for Kaleidoscope groups. Keep in mind any contacts you may have for people who would enjoy this and would be a good fit so we can build the regional capacity for these supports.

NOTE: No meeting in March

Next Meeting:

April 28, 2022

10-11:30 am