



SOELS Governance Council

March 15, 2022

2:30-4:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID 948 6812 4175

Attendees: Katherine Clayton, Adrienne Auxier, Eileen Micke-Johnson, Mary Hough, Sam Watson, Kimberlee Whitney, Brittain Zimmerman, Jessica Durrant, Carrie Prechtel, Cynthia Anderson.
Absent: Crystal Rowbotham, Geoffrey Lowry, Scott Beveridge, Stacy Inman.

Hub Staff: René Brandon, Teresa Slater, Vicki Risner

Agenda

Call to Order: 2:32 p.m.

Welcome and Greetings

Additions or changes to the Agenda:

Approval of minutes from 3-15-2022

Motion to approve minutes: Carrie Prechtel

2nd Motion: Sam Watson

Approved

ELD Contract, Work Plan Update

We received the draft of our contract from ELD. Ours was accurate and no need for adjustments. We expect to have a fully executed contract at any time. Our contract is for the biennium and expires on September 30th 2023. Historically, many hubs struggled to continue providing summer programs while waiting for the new contract to be initiated for July of the new biennium. To alleviate this challenge, ELD extends hub contracts through September 30th, one quarter after the end of the biennium to allow summer programming to continue without interruption. This one quarter of funding is 'borrowed' from the next biennium.

Our workplans are still in progress due to the delay of the contract with the Early Learning Division. The workplans are directly tied to the Raise Up Oregon 5 year strategic plan 2019-2023. Early learning hubs the actionable arm for getting Raise Up Oregon movement happening in each region. We will share the completed plan at our next Governance Council meeting. Raise Up Oregon is a five-year program and ends June 30, 2023. They are working on Raise Up Oregon 2.0. David Mandel at ELD is the point person for this work. He has been asked to present to the Hub directors to discuss state progress and discuss next steps.

A new deliverable in our contract is the requirement of building a Parent Leadership Council. The hub system was created to be family centered and family driven. A plan for the recruitment, engagement and retention of families into a council must be in place by July 1, 2023.

The Parent Leadership Council must be representative of our identified priority populations.

- Spanish speaking families
- Families with children experiencing disability
- Families in rural communities
- Foster families
- Teen parents
- Families in recovery
- Families experiencing poverty
- Families with children without early learning prior to kindergarten

\$30,000 in our new contract is set aside to support the development of structure and initial recruitment and must be spent by June 30, 2023 as well. We don't know yet what's allowable and not allowable for that funding. We also don't know what funds will be available going forward into the next biennium to support this leadership council.

Below is the language that was in our previous contract regarding governance structure. The only addition is what is noted in red. There isn't anything new that has been specifically called out from the work we have been doing, just that we are bringing the Parent Leadership Council alongside the Governance Council to move the work forward.

In partnership with Hub Governance Council **and Parent Leadership Council**, lead regional alignment and coordination of early learning systems as follows:

- Create shared vision for regional Early Learning System;
- Engage cross sector and community partners;
- Engage in system focused problem solving and action;
- Engage in continuous learning and improvement of regional Early Childhood System plans; and
- Facilitate strategic convening of sector and community partners

This new language is all that is known so far about the work ahead.

Include a Parent Leadership Council within the Hub governance structure. Ensure membership and active engagement in the Parent Leadership Council from families who represent the Hub Coverage Area Priority Population.

Brief history of SOELS Parent Advisory Council

Teresa: We did have a Parent Advisory Council in 2015. In the very beginning it was very active. It was well attended by the parents. What worked well is that they picked the day and time. They did their own recruitment, bringing others from other parent committees that they were on. We did stipends and meals. What did not work well was that the participants who attended had struggles within the group. There was a very vocal parent who overshadowed or intimidated other parents. There was a struggle with parents who were used to one style of parent leadership groups and ours operated differently. We had a chair and the chair also had a very powerful voice; what was presented at the Governance Council was not the whole voice of the group. I met the week prior to the parent meeting with the chair to determine how we wanted to move the meeting along. It became too much to meet twice; once to plan and once for the meeting. It was challenging for the group to come together every month. In the end we left the model of the chair/co-chair and secretary and went with a joint shared responsibility. People participated more at that point. It helped having a hub staff person mentoring them along. Meetings were in person and we provided child care. We had about 10 active parents the first year. The second year we

had 5. When we retired the committee we only had the officers and they were asking to be released.

Katherine was asked to share about the Head Start Model: Southern Oregon Child and Family Council. We currently have 62 parents, with five in leadership roles, in our parent council, representing all of the centers in both counties. At the beginning of the year we have a 4-hour orientation using Teams which doesn't completely take them away from their families. They get continued leadership training. We have 5 staff members to keep things on track. Ground rules are stated at the beginning of every meeting. When someone gets too vocal the staff member works to redirect them to staying within the rules. Meals, child care and mileage were covered.

During Covid, attendance hasn't been as good, about half of what it had been. The parents are choosing to return to in-person meetings in the next few months. It needs to be structured and they need the tools.

René: Have you had to go through the process of shifting a person out of the council?

Katherine: We've had times when we had to talk to a parent personally and coach them. We haven't had to remove anyone. This group is really important to the parents. They feel like they have a say in their child's education. The opportunity is open to all Head Start families. Those interested are asked to give a speech describing why they are interested in participating and then the committee decides who is chosen.

What would an ideal structure look like?

- Number of members
- Types of activities related to governance
- How to intersect with current GC

What models exist and what are the pros and cons of those models?

Kim: Are there specific demographics that you want on the council. Kat?

Katherine: We do have demographics and they have naturally come to us. We have so many families and centers to pick from. We try really hard to make sure we get the demographics but haven't had to do anything additional to make that happen. Each year we've had 3 representatives who move on to the state level and 2 representatives who went to the national level. Some are returning, based on the age of their child. We switch back and forth on counties each month.

Carrie: What about Peter's Parent Group?

René: Initially we had hoped we might be able to utilize the SORS Family Advisory Council, but it isn't specifically comprised of families with children under age six, so not necessarily our demographic. ELD has not endorsed using an existing group at this time.

René: There are many unanswered questions right now. So far there is no guidance to the specific number of members or that we have to check off a parent for each priority population. With expecting families to self-disclose, in the application, "why do you want to be a part of the council" would be a better way to learn about family diversity rather than asking them to check a box. We have received no guidance on how that money can be spent. It feels like it's an earmark that might have been a little premature. We may be able to purchase some gift cards. There could be the possibility of pre-purchasing child care slots. We are waiting for more guidance from ELD. Today, we just wanted to let you know this change is coming.

Because we do not directly serve families, except for a brief interaction with Preschool Promise Coordinated Enrollment, we will need to leverage existing relationships our partners have with families. A clearly articulated mission will be critical to engage families and keep them actively engaged.

Eileen: There is a lot of value in parents inviting parents. I think having Crystal talk to other groups of parents explaining the value of being a part of this work would be beneficial.

New office space and future meeting schedule/preference

Some of our furniture has been delivered. No set date for the remaining furniture. Everything we own has been boxed up for a year and our stuff was in a literal pile at SOESD. We are starting to unpack. We are eager to have some in-person office time.

An anonymous poll will now taken to assess future meeting format. At this point in time, would you prefer future meetings to be in person or virtual? 3 prefer in person. 7 prefer Zoom meetings. Once our meeting rooms are set up, we will begin offering hybrid meetings.

Reminder: Conflict of Interest forms for 2022

René: Just a reminder that we still have a few forms outstanding.

Future Meeting Frequency

Rene We are ready to shift back to meeting every other month, as was previously approved, unless there is a concern about doing so. No one expressed any concerns about moving back to that structure.

Motion to Adjourn

Vote taken, approved
Adjourned at 3:34

Next Meeting

May 17th, 2022 2:30-4:30 p.m.