



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

Attendees: Alejandra Moreno, Brandace Rojo, Cynthia Anderson, Dana Brooks, Debra Koutnik, Geoffrey Lowry, Hillary Handelsman, Peter Buckley, Sadie Emmons, Sara Hollingworth

Hub Staff: René Brandon, Teresa Slater, Vicki Risner

Welcome & Introductions in the chat

Peter Buckley, Southern Oregon Success
Alejandra Moreno, Jackson County Mental Health
Sarah Hollingworth, Kairos Jackson Services
Geoff Lowry, Oregon Child Development Coalition
Dana Brooks, Jackson County Mental Health
Brandace Rojo, Josephine Community Library, Communications & Partnership Manager
Debra Koutnik, MD, Behavioral Pediatrician, Member of Jackson County Collaborative Early Autism Identification Team and Mental Health and Wellness Specialist for SOESD.
Cynthia Anderson, program manager with CCRN
Sadie Emmons, Family Engagement Project Coordinator with SOELS/FNC
Hillary Handelsman, maternal manager for Jackson County Health, home visiting nurse

Update on Family Engagement Improvement Project

Results of Family Survey and Family Empathy Interviews

René shared the Southern Oregon Early Learning Services Hub – Family Needs Assessment 2022.

Comments: Showed the need for relationships. Regarding virtual services, people with prior relationships with there were advantages to virtual visits. It was difficult for new patients.

Question about how partners are utilizing bilingual services? The hub uses IRCO, Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO.org) out of Portland for translations. We would be happy to work with partners who don't have the resources to pay for their services where possible.

Identifying Opportunities to Respond to Needs

Connect Oregon (Unite Us)

There are currently well over 100 regional partners working with Unite Us, the region's closed loop referral platform. The Hub is working with a community health care worker through Rogue Community Health to connect with families who submit a screening form for Preschool Promise who have indicated a desire to speak with someone about additional needs. Like 211.org, any system is only as good as the number of entities who are in it and using it. We need to help Unite Us grow.

Help Me Grow

Things are not progressing as fast as we would like it in Josephine County. A big barrier is finding the right staff to make the program work. They are seeking to hire someone who can do face to face referrals, with a community health background, and knows the resources in Josephine County.

Growing Together Community Family Center in Grants Pass

Currently stalled out on progress. Still have faith that it's going to happen. Many great foundational pieces have been laid down for this program.

Meeting/workshop space in Medford

Douglas & Company have opened a space on 305 North Bartlett. It's open now for any community organization that wants to hold family activities at no charge. They can hold a capacity of 49. Southern Oregon Success and The Family Connection have provided funding through September. Working with other community partners to continue this funding ongoing. They can be reached at: hello@douglasnadcompany.com.

Protective Factors Toolkit and Agency Self-Assessment

René shared the SOELS Family Engagement Tool Kit.

Help That Helps booklet

Peter: We've distributed 10,000 of them. Asante is giving them to every new parent. Medford and other school districts will be providing to them to their families. Let me know if you want to be part of our next distribution in the fall.

Kaleidoscope Play and Learn Groups

Teresa: Kaleidoscope Play and Learn groups are parent/child/care giver 90-minute drop in weekly play groups. We are working with 6 new facilitators, spread out between Josephine Co., Butte Falls, Prospect, White City, Gold Hill and Medford. We are trying to get them spread out. Before Covid we had 16 facilitators, many holding more than one group and are hoping to work back up with that. We are working with the Jackson County Housing Authority to find spaces. They are thrilled that we are returning.

We will do a community of practice with the facilitator every quarter so they get supports. We are hearing a lot about the dysregulated social/emotional state of children. We want to make sure that our facilitators are skilled up for whatever might cross their path. Please consider if there is anyone on your team who might be interested. We can hold another

training to get them started. We can compensate staff time, purchase the materials they will use, pay for promotion and training. As the locations are finalized, Teresa will be sending out flyers for partners to share with families.

Need for partners to promote and share information:

The Family Connection: parenting education opportunities. <https://thefamilyconnect.org/>
Employment Related Day Care subsidies: <https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/assistance/child-care/Pages/index.aspx>
Preschool Promise: <https://www.soesd.k12.or.us/preschool-finder/>

Please review your services are accessible in languages other than English.

Look at all of your materials that are outward facing and see if there is any work that needs to be done. If cost is a barrier, please reach out to René and we can talk about getting some of your materials translated into Spanish. Having all of your materials in English and Spanish would be a great first start.

Consider having your staff use Duolingo. It's free and affective. It takes a while to learn another language, but if you start today, in a year you are that much ahead.

Community Partner Updates

Peter: Southern Oregon Success: Our network meeting had 71 participants to focus on a child success delivery system with the goal that every child enters kindergarten ready to thrive. The results are going now to our design team, family capacity for resilience work group, family advisory council, Spanish language focus group and more. By December we should have a blue print of what it is going to take to support and address the needs of the families from the surveys. We have a pilot program with Child Care Resource Network and Impower, which is a group of life coaches led by Tiffany Grimes, to develop a partnership with different early child care providers to do coaching administrators, classroom teachers and parents to have a consistent model of coaching in self-regulation and behavior practices for kids.

Debra: Last year we were working to provide autism support in Spanish, but that staff member has left. We are looking to fill that position. Some of the kids with disability tend to left out of the conversation. In the past programs have been grant funded and then the grants end. The sustainability issue needs to be addressed. René: Let's explore what the potential cost will be.

Sarah: Kairos is working on offering a group with any kind of brain difference. Dual groups, parenting class, respite, connection. Support group for the youth that is sponsored by our coaches. We are working with an outside consultant to identify the needs of the multiple groups. I would love to partner with those who have these skills. Looking to have it as a drop-in style. Participants do not have to be Kairos clients. Would like to talk with SOELS about financial support. We are currently licensed from 0-24. The bulk of our clients are school aged and we want to expand into the younger children and their families. Our goal is to offer multiple classes each week.

Alejandra: We are still working primarily through telehealth. Our referrals slow down during the summer but we are continuing to receive them.

Teresa: We put out a grant opportunity to early learning providers with a focus on rural communities who would be serving children who will be entering kindergarten in the fall. We should be serving 30ish children. The workforce shortage is affecting those opportunities to go beyond their typical ratios.

Dana: I'm getting ready for our wrap care coordinators do a community educational thing getting ready for school time. We are seeing a younger push for wrap around referrals. The complexity of them is greater. We expect to see that increase come fall time.

Cynthia: I am excited about doing Duolingo with my team. Previously at another meeting we talked about the teared model of support for early learning programs. We met with the CCRN team members who would be that point of contact for getting a Unite Us referral from an early learning program that is asking for help with a need in their classroom. They would either respond directly if it's something in their wheelhouse or they would do a referral using the Unite Us platform. We have been in communication with Momone to describe what we want to do since it would be different than a person in the community initiating a self-referral. We are hoping in the near future to identify some of our Preschool Promise providers to take this as a pilot program to see how this goes. We will be reaching out to some of you to see if you might be willing to be apart of that pilot program as programs might need your services.

Hillary: We returned to home visiting. We are fully staffed with nurses and filling caseloads. We looking to increase the capacity to take more families into our program. We are full in our program of children and babies up to the ages of 5. We have space in our pregnancy program, at 68% capacity of the 200 folks we can support. We are just about to release a new form that allows folks to self-refer, a partnering agency can refer within the next week. René: We learned from Momone that an agency can create a unique referral request form that they can live on a webpage, and it can directly connect with Unite Us.

Debra: I am wondering if your staff is trained on not using weed during their pregnancy. There's a lot of new data that supports that this is not a good practice.

Hilary: Would you send me some of those relevant articles that I can share with them. I can help to disrupt that to them. It would be helpful to have more recent articles.

Dana: Do those articles reflect on breast feeding?

Debra: I can find out.

NOTE: No meeting in August

NEXT SOELS AGENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING:

September 9, 2022

10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.