



Early Care and Education Workforce Committee

November 3, 2022

10:30 am-12:00 pm

Both in person and Zoom Meeting

<https://soesd.zoom.us/j/4876428933>

Meeting ID: 487 642 8933

Attendees: Cynthia Anderson, Peter Buckley, Eileen Micke-Johnson, Amber Lease, Stacey Daniszewski, Devon Finley, Bridey Mendoza-Moore. **Hub staff:** René Brandon, Teresa Slater, Vicki Risner

Welcome

Partner Updates

Cynthia Anderson, Child Care Resource Network: We are supporting the new Preschool Providers as a team effort. As part of our business coaching pilot program, Norma is offering 3 tiers of support for Spanish speaking providers, providing software, technology needs. Rolling out a lending library of computers for temporary computer labs. Very successful so far. Working on how to do the same for English speaking providers. Supporting: 284 centers or families, 249 English (some offer Spanish supports as well), 35 are Spanish only. 214 in JA Co. 78 in JO Co. Maintaining staffing levels is the biggest challenge. Only half of interviews even show up. Half that do are not qualified. Offering benefits is a struggle. PSP has a liability component in insurance that is difficult or unable to get for some providers. New sites are still becoming providers. Great post-Covid movement.

Amber Lease, Head Start: Struggling with staffing. People are taking over 6 weeks to get their CVR approvals. Data from Western Oregon on child care: Total 5,037 slots available in both counties, compared to 16,000 kids. (4700 in 2020). Huge gap in what is needed and what is available.

Teresa Slater, Early Learning Hub: Our Project Youth Plus paid internship program update: Open to all high schools in Jackson and Josephine counties. We've had 18 youth participate, with 13 programs and 16 classrooms included. TS shared the youth's requirements that they have to complete so that when they exit the program they are employable. Head Start, Bloom Hills, Kaleidoscope, Learning Stone, Imagine That, Active Learning, Great Beginnings, YMCA, Art & Science Kids, a good selection in our rural communities. Challenges are working within the student's schedules.

Stacey Daniszewski, Community Outreach Specialist with Head Start. Our enrollment numbers are looking better for who we can enroll. Just trying to open up closed centers if we can hire people to staff them.

Eileen Micke-Johnson, Coordinator for the Early Learning Professional Development grant in the Early Childhood & Elementary Education department at Rogue Community College. Our enrollment is up a bit for fall term. We are almost back to pre-pandemic numbers. The Adult Basic Skills department has come to us to include these folks who aren't currently working with children in the grant to get training and into a job in early learning. More participants are now actually working towards a degree. Dr. Randy Weber, new president of RCC, and Juliette Long, Vice President of Academic Affairs, should be included in early learning presentations.

Devon Finley with Child Care Resource Network. Mostly strengthening the skills of the existing work force. We are recruiting teachers to attend the RCC cohorts. Early Childhood Enhancement Project (ECEP) is starting in January and is more intense than a typical RCC course. It's an online course for teachers in social-emotional development of young children, which also includes coaching. In partnership with Tiffany Grimes and Empower, we are starting a new cohort with social emotional supports for the adults working with children. Started with the directors so that they can support their own staff. Start up and expansion grants closed last month. Am working with folks who are opening new centers in Grants Pass.

Bridey Mendoza-Moore, Rogue Community College. Our enrollment is better than the last 3 of 4 years. Last fall was a bit higher. There is a lot more life on our campus and students seem a lot more engaged this year.

René Brandon: Preschool Promise update. Prior to the expansion 259 slots, were awarded 170 additional slots. Not all of the programs have been approved by ELD yet. We are responsible for eligibility and placements. 388 applicants to date, after ending with 404 last year. This is our first year with a team member who is bilingual/bicultural on staff. This has been really helpful. We have expansion dollars to bring a 3rd enrollment specialist on board, as well as family engagement services. We won't know exactly how things will lay out as governors change and new bienniums happen. The big issues we're hearing from the families are challenges for a child with specialized needs and finding placement. With expulsion prevention legislation coming on board next year, that's very important for us to figure out how to sort through to support programs so that all children can really have access to early learning experiences. We will talk more about this when we talk about the work plan. Cynthia added that CCRN does have an inclusion specialist, Louise Horn, on board for providers. She is very proactive as needs come up.

Peter Buckley: Open enrollment started Nov. 1st.

Update on Regional System Assessment

Looking at reach data, the number of children in our region and number of slots available overall, drilling down to the number of how many families are at or below

200% of the Federal Poverty Level and what their access to subsidized early learning opportunities are. Also looking at families who have a child experiencing disabilities, families whose home language is Spanish, families in rural communities, and getting a sense of how well our current work force is responding to family needs.

ELD just this week shared data that we will get access to. We'll be using our January meeting with this committee and Agency Advisory committee to do a deep dive into that data. We will start to ask the questions: What does it look like? What is the reality for your family? What might need to change to make it a better experience for your family? Then continue forward with listening sessions from our families Important for family/parent voice is front and central in driving decisions in publicly funded early learning going forward. And that we are equally asking our provider workforce what they need to be able to serve all children.

Review of progress on work plan and next steps

Workplan was shared (See attached). Comments and additions were added directly to workplan.

There are several pieces that are currently in play. Somethings that are certainly important but that as a small workgroup we don't have the capacity to move those things forward. The plan for every subsequent meeting will be to do little check in's over time so that we can see where more support is needed, or if someone has more time to step into that lead role to get some something started. The post COVID movement.

Who should be in this meeting? Rogue Workforce used to attend. JRHA and Allcare. We could send an invite for a specific spot? Looking at specialty things that are part of this work plan and bringing them in to help move some work along. Possibly asking them to attend a work group as we work on a specific goal. Please reach out with any others in mind and we can create a strategy to reach out to them. Things move forward when the right people are at the table and have the bandwidth to be able to chip away at it.

Next Meeting: January 5, 2023