



SOELS Governance Council

September 19, 2023

2:30-4:30 p.m.

IN PERSON at SOELS' office: 918 Chevy Way, Medford

OR

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://soesd.zoom.us/j/91042667714>

Meeting ID: 910 4266 7714

One tap mobile

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Meeting ID: 910 4266 7714

Attendees: Katherine Clayton, Laura McKeane, Sam Watson, Geoffrey Lowry, Kimberlee Whitney, Cynthia Anderson, Stacy Inman, Bridey Mendoza-Moore, Jessica Durrant, Scott Beveridge, Mary Hough. **Absent:** Brittain Zimmerman

Hub Staff: René Brandon, Jordan Rogers, Sydney Wing, Teresa Slater, Vicki Risner

Call to Order 2:30 p.m.

Welcome and Greetings

Additions or changes to the Agenda

None

Approval of minutes from 5-16-23

Approval of minutes from 7-18-23

Motion to approve both minutes above: Jessica Durrant

2nd Motion: Geoff Lowry

Approved

Voting Results for Mental Health Representative & Discussion of Other Vacant Positions

Members voted Sarah Hollingworth, Kairos NW to join the Governance Council as the Mental Health Representative. She will be onboarded in October and will join the Council in November. Still need: Latinx Representative, Substance Abuse Representative, and Jackson County K-12 Representative. Please continue to recruit.

What celebrations and challenges are your agency experiencing?

Jessica Durrant, Three Rivers School District: pockets of really high numbers, especially in Kindergarteners. Looking to add a new kindergarten teacher. Challenges – connect with kinder families whose kids have never been in school. Trying to support the behaviors in the classrooms.

Katherine Clayton, SO Head Start: Fully staffed. Great strong energy. Working on some new centers, rural. Huge wait list. Challenges: getting the new centers opened. Converting Head Start classrooms into Early Head Start classrooms.

Sam Watson, JCC: Staffing levels are great. We've expanded quite a bit. Almost double in 4 years. There's a focus on members 0-5. Care Oregon just identified priority populations and 0-6 was one of the four. Working on building resources to build the child care workforce. Developing social needs benefit.

Bridey Mendoza-Moore, RCC: Enrollment is up, credits are up. Offering a new course: Family Education and Support, sponsored by SOELS and SORS. Filled up with people on their wait list. A lot of new Spanish speaking students.

Kim Whitney, ODHS: Family First initiative rolled out in both JA & JO counties. We want a different partnership with our education partners and families. Involvement for a family in early child hood learning statistically reduces the numbers of interventions Child Welfare needs.

Cynthia Anderson, CCRN: We are expanding our services which means we will be adding more staff. Positions will be posted soon. Also hiring more staff to support Preschool Promise programs.

Geoff Lowry, OCDC: Parents are coming in, children are coming in, we have staff. It feels normal!

Stacey Inman, EI: Fully staffed. Referrals are much higher than we've ever seen. Autism referrals are at about 60%. Still hiring for instructional assistants. Working on our partnership with Asante and the NICU. Warm handoffs have had good results. We are screening a community documentary, *Forget Me Not*, highlighting the importance of inclusion.

Mary Hough, So OR Peds: We began a working group for families experiencing autism. Working with JCC to provide funding.

Laura McKeane, AllCare: JCC, AllCare and Public Health are knee deep in the new community health assessment. Should be done by the end of the year. Had some great work with our partnerships.

Sam Watson, JCC: We will be conducting community engagement again this year on social and emotional health metrics for children. Looking at how many of our kids have received either an assessment or services around social emotional health.

Potential Board Retreat Date & Facilitators

Last actual retreat was before the pandemic. Looking at potentially October 13th? Our usual facilitator, Heidi McGowen is not available until January, so we may wait. More to come.

Update on Suspension & Expulsion Prevention Plan & Supports

DELIC released RFA in early August. Deadline has been extended until October 6th. Family Nurturing Center is working on their application. They need 3 letters of support. SOELS submitted a letter. About \$347,000 for 2 years. If they are offered that contract, they would be in a one-year planning phase to skill up staff, either theirs or partner organizations, to get that infant/early childhood mental health consultation credential. Then the second year of funding would be implementation, working with our child care community to provide consultation to early learning teachers.

Hub is working with Sarah Hollingsworth at Kairos to see if we can duplicate what she is wanting to do with the Head Start team to skill up folks to be skills coaches to directly support children in classrooms. CCRN has staff who provide technical assistance and coaching to teachers. We have a real deficit of experts working directly with the kids in the classroom. The survey we conducted in June highlighted this is a huge need identified by teachers.

New Contract and Budget

We do not have a new contract yet for the biennium. Current one runs through the end of September. We have heard that the Hubs will have current funding levels for the first year and possibly a dramatic increase in the second year for KPI funds.

Once we have the contract we will come back to the council and review our priority investments for the biennium. Should be the majority of our November meeting.

Early Learning Council Support of Hubs

There has been a tremendous amount of change at ELC/DELIC since its inception, which has been challenging for the hubs. Every two years our contacts and metrics change. There is ongoing turnover in leadership and hub coordinators, which means institutional knowledge is lacking. We have a wonderful opportunity from the Early Learning Council who oversees DELIC; Sue Miller, Chair of this council, has stated that it is their goal to bring DELIC leadership together with Hub directors and the Early Learning Council members to identify what the priorities need to be so that DELIC can better support the work and needs of the hubs. We will be having an in-person meeting in Salem next week. The right people seem to be at the table now.

Motion to Adjourn:

Jessica motion to adjourn, Sam 2nd
Vote taken, approved
Adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

Next Meeting: November 21, 2023 2:30-4:30 p.m.