



Southern Oregon Early Learning Services

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Agency Advisory Council

Date: 12/8/2017

Time: 10:00- 12:00

Location: AllCare, Grants Pass

Members in Attendance: Jessica Allen (Advantage Dental), Cheré Brown (Josephine Community Libraries), Patricia Foster (The Family Connection), Michelle Gallas (Imagine That...), Cecilia Giron (LISTO), Nancy Peterson (Jackson County Library Services), Heidi Schultz (Douglas ESD EI/ELSE), Pam Thompson-Arbogast (SOESD ECS), Peter Buckley (Southern Oregon Success) – by phone

SOELS Staff Members Present: Rene Brandon, Teresa Slater, Chelsea Reinhart, Karen Johnson

No guests in attendance

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND GREETINGS

10:10 AM René Brandon called meeting to order. Introductions were made and everyone shared their accomplishments of 2017 and anticipated achievements for 2018.

KALEIDOSCOPE PLAY & LEARN PRESENTATION AND UPDATE

Teresa played a Child Care Resources video that provided an overview of Kaleidoscope Play and Learn, a community based program designed to bring young children, along with their parents, grandparents, siblings, caregivers, family friends, etc. together in facilitated playgroups. The objective is to provide caregivers information to support early learning, create a space for social connections between families, and prepare children for kindergarten. Each group has a trained facilitator. They are held at a variety of locations, and in different languages. Most playgroups are free and open to the public.

Chelsea discussed the five risk and protective factors for child abuse and neglect. It is a strength-based model geared toward caregivers and designed to teach the family how to problem solve. If there is interest, Chelsea can connect to a trainer, and she will share the next training with the community. (Teresa advised that we do not currently have a bilingual trainer, which is a future goal.)

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS & REGIONAL EFFORTS

Chelsea advised that the HUB had a Preschool Promise provider meeting in November, and what came out of it was the need for a separate meeting to address challenging behaviors with the children in the programs. Some suggestions brought up were:

- Help in navigating the mental health system
- Special needs training for autism and ADHD
- The need for coaches alongside teachers in the classroom
- Knowing what typical behavior looks like
- Stress management for teachers

René described an emergency meeting she attended at GPSD, which was called to address the challenging, and increasingly unmanageable, behavior of some children. Veteran teachers are expressing that typical strategies are not working and, where they used to have maybe one child in a classroom exhibiting these behaviors, it is now common to have five or more. René advised that the HUB has been meeting with CCO partners in an effort to determine how best to provide support through training and coaching, and identify funding sources.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA COLLECTION

René advised that a focus of the Hub is equity in services, and the HUB needs to collect demographic data from partners and other sources in order to analyze the data, identify trends, and create strategies to improve access to services for families regardless of race, ethnicity, language, income, ability level, education, geographic barriers. We will be reaching out to partners in the near future to capture data.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES – WHAT’S NEEDED?

Item not discussed.

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Cecilia shared that LISTO will be hiring a full-time director, which they have not had for over 20 years. René explained which programs were awarded School Readiness funds through the RFP process, LISTO – to engage more Latino families and hire a director, CCRN – expansion of Warm Line, Kid Time – Spanish-speaking support, SMART – to serve children on waitlist, Sugarloaf Community Association – for a preschool at Williams Elementary School.

Meeting adjourned at 11:59 am

Submitted by K. Johnson