



Southern Oregon Early Learning Services

**SOELS Agency Advisory Council
Meeting Agenda
April 8, 2016 10:00-12:00pm
Options 1215 SW G Street Grants Pass**

10:00-10:10	Introductions and Approval of the Minutes	Diane Conrad
10:10-10:40	Program Updates 1. Share what's going on in your agency and ask for feedback. 2. How do your events align with other agencies and the Hub? 3. What can community partners do to help the success of your agency? 4. How can your project or activities benefit from partnering with other agencies?	Group
10:40-11:00	Discussion about AAC and its purpose	Mary-Curtis Gramley
10:40-11:15	Follow-up on waitlists and where are the children	Diane Conrad
11:15-11:30	Preschool Promise Update	Mary-Curtis Gramley
11:30-11:45	Indicator Group Updates	Group Champions
11:45-11:55	Kaleidoscope Update	Teresa Slater
11:55-12:00	Upcoming Events/Trainings:	Mary-Curtis Gramley
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rogue Valley Child Abuse Prevention (formerly CAN) Family Fun Night Out- April 7th 4:30-7:30 pm at Alba Park• SOELS Stakeholders Meeting-May 13th in Medford (Date Tentative)• Dr. Blodgett, Aces Study- April 12th 6:00-8:00 at Grants Pass High School Performing Arts Center	

It is the expectation that grant recipients regularly attend the AAC, and at the very least send a representative.

SAVE-THE-DATE FOR OUR NEXT SOELS AGENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING:

May 13, 2016

SOESD 101 N. Grape Street Medford



Southern Oregon

Early Learning Services

Southern Oregon Early Learning Services Agency Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2016

Options, 1215 SW G St, Grants Pass

Members in Attendance: Cheré Brown (Josephine Community Libraries), Felicity Elworthy (Southern Oregon Head Start), Michelle Gallas (Imagine That...), Kathleen Gregg (Family Nurturing Center), Donna Lipparelli (Options for Southern Oregon), Deb Murphy (Rogue Community College), Cathleen Price (Child Care Resource Network), Carrie Prechtel (211ingo), Heidi Schultz (Early Intervention), Sunny Spicer (Kid Time!), Pam Thompson Arbogast (SOESD Early Childhood Services)

SOELS Staff Members Present: Mary-Curtis Gramley, Teresa Slater, Ashley Dibble, Kathi Philby

Guests in Attendance: No guests in attendance

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, & CALL TO ORDER

10:00am Teresa Slater opened the meeting, at 10:10am Introductions were made.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING NOTES

Mary-Curtis asked for an approval of the March minutes. Carrie Prechtel asked for correction of her title and the spelling of Kerry Wels.

ACTION: Correction of Carrie Prechtel's title, Communication to Community and spelling of Cari Wells to Kerry Wels

Mary-Curtis spoke of the Major Functions of this group; Agency Advisory Council.

AAC members are the doers, providers, and backbone of the SOELS Hub. The discussion included organizing the AAC to make the Hub stronger.

- Continue with the open end membership
- Begins with this group; AAC
- Agencies sharing data
- Ask for feedback, what works?
- Your activities may include other types of activities that other Agencies can contribute.

PROGRAM UPDATES – GROUP

Mary-Curtis asked each agency at the table the following questions:

1. Share what's going on in your agency and ask for feedback.
2. How do your events align with other agencies and the Hub?
3. What can community partners do to help the success of your agency?
4. How can your project or activities benefit from partnering with other agencies?

Cathleen Price, Child Care Resource Network – Development of the Kindergarten Transition Grant is underway. Discussed the Kindergarten Launch and will be offering Kindergarten Readiness training which will be branded under the “Kindergarten Launch”.

- Set 2 training will be offered in June, there will be 4 workshops total.
- The training will help providers receive training hours and credits at a set 2 level.

In addition to Kindergarten Transition Grant they are partnering with SMART to develop equity trainings with SMART personnel.

They looking at the “Are You Ready for Kindergarten”? document from Silicon Valley, a preparation handbook for families, and now have permission to use this document and will tailor it to our region. This will allow CCRN to share information with parents and the building blocks will be part of Kindergarten Grant. Will develop a partnership with Head Start which will enable them to offer the head start framework training, which is the documentation of milestones used to create the foundation of experiences for children in Early Childhood.

CCRN is connected with SOELS by working with the Outreach Coordinators, they will be talking about their visits to providers and their connections with Kindergarten Teachers.

- to promote parent packet
- readiness trainings
- parent kindergarten readiness trainings, etc.

Mary Wolf, Child Care Resource Network, offered the “Mind of the Making” training and Pam offered to be a Co-Presenter. The Grant was received from ELD and KPI to help fund this project and flyers were distributed. For the K-3 Teachers continuing education, this is an opportunity for trainees to receive two college credits. Mary would really like K-3 Teachers representation for that continuation into the K-12 system.

Mary Wolf shared information of the QRIS, changes are coming because the field test is over in December. All participants need to get their info in by December if they want to use the standards that have been using to date. They will be issuing new QRIS portfolio for the new standards. Western Oregon University Teaching Institute created a timeline for a plan from Dec 2016-July2017, quality performance and portfolio. Feedback from field study is being applied to the application process. **The phase out of current QRIS portfolio should be postmarked by Dec 31st 2016!!!** As the old version is phased out and transitioned into the new system, they have to stay up to date with the QRIS to keep on track. All this is an effort to get the standards that truly reflect quality and to make it user friendly. DHS is giving incentive payments to 3, 4, 5 star programs April 1st; \$54 for 3 star, \$72 for 4 star, \$90 for 5 star providers. Provider will receive a letter and in the CCRN Newsletter. ***Is that per child?

Also, Focus Childcare Network got 14 portfolios in from Spanish speaking providers.

Pam Thompson Arbogast, SOESD Early Childhood Services, spoke of facilitating training, goal setting, research Base, possibly partnering with Smart for the June 11th training.

Deb Murphy, Rogue Community College- She discussed the JCAEYC Winter Conference and the Saturday Parent Conference, and how successful they were. She also spoke to the number of people served by the conference ranging from Providers, ECE students, professionals, and community members (parents). Through AllCare and SOELS support the conference has taken a huge step up in quality and has impacted the lives of thousands. She mentioned the **Perkins Kindergarten Grant has some ideas of materials and information that could be shared with CCRN regarding Kindergarten Launch.**

Donna Lipparelli, Options Southern Oregon- they have mental health staff in classrooms for 36 hours a week. They screen twice a year for mental health services, work with public schools and the FNC. They have the system set up that could help with Social Emotional information, but it does not fix that piece about schools having money to contract with teachers before school starts to do the home visits. They do have a staff that goes and speaks to the point person (therapist) at the school and helps with that transition. They have begun a Kindergarten Readiness group for the most difficult transitioning kids to help with Kindergarten Readiness; they had two groups last year- one for the most difficult kids to transition into Head Start, and one to transition kids into Kindergarten.

Mary-Curtis- this speaks to Preschool Promise; we will be coming to you all to find the children to fill the Preschool Promise slots.

Pam- can we refer kids to you?

Donna- they still have to go through the regular process due to Medicaid funding, but, yes you can refer.

Pam- stated that Gilbert Creek/ ECS doesn't have school in the summer so they have a lot of unused classroom space available for use; Felicity said same with Head Start.

Donna- when we went from the County to Options, all of the services used to be in one building, now adults moved out and we have two Children's buildings. The building they moved into in November was designed from the ground up to work with children, and contains a play room, etc.; the buildings are on Ramsey and Allen. They are discussing having some sort of tour for the community, perhaps an Open House.

Mary-Curtis- she brought up the idea of sending letters to all Districts and all Principals in the region outlining the importance of social emotional development.

Michelle Gallas, Imagine That...- she has been working on the partnership with Early Head Start. With that grant she is in Grants Pass High with infants and toddlers and is expanding out to Hidden Valley. It's exciting, Three Rivers has not had a teen program for many years and it will also be a community site for childcare. Also expanding to Jerome Prairie for early Head Start, OCDC is putting in some migrant Head Start slots, and hoping for some Preschool Promise slots there to build up Jerome Prairie again (physically in that school). Hoping it will become a little hub out in the community, hoping for a food bank, clothing bank, etc., and possibly become a great family resource hub. She also just received her letter detailing the bonuses Imagine That will be getting with their new STAR 5 rating.

Pam- question for Michelle- with all this stuff happening at Jerome Prairie, it would be helpful to know criteria for referrals. In her mind it would be ideal if referrals go to OCDC and then get distributed, it has been a confusing process.

Michelle Gallas also shared feedback from parents on the Launch experience; shock of expectations of what Kindergartens are expecting parents to do and the information distributed by the elementary schools was frightening for parents.

Responses were –

Mary Wolf- thinks the Silicon Valley guide would be good for Launches; the Silicon Valley guide is a book that provides accessible information to parents about getting ready for Kindergarten. CCRN just received permission from the makers of the Silicon Valley guide to use their guide as a template and tailor it to our region.

Mary-Curtis Gramley- building the bridge between K-12 and Providers to create a smoother transition vs. throwing children and families in.

Pam- talked about the importance of bringing K-3 teachers to the MITM training.

Felicity- talked about the importance of warm handed outreach.

There is a huge amount of data being sent to K-12 regarding incoming children from Head Start, a huge piece of the puzzle is to utilize this information. Kindergarten Teachers should be doing home visits with the incoming preschoolers before school starts and including current providers and EI in the process.

Sunny Spicer, Kid Time!- have doubled the staff and size of the program since last year, and the bus program is up and going.

Mary-Curtis added, children from OnTrack will be coming to Kid Time! twice a week in the afternoon with a mentor. Jackson Care Connect funded the Bus. Kid Time! now offers instructed programs that align with the exhibits in the museum and include fitness, art, music, literacy, and social emotional programs. They offer Drop-in classes 7 days a week, so kids that do not have preschool have access to preschool experiences. These classes are included with membership (or scholarship membership) and the Bus will now provide transportation. The program for boys specifically; "Star Saver Academy" had 42 children attended for the first one and their parents all came to it. The second one had even more children attend. The children tend to go wild in a museum setting, but when they become little Jedis, and see this as training, Sunny said it changes the structure and increases focus and attentiveness dramatically.

Mary-Curtis- The Bus began as an opportunity to bring children from home childcares into this quality preschool experience.

Mary Wolf- Star Saver Academy rolls right into MITM with executive function. ELD is sending representatives tomorrow to work with Spanish speaking providers.

Felicity Elworthy, SO Head Start- Reminded the group that Ellen Galinsky will be the speaker at the Parenting Educator conference. She distributed the 2014-15 Annual Report. There is a big piece of Head Start that is about family empowerment and engagement. A large part is parent education, which is why it makes sense to be doing the Parenting Hub. Felicity requested feedback about the Annual Report. She also said that recruitment is huge in April for Head Start, so if you need information regarding recruitment the website, www.socfc.org, is the easiest and quickest way to apply and to receive child enrollment information. There is a brief application process and then they will follow up with people on the phone. The Federal Government said they have to have a face to face eligibility interview. While having 2000 families to interview can cause a huge strain on time and staff. The justification is to avoid fraud...inefficient/misguided. People can apply in person; it's not required to go through the website first. Also, have been facing extreme turnover, 50% of teachers and family advocates, causing Upper Management to face serious challenges. Due to all day kindergarten and higher wages. It's very difficult to provide quality services with high turnover and inexperienced staff.

Her meeting with Carrie Prechtel, 211info, to register and the work with Vroom have been productive. QRIS has been a slow streamline. Had a good site visit to the Parenting Hub family connection and just completed training nine facilitators with Abriendo Puertas, dual-language program. Hoping in June to launch a Parent Educator cohort to provide a network for those folks as the field becomes more professionalized.

Carrie Prechtel, 211info- Carrie passed 211 information regarding adding program info to the 211 database on to Kid Time! The 211 program is trying to make sure that every qualifying agency (non-profit, government, faith based, or offer a sliding scale) is listed so people can find them. **She is working on making sure everyone's agency is listed and up to date.** A lot of people at the RVCAP reported that they use 211info services. She is working to build up that database so it is comprehensive when people need to use it. She passed information around and encouraged people to make sure they are listed.

Pam Thompson-Arbogast, SOESD ECS- Their referral volume continues to shoot through the roof and she asked for patience from referring Agencies regarding the slow process. She said agencies are welcome to call and get status updates, but it is taking a long time to get through the process. A lot of children are becoming eligible and the streamlining process is able to qualify a high percentage of them. She wants feedback about unusual referrals and late referrals for children that are already transitioning into kindergarten. She said the issue with late referrals is that it doesn't leave time for intervention opportunities. There are currently 210 children in referral vs. 180 children at this time last year. She said that because there are no funding opportunities for new staff the workload is huge. Pam was able to get two americorps position applications submitted, one for an Early Literacy Mentor and one for an Inclusion Support Specialist. Gilbert Creek is now a SMART reading site, she and a therapist are volunteering for it. The Inclusion Support Specialist position is connected with CCRN and Warmline. Pam's hope is that with the Preschool Promise Grant, they could perhaps concentrate her work in that, verses spreading her out all over the place. Pam also has Vroom and 211info scheduled for staff trainings and has coordinated with CCRN to provide an ICCP and Warmline Services training for providers. She is also sending people to the Parenting Education Conference in May.

Deb Murphy added the Education Club at RCC is meeting tomorrow and storytelling is the theme, so they are borrowing book bags from Alec Chunn, the Early Literacy Mentor volunteering with AmeriCorps at ECS.

Heidi Schultz, Douglas ESD- She reported that of 170 children in referral, 30 have been referred for autism and 90% of children referred are qualifying for services. She also reported that they are facing the same challenges as ECS as their numbers are also way up.

Sunny Spicer asked if there is a way to do open screenings at Kid Time, as a lot of children with ASD are at Kid Time!.

Donna Lipparelli, Options for Southern Oregon- The other program that will be starting is the applied behavioral analysis which is an autism specific program, focusing on the ages birth-12. Children have to be diagnosed with Autism by a developmental pediatrician, child psychiatrist, or psychologist that is specialized in autism, and the program will begin in July. They will be offering ABA therapy for OHP kids, education diagnosis does not qualify. She encouraged people to call her with questions, and to send in referrals through regular referral process.

Cheré Brown, Josephine Community Libraries- She reported renovation for the Children's Library is two months in and tomorrow the books are being put back into the Library. An Open House in the Children's Library is scheduled for Saturday, May 7th, from 10:00am-12:00pm; additional information will be coming out. They are working on offering a wider variety of Story Times, including a signing Story Time, science Story Time, and a tech Story Time. The Summer reading program is coming up and will run from 6/18-7/30.

Carrie Prechtel suggested listing these Story Times on 211info, and noted that every agency needs to put in their own information.

Kathleen Gregg, Family Nurturing Center- They are still working on letting the community know who they are, in their second year in Grants Pass, and trying to get the word out about programs. They have a Center Based program and an Outreach program. The Outreach program is an umbrella with different programs so a family can get enrolled and choose what works for them, and it includes access to diapers, food, respite care once a week, and the Kaleidoscope play and learn program. She said they are looking to expand and would like feedback.

Melissa Wolff, DHS, asked if FNC is working with the Self-Sufficiency Department.

Melissa Wolff, DHS- Announced that they closed the west Medford office and are now located at 673 Market Street in a beautiful new building which offers a great space to families. A full service building is opening up in Grants Pass near Club Northwest. They are working on several Grants that serve both Jackson and Josephine County, career pathways in healthcare, workforce redesigns, supporting both TANF and TANF leavers and people under 185% of poverty line. She said there are a lot of educational opportunities happening right now, and the goal is to increase opportunities for high paying career paths. There is a new Community Health Worker position in Josephine County which will provide health navigation to families. There are huge TANF changes happening on April 1st; Melissa said to expect a higher exit limit for people receiving TANF limits, and to receive a small incentive after leaving TANF. Also, they will receive reduced payment of day care of \$27 for three months. Not looking at income benefits for SNAP for five months. **Melissa will send more information regarding these changes to Ashley Dibble.**

Kaleidoscope Update

Teresa Slater introduced Kaleidoscope as another Kindergarten Readiness training in addition to Ready! for K. She explained that Kaleidoscope has a social emotional emphasis. Last week SOELS hosted a 2-day Facilitator training for the Kaleidoscope program and there was great representation in attendance ranging from k-12 school, Early Childhood, Siskiyou Community Health, etc.

Mary-Curtis, SOELS- She announced the approval of the Preschool Promise Grant. SOELS had applied for 250 slots and was allocated 170. The Hub is meeting with the state group next week to move forward with the process and there are 13 different providers for mixed delivery preschool.

11:55-12:00 Upcoming Events/Trainings:

Mary-Curtis Gramley

- Dr. Blodgett, Aces Study- April 12th 6:00-8:00 at Grants Pass High School Performing Arts Center
- SOELS Stakeholders Meeting-May 13th in Medford (Date Tentative)

**IT IS THE EXPECTATION THAT GRANT RECIPIENTS REGULARLY ATTEND THE AAC,
AND AT THE VERY LEAST SEND A REPRESENTATIVE.**

NEXT MEETING

The next AAC meeting will be held on Friday, May 13th from 10:00 AM -12:00 PM at the SOESD 101 N. Grape street in Medford. The meeting will be in the Upstairs Conference room.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm by Mary-Curtis Gramley.

Recorded by: Ashley Dibble & Kathi Philby

