



SOELS Executive Council – April 19, 2016
AllCare, 740 SE 7th Street, Grants Pass
4:00-6:00 p.m.

	Call to Order	Kelly Soter, Chair
	Welcome and Greetings	Kelly Soter, Chair
A	Approval of Minutes from March 15, 2016 Meeting	Kelly Soter, Chair
A	Matters Related to the Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additions and/or changes	Kelly Soter, Chair
I	Director's Report (Includes Preschool Promise)	Mary-Curtis Gramley,
A	Budget Report	Susan Fischer, Treasurer
A	Policy Proposal re: State and Federal Grants (Great Start, Family Support)	Mary-Curtis Gramley
A	What does SOELS need in order to thrive? Facilitated Meeting?	Kelly Soter, Chair
I	Reports and Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent Advisory Council• Agency Advisory Council	Sabena Vaughan Pam Arbogast, Mary Wolf
I	Clarifying and Aligning Indicator Group Work	Mary-Curtis Gramley
I	Next Meeting	May 17, 2016 SOESD 101 North Grape St. Medford OR 4:00-6:00 p.m.
	Adjournment	



Southern Oregon
Early Learning Services
Executive Council Meeting

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 – 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Location: AllCare, 740 SE 7th Street, Grants Pass

Members Present (X); Members Participating via Conference Call (C):

X	Pam Thompson Arbogast, SOESD		Doug Mares, Dept. of Human Services, Dist. 8	X	Heidi Hill, Jackson Care Connect
X	T.J. Jessup – Parent representative, Josephine County		Karla McCafferty, Options for So. Oregon	X	Kelly Soter, Jackson Elementary School
X	Amy Buehler, Jackson County Mental Health	X	Eileen Micke-Johnson, Rogue Comm. College	C	Rita Sullivan, OnTrack
X	Susan Fischer, AllCare Health Plan	X	Lee Murdoch, Retired Pediatrician	X	Sabena Vaughan- Parent Representative, Jackson County
X	Michelle Gallas, Imagine That Children’s Ctr.		Nancy Nordyke, So. Oregon Head Start		Mary Wolf, Child Care Resource Network
	Kurt Higuera, Siskiyou Community Health represented by Jacque Doney		Lisa O’Conner, Family Nurturing Center	X	Susan Zottola, Grants Pass School Dist. No. 7
	Jennifer Johnstun, Primary Health of Jo. Co.		Martha Ibarra	X	Scott Beveridge Southern Oregon ESD
	Jennifer Ware Coordinator, SO Health-E Regional Health Equity Coalition	X	Sue Parrish, Early Learning Division		

Staff:

	Ashley Dibble SOELS Hub	X	Mary-Curtis Gramley SOELS Hub	X	Kathi Philby SOELS Hub
	Teresa Slater SOELS Hub	X	Diane Conrad SOELS Hub		

Guests:

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND GREETINGS

Chair Kelly Soter called the meeting to order at 4:10pm. Kelly asked the group what do they have to be grateful for; nice weather, flowers, family, etc.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (March 15, 2016 Meeting)

ACTION: The March 15, 2016 meeting minutes were approved (moved by Lee Murdoch and seconded by Eileen Micke-Johnson).

MATTERS RELATED TO THE AGENDA

Additions and/or Changes

Chair Kelly noted the following addition to the agenda: Summer meeting schedule.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (includes Preschool Promise)

In March the Preschool Promise grant awards were announced and SOELS was one of the recipients. The feedback on the application was positive, providing the full picture of why we were chosen for this award. There is a variety of locations Preschool Promise will be implemented, the tentative number of sites at this time is 16. The projected amount of the grant is between \$1.8 and \$2.1 million. Eight of the sites are in the homes of Latino providers. One provider, Michelle Gallas, is now a 5 Star QRIS rated program. The State is using the term "Enrollment Opportunity" rather than "slot" when referring to the award. Our original request to the State was for 240 Enrollment Opportunities. We were awarded a range of 170-190 and a final number hasn't been determined yet. In a recent meeting with the Providers and Partners, the group has agreed to reduce to 179 opportunities. Mary-Curtis informed the group about some program requirements for providers, including the Bachelor Degree needed for lead teachers. Lee Murdoch questioned if there would be exceptions made for teachers with experience and not degrees. Mary-Curtis talked briefly about waivers that will be available. Lee also questioned the sustainability of the program, which is unknown, but hopeful.

Focused Child Care Network was awarded increased funding for the period of 07/01/2015 – 06/30/2017.

Susan Zottola updated the group about the success of Ready for Kindergarten in Grants Pass School District. The first session was held at the end of March with 110 families attending across all elementary schools. The second session is scheduled for April 26th and there are 92 families currently signed up for it. Kelly added that Jackson Elementary has 23 families registered for their orientation session.

Mary-Curtis and Sabena Vaughan met with representatives from The Family Connection, Head Start, and the Ace Interface group to discuss Parent Café and how to bring it to our region. There will be another meeting in the near future including the PAC and Felicity Elworthy to discuss overlap, collaboration and relations between the parenting hub and the learning hub.

Diane Conrad updated about the Kaleidoscope Play and Learn training., The Facilitator 101 Training took place on March 31st and April 1st. There were 20 participants from 8 organizations, including School Districts and Home Visiting Programs.

BUDGET REPORT

Susan Fischer stated she was not prepared to give a report.

POLICY PROPOSAL re: State and Federal Grants (Great Start, Family Support)

Rita Sullivan and OnTrack were awarded a family support grant from SOELS in December to train staff in PCIT. Since being awarded, they have received information from Jackson County Mental Health that they can offer training to OnTrack staff without cost. Rita has proposed using the grant money instead to support children and staff of OnTrack to attend Kid Time!. The goal is for staff at OnTrack to interact with the high quality staff at Kid Time! in order to align the work being done in the early childcare programs. Another component of the new proposal is to implement an early childhood mental health curriculum into the program at OnTrack. Rita is currently researching curriculums, and has tentatively decided on PATHS. A part of this work will also include staff regularly performing the ASQSE screening with all children. At this time the group decided to allow the request to move forward and voted to create a policy in the future for when these situations arise.

WHAT DOES SOELS NEED IN ORDER TO THRIVE? FACILITATED MEETING?

Kelly reviewed the responses people gave last month when asked “What does SOELS need in order to thrive”? She suggested we bring a facilitator to the May meeting to help guide the conversation and assist in next steps for SOELS official move to the ESD. Heidi McGowen was recommended as someone who has knowledge of the Hub and would be appropriate to help with this work. There was discussion around the room regarding Heidi and it was agreed that Kelly would contact her to check availability for our regular meeting date in May. If she is not available on that day, there might be a change to the date and time of the next meeting in order to accommodate her schedule.

Scott Beveridge updated the Council on the search for a new SOELS Director. He stated the position was posted two weeks ago and there is not yet an applicant. The discussion opened up to additional places to advertise for the position, including: statewide, Josephine County, and through current EC member’s mailing lists. Scott will forward the link to position to all EC members. Susan Fischer requested that we discuss what will happen if the position isn’t filled by June 30th. She recommended we have a contingency plan in place. It was agreed that this would be necessary and it will be discussed further. Sue Parrish volunteered to talk with other Hubs about their process for hiring directors.

Sabena Vaughn also requested for Sue Parrish to arrange a meeting with current PAC members to meet with other Hub’s PAC. Sue and Sabena will meet separately to discuss this further.

PARENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

TJ Jessup updated the Executive Council on the last PAC meeting, where he was the only parent present with the Hub staff. He reported that there was discussion about the structure and purpose of the PAC. During that meeting, Ashley Dibble brought information she received from other Hubs about the role of their PAC. Throughout the state, Early Learning Hubs have PACs who are organized in a variety of ways. The future of our Parent Advisory Council will continue to be a topic of discussion for staff and parents.

AGENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

Mary-Curtis started the update on the AAC meeting, which was held April 8th. It was very productive and informational. Each member shared the current events taking place within their agency. From this, agencies were able to align the events with each other in order to create awareness within the region. The group collaborated, shared materials, offered space for events, and brainstormed how to get all information to families. Pam Thompson-Arbogast reported that the meeting was positive with empowering outcomes. CCRN has located free resource materials relating to school readiness. Pam is scheduled to start Mind in the Making Training this week, which will last for three weeks. They had 35 register, but capping the limit at 30. Pam shared that Options has recently hired a Certified Applied Behavior Analyst who will be collaborating with other agencies.

INDICATOR WORK GROUP REPORTS

The discussion on Indicator Groups was started by Mary-Curtis, who stated that many of these groups have plateaued in their work or have not begun work. She offered ideas about narrowing our focus to a smaller number of Metrics or reorganizing the groups. There was much discussion trying to clarify the difference between Metrics, Outcomes, and Indicators. Kelly began asking group participants the following questions:

1. Has your group accomplished what is needed to move your Metric?
2. What role does your group have to move it along?
3. Identify what the group needs to do to move forward.
4. Are the right people in your group?

In talking with TJ from group 1, it was discussed that this group has had difficulty gaining momentum and meetings are often cancelled or take place with only 2 members. Heidi Hill offered ideas about connecting the group with other groups who are doing similar work, such as the Regional Health Equity Coalition. This suggestion was well received by the Council. Scott Beveridge offered to assist groups by using the arrow logic model to show progress and align work. Susan Zottola asked for clarification about Indicator Group work and its connection to Metrics. Only 3 groups were able to answer the proposed questions before the group moved on. At the end of this discussion the group voted to change the terminology from Indicators to Metrics.

SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE

Kelly led a discussion about having a meeting in June, as scheduled, but then not meeting in July because of varying summer schedules. The group will come back together in August, likely with an extended meeting time. We anticipate having a new director for that meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

May 17, 2016, 4:00-6:00 P.M. - SOESD Medford

Please Note: The length of the meeting will extend 2 hours and there may be a change to the start time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

Recorded by: Diane Conrad & Kathi Philby