



Southern Oregon  
Early Learning Services

**SOELS Agency Advisory Council Meeting Agenda**

**February 12, 2016 10:00-12:00pm**

**Options Conference Room**

**215 SW "G" St.**

**Grants Pass**

<b>10:00-10:20 Welcome and Program Updates</b>	<b>Gina-Marie Agosta</b>
<b>10:20-10:12 Approval of the January Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>Gina-Marie Agosta</b>
<b>10:25-10:40 Preschool Promise Update</b>	<b>Mary-Curtis Gramley</b>
<b>10:40-10:50 Kindergarten Registration Blitz</b>	<b>Mary-Curtis Gramley</b>
<b>10:50-11:00 Stakeholder Meetings/Topics</b>	<b>Mary-Curtis Gramley</b>
<b>11:00-11:50 Waitlists</b>	<b>Gina-Marie Agosto</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Release of Information- Who is the contact at your Agency?</b></li><li>• <b>Community Resource Lists- Which Agencies have one and is it updated?</b></li><li>• <b>Commitments from Agencies to dedicate a staff person who will communicate with referrals on a personal level.</b></li><li>• <b>Locate non-traditional places for children and families to access services when on a waitlist; community play groups, MOPS, church groups, Library classes, etc</b></li></ul>	
<b>11:50-12:00 Upcoming Events/Trainings:</b>	<b>Mary-Curtis Gramley</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>JCAEYC Winter Conference Feb 26-27, 2016</b></li></ul>	

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

**March 11, 2016 10:00-12:00PM**

**Southern Oregon ESD**

**101 N. Grape St.**

**Medford**





Southern Oregon  
Early Learning Services

**Southern Oregon Early Learning Services**

**Agency Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

**February 12, 2016**

*Options, 1215 SW G St, Grants Pass*

**Members in Attendance:** Marian Barker (Jackson County Library), Hannah Ancel (Jackson Care Connect), Kathleen Gregg (Family Nurturing Center), Lisa O'Conner (Family Nurturing Center), Cheré Brown (Josephine Community Libraries), Cathleen Price (Child Care Resource Network), Pam Thompson Arbogast (SOESD Early Childhood Services), Felicity Elsworthy (Southern Oregon Head Start), Rosemary Jernigan (DHS), Heidi Schultz (Early Intervention)

**SOELS Staff Members Present:** Mary-Curtis Gramley, Teresa Slater, Diane Conrad, Ashley Dibble

**Guests in Attendance:** No guests in attendance

**Welcome, introductions, and call to order**

Chair Gina Marie Agosta opened the meeting at 10:10am. Introductions were made.

**Mary-Curtis asked for an approval of the January minutes.**

***ACTION: The January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting minutes were approved.***

**FYI items:**

Several announcements were made. Felicity reminded everyone about the upcoming Abriendo Puertas training coming up on March 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Marian announced that Sensory Storytime will now be running at the Jackson County Library. Cheré updated the council that the Josephine Community Library children's library renovation was under way and is estimated to be completed in March. Pam announced that Gilbert Creek Child Development Center had been awarded their 5 star QRIS rating. Hannah announced that their rural health coalition was working on school enrollment and on dental screening; she said that there would be more to come on that and to let them know your thoughts.

**PRESCHOOL PROMISE APPLICATION UPDATE:**

- Mary-Curtis- updated the group that the Preschool Promise application was due on Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. The request was for 250 preschool slots. After acknowledging the hard work put in by everyone involved, she went on to say that the navigator had said not to "get our hopes too high." There will be 5-6 Hubs throughout the state awarded the grant.
- If awarded the grant many key partners will be involved; Head Start will have slots in the middle school at Cave Junction and one at CFK, Phoenix/ Talent and we are designating an OPK center. The Family Nurturing Center will have a site

in Jackson Elementary, Imagine That... will have their site out in Jerome Prairie and will be in the Three Rivers School District. The principals and superintendents of the school district have been enthusiastic about the process. Roots and Wings in Medford will also have some slots. The Hub is hopeful that through those slots we'll be able to integrate Early Intervention and Early Special Ed. Kid time and Kids Unlimited are other sites that will be mixed delivery. There are also 8 Hispanic providers that are clustered close to Jackson Elementary that have been providing family child care and working with the Focused Child Care network; they are ready to apply for their QRIS tier 3 rating and will be submitting their portfolio in March. Mary-Curtis went on to explain that with Preschool Promise there is a focus through the equity lens on serving children in hotspot areas and children that have been historically underserved; she said that we've done well in accessing these populations. She also acknowledged that one of the major items that will make this process difficult (if the Hub is awarded the grant) is the requirement that people employed under this program will need to be paid public school rate wages. She acknowledged that this can make things very hard on small centers and family childcare homes and that it will be difficult in this region with its levels of poverty.

#### **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION BLITZ**

- Mary-Curtis began by explaining that one of the metrics of the Hub is to make sure that children will register for Kindergarten before school begins. The Indicator Workgroup focusing on this metric has made a lot of progress and has negotiated with superintendents and schools throughout the area to offer a region-wide week-long kindergarten blitz from March 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>; the theme will be "Launch into Kindergarten." The purpose of early registration is to provide children and families opportunities to participate in readiness programming, such as Kaleidoscope or Ready! for Kindergarten. Mary-Curtis said she was excited to look at the data next year and see the difference in Kindergarten Assessment scores and collect data about the impact of early registration.
- Pam asked if council members were able to receive flyers regarding Launch into Kindergarten. Cathleen Price said that they were waiting to get confirmation from all the superintendents that they were participating before they customized the flyers with each school's contact information for distribution. She also said that we know that D7 is doing registration that week, but not all districts are doing registration; the hope is that in the future all schools will do registration during "Launch week" in March. Diane Conrad told the group that D7 has also made registration available online for returning students; online is also an option for incoming kindergarteners, but new students will be asked to register at the school so school staff can meet them. Felicity expressed that with all the schools doing "Launch week" at the same time it is difficult for other organizations, such as Head Start, to have a presence at them to distribute info about resources. Cheré will have a table at each event and the tables will be run by volunteers; it was suggested that other organizations try to get their materials to her tables to have a presence at these events. Mary-Curtis also told the group that Jackson Elementary has funding from SOELS for 30 parents to

engage in the Ready! for Kindergarten program, and that District 7 will be offering Ready! for Kindergarten at each school in its district this year.

### **STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS/TOPICS**

- Mary-Curtis apologized explained that the Hub had not held a stakeholder’s meeting in quite some time due to other obligations and prompted the group to share ideas and topics they would like to discuss at the next stakeholder’s meeting. She stated that the ELD really wants the Hub to continue to promote equity, and prompted the group to brainstorm.
  - Felicity suggested talking about male involvement in Early Learning and said that the field is tremendously skewed and exclusive; she said that the field needs more representation and knows men that would be interested. She also said that if we could get more men into the field then we’d have to further explore our biases.
  - Felicity also brought up the topic of homelessness. She talked a little about the huge impact homelessness has on early childhood, and how difficult it is to identify homelessness. She said she’d be interested in finding more strategies for working with this population, and to discuss what serving this population would look like. Marian said that the libraries are seeing more and more issues regarding homelessness as they are the daytime place for people to be. She said libraries have actually hired social workers to help people find their way out of homelessness. At this point Lisa brought up Family Works in Portland. She said they are integrating their early learning program into the K-12 system, and that they through this work they’ve found that a lot of transient people are choosing to remain in the area because of the intervention and crisis resources available.
  - Lisa also talked about another idea for a topic; she brought up a new senate bill that makes money available to communities of color to help with disparities that have been underserved. She said she’d recently attended a great conversational training about this topic and could get the council more info, and that perhaps this trainer, from the department of education, might be able to come down and speak again. She said that her desire is to be better at equity, but that it’s hard to find tools.
  - The discussion then turned to the low vacancy rate in Oregon and the housing crisis in Southern OR; Felicity said our vacancy rate is currently at about 1.8% and is usually at 8-9%.
  - Gina Marie told the council about a new coalition called the Josephine County Community Network that has met once so far since the last SORS meeting. She said that District 7 is spearheading the effort and the coalition is focusing on “how do we as a community, with multiple organizations providing different services, connect families to the appropriate resource?” She said they’ll be bringing in an ACES presenter in April, and that the next JCCN meeting will take place on Feb 29<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-5:00pm. Pam asked about a focus on everyone finding resources

that are available in this community, and Mary-Curtis responded by talking about 211 availabilities, the newly hired Community Engagement Coordinator, and what an invaluable resource this will be. 211 will be partnering with HCCSO to develop a comprehensive resource database and will create a family line.

- Rosemary suggested another topic; she prefaced by talking about the Seeing Color event and how a number of community members at the event expressed not having the language to combat things that happen in the community, and want to develop the language they need to combat racism and inequality. She explained that discrimination, whether blatant or micro-aggressive, conscious or subconscious, impact learning opportunities. Rosemary asked if the stakeholder meeting would be a good place to start the conversation about this.

### WAITLISTS

- The group began a discussion regarding the development of a Release of Information that could be used to serve families on waitlists. The council noted the importance of figuring out the least invasive way to develop a Release of Information for families while getting consent to share information, and to provide services/ resources while they're waiting.
  - Gina Marie asked if other agencies had a release of information that could be used as a template. **Felicity said they had one they could send.** Diane continued the conversation by noting that all agencies involved would have to add some sort of adaptation to their paperwork to include an ROI. Felicity noted that their application is large as it has to collect so much info to determine eligibility, but that she could envision adding something simple in the app that states they will not share any info other than contact for the purpose of providing additional resources.
  - Gina Marie took a moment to clarify that the group was trying to create some sort of ROI for all agencies to use that would connect families on waitlists with other resources regardless of if they were being enrolled in your agency or not. Pam suggested creating a blurb that says something along the lines of "thanks for accessing our services. We're here to support you; we won't know until we're finished with our process if we will be able to help you, but there are other resources available in the community. If you'd like to be connected to these resources, etc. let us know." Lisa said that Amy Buehler is working on a release and that we should perhaps look at what she's doing.
  - Gina Marie provided another clarification about the form; it is not meant to send all info to Hub staff for processing, but rather the idea is for each agency to take on the responsibility of serving their own waitlist. She said that two pieces needed from agencies are what each agency is able to commit to doing to connect families to other services, and defining a contact person at each agency. Pam questioned the roles of the Outreach Coordinators at the Hub and whether this would be an

appropriate role for them to take on. Mary-Curtis brought up that the Outreach Coordinator role is to find children and to serve children and families and wanted to further explore how the council felt the Outreach Coordinator role would tie into this. Felicity said that head Start had 160 eligible families that will not get served this year as well as another 360 that will not get served due to be over eligible. She said that with a simple ROI it would be possible to get that information to an Outreach Coordinator. Rosemary questioned how the council could define these roles, and how to truly align and not overlap the work of existing case managers and community health workers. At this point Mary-Curtis clarified that the SOELS Hub does not provide direct service and does not do case management; she brought up the 211 program that is being reinvigorated in the area and the newly created Community Engagement Coordinator position with 211 and the possibility of a family line. The 211 program will act as a number anyone can call to gain access to more resources. Gina asked how agencies can connect in to the 211 resource. She also mentioned a program up in Seattle called the Together Center, and that it is a “one stop shop” non-profit offering the full gamut of services to people. (Website can be found here: <http://www.togethercenter.org/> ) She said that this organization has a staff position called a “Navigator,” which connects people to point people of resources. She said this organization doesn’t focus on child and family relationships, but does have a direct phone number to a community health worker to help with that. Hannah said that Primary Health also has community health workers and there is a potential to be able to hire more community health workers, and possibly one for early childhood.

- The discussion then moved to how we would follow up to make sure waitlisted families did make it to referred services, and how we could make sure we weren’t duplicating services. Lisa said the Clara Database program is an option that would make this info sharing possible, but would be a long process with no easy answer. Mary-Curtis added that working one on one with people and having follow through is the effective way to offer services.
- Gina Marie asked the group for next steps regarding the ROI form, and if there if it would be possible to design the ROI form with an option for families to indicate if they’re already receiving services, so that agencies can avoid duplication. Mary-Curtis touched again on the role the SOELS Hub would play in this process. She said that perhaps the Hub could assist in informing waitlisted families of non-traditional early childhood opportunities such as play groups, story times at the Library, or Kindergarten Readiness programs. Teresa said that one of the subjects she’d discussed with Alba is the possibility of an incentive program for families on TANF or in the job program; for example, families that attend 3 story times and get signatures to show attendance, this could be a part of their family stability plan or jobs plan. Rosemary said this



seemed like a feasible idea. She said that she'd be willing to collaborate and do their work in a way that enhances the Hub's work, and will move work forward that will help connect families access resources and increase parenting skills. She said they have 40 case managers and she could help staff an incentive program like that. Gina Marie brought the conversation back to how to move forward and needed next steps. Teresa said she'd be happy to talk to Amy Buehler about her universal referral form, and bring it to the next AAC to see if the council could work with that. Lisa said she'd reach out to the folks in Portland she'd visited and gather more info about what they were doing. Gina Marie asked all council members that have simple language ROI forms to please send them to Teresa. Gina also said that we need to have further conversation about who gets the waitlist information and how we process it. She also asked the council if we need more conversation about who the appropriate contact person is going to be. Mary-Curtis asked how the council would be able to collect data on this info. Gina Marie clarified some needed steps: 1. Who will be the responsible parties to connect to families and follow up with resources and 2. How will the council track that to see how many families have been served? Diane said she thinks we need to know what family needs are and to have a contact person at the agency; then instead of being directly involved with the family, we'd connect with the point person at the agency to follow up with families. Gina said we'd need commitments from these agencies to follow up with we'd have the contact person at the agency. Then instead of being directly involved with the family, we'd connect with point person at agency to follow up with families referred by Hub staff. More questions arose on how to avoid duplicating services. Mary-Curtis said SOELS staff need to think through this more and determine what SOELS staff have the capacity to do; she said that however we move forward we need to do it well. She said perhaps Hub staff will be a part of this effort but she does not see Hub staff connecting on the broader scale of the many services that will be needed by families. Gina asked how agencies will make sure waitlisted families will be connected to other early childhood programs and Cathleen said she believes that will be the purpose of 211 and the Focus Child Care Network.

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

- Gina asked the group to continue thinking about this issue and to walk through the process a family would go through in your mind. She said at the next meeting the council will work on finalizing an ROI form and continuing the discussion of what the logistics look like of getting waitlisted families connected to alternate resources.
- Please consider the following:
  1. How do we get permission to connect families to other resources?
  2. Who does that and how?



3. How do we track this?

4. What are the resources?

- Please send examples of ROI forms (if your agency has one) to Teresa Slater
- Please bring a list of alternate forms of early childhood education (community play groups, MOPS, church groups, Library classes, etc) to the next meeting, or email to Diane Conrad or Ashley Dibble before the next meeting
- Other items for further conversation:
  - Community Resource Lists- Which Agencies have one and is it updated?
  - How to get commitments from Agencies to dedicate a staff person who will communicate with referrals on a personal level?

**Other reminders? Announcements?**

- Hannah- any family on OHP is eligible for a free cell phone with 300 minutes a month and unlimited texts. This is posted on Jackson Care Connect and she will send out more information.
- Cheré announced that Christopher Blodgett will be presenting at the Grants Pass Performing Arts Center on April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Pam announcing that in May (date TBD) Cathleen, Alec and SMART will be providing equity training in literacy to providers, and might possibly open it to parents.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next AAC meeting will be held on Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM -12:00 PM at the Jackson County Health and Human Services building located at 140 S Holly Street in Medford. The meeting will be in the Griffin Creek & Table Rock rooms #2002 & #2004 on the second floor.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 by Gina Marie Agosta.

Recorded by: Ashley Dibble





## Family Night Out Against Child Abuse Activity Commitment Form

**Purpose:** To give families and community members an opportunity to participate in a positive, pro-social event to raise awareness of child abuse and neglect prevention efforts and to recognize a special child advocate.

**Event Planners:** Stacy Brubaker, Jackson County Mental Health.

**Date and Time of Event:** April 7 from 4:30 -7:00 p.m. (set up can begin at 3:00 pm)

**Location:** Alba Park (Corner of Ivy and West 8<sup>th</sup>)

We would like encourage community agencies that serve individuals who have experienced child abuse and neglect to support the prevention efforts of the RV CAP (Rogue Valley Child Abuse Prevention – formerly CAN) council. We invite agencies to host a booth at the fair.

*\*Please note: Tables, chairs and materials will not be provided. Agencies will be asked to supply their own.*

**Please fill out the Activity Commitment information below and return by **March 22, 2016** to:**

Marna Mendoza  
140 Holly  
Medford, OR 97501  
MendozMN@jacksoncounty.org



***\*In the case of inclement weather participants will be given a 24 hr notice of change in venue. For information please call Marna at Jackson County Health and Human Services 541.770.7763***

Agency name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity name: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of activity: \_\_\_\_\_

***\*Please return bottom portion by March 22, 2016***





April 7th  
Thursday

from 4:30 to 7:30

at Alba Park in Medford

4:30 Child Advocate of the Year Award

5:00 children and family fun with  
games, food, booths and more!

# 801

The number of children  
who were victims of  
abuse or neglect in  
Jackson County last  
year\*.

That's 801 too many.



**WEAR BLUE AND STAND FOR CHILDREN**

\*most recent data

[www.jcCommunityServicesConsortium.org/RVCAP/](http://www.jcCommunityServicesConsortium.org/RVCAP/)

