



**SOELS Agency Advisory Council Meeting Agenda**

**January 8, 2016 10:00-12:00pm  
Southern Oregon ESD  
101 North Grape Street, Medford**

<b>Welcome and Program Updates</b>	<b>Mary-Curtis Gramley</b>
<b>Approval of the December Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>Mary-Curtis Gramley</b>
<b>FYI Items:</b>	<b>Mary-Curtis Gramley</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Preschool Promise:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Introduction of Preschool Promise</b></li><li>○ <b>Basic Information</b></li><li>○ <b>RFA</b></li><li>○ <b>Requirements</b></li><li>○ <b>Expectations</b></li></ul></li></ul>	
<b>Discussion Items:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Reactions, Comments, Questions about Preschool Promise</b></li></ul>	<b>Mary-Curtis Gramley</b>
<b>Next Steps:</b>	<b>Mary-Curtis Gramley</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Form a committee to move forward on Preschool Promise</b></li></ul>	
<b>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  
February 12, 2016 10:00-12:00PM  
OPTIONS; 215 SW "G" St Grants Pass**





Southern Oregon  
Early Learning Services

**Southern Oregon Early Learning Services**

**Agency Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

**January 8, 2016**

*Southern Oregon ESD*

*101 North Grape Street, Medford*

**Members in Attendance:** Pam Thompson Arbogast (Early Childhood Services), Marian Barker (Jackson County Library), Nancy Nordyke (SO Head Start), Tamara Falls (Advantage Dental), Celeste Hammell (Kid Time), Mary Wolf (Child Care Resource Network), Michelle Gallas (Imagine That), Sara Scott (Imagine That), Carol Pock (Imagine That), Belle Shepherd (Oregon Health Authority), Sunny Spicer (Kid Time), Eileen Micke-Johnson (Rogue Community College), Rosemary Jernigan (DHS), Dave Holmes (Three Rivers School District)

**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**

SOELS Director Mary-Curtis Gramley opened the meeting at 10:12am. She continued with an inspirational quote and prefaced the Preschool Promise RFA that the Hub is applying for. She then asked that each attendee introduce them self by name, organization, and New Year's resolution.

**Approval of the November meeting notes**

Mary-Curtis asked for an approval of the December minutes.

***ACTION: The December 11, 2015 meeting minutes were approved.***

**FYI items:**

- **Preschool Promise:**
  - Introduction of Preschool Promise
    - Mary-Curtis introduced the Preschool Promise grant. She opened by making sure every attendee had a copy of the power point she was presenting about Preschool Promise- Mixed Delivery Model. She announced that this was the second informational meeting regarding Preschool Promise, and that Margie McNabb attended the AAC meeting in December as a guest presenter about Preschool Promise. She continued to explain that the purpose of today's meeting was to give attendees the specifics so they can begin to consider their particular preschool programs as candidates for

being a part of this really amazing opportunity to serve more children in the SOELS region.

- **Basic Information**

- We reviewed the first slide of the PowerPoint: "Why?" We discussed that out of 230,000 children in Oregon, less than 15,000 are in publicly funded preschool programs. Nancy Nordyke informed us that OPK programs account for about 12,000 of these slots. 72% of these children are navigating poverty, which is an incredibly high number. Mary-Curtis continued by saying that we have a condition in this state that merits doing absolutely everything we can do that speaks to the lack of services for children. Our region is one, comparatively speaking, that is alarming.
- Background of the RFA – There was a second federal Race to the Top grant for Preschool Expansion in the fall of 2014. The ELD applied for it but did not receive it. ELD Director, Megan Irwin, brought a new plan to the Oregon Legislature for funding in February 2015. The new plan was well received and the ELD was awarded funds to implement the project in the 2015-2017 biennium. This became the Oregon Preschool Promise. The purpose of Preschool Promise is to provide affordable, high quality, culturally relevant preschool opportunities through a mixed delivery model. Preschool Promise will offer free preschool to families whose incomes are at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty levels. In 2015, the legislature allocated 27 million dollars to expand preschools in Oregon. 1/3 of this money will flow to Head Start/ OPK, the other 2/3 will be made available to other programs. Mary-Curtis explained that this project is heavily embedded in the Early Learning Council. The process of establishing the criteria for funding programs, the RFA process, and gathering data, has come primarily from a very hardworking ad hoc committee that answers to the Early Learning Division, which then answers to the ELC. Philosophies behind Early Learning Hubs are very prominent in this RFA so the role of the Hub is essential and critical. The RFA will come from the Hubs, and the money that is granted will flow through the Hubs. As we think about this and plan, important things to consider are that the hubs are in a role of support; the Hub is not doing the evaluations, but the Hub is the vehicle that can be used to get this money needed to support children in preschool. This is an evolving process that goes up and down from the absolute council to preschools in our region. Mary-Curtis reminded the group that this important goal is an easy sell, but won't be an easy process.
- More about the RFA- Mary-Curtis explained that the Hub will have to do a needs assessment and will need to lean on AAC members for help. This RFA is a one year pilot process and will fund 4-6 regions. Only 4-6 Hubs will have the opportunity to participate in this. Because of the number of children in our region with high levels of need, our location, and because SOELS is known for its collaboration, capacity to build programs, and response to the community, the SOELS Hub is a viable applicant. At this point, the

determining factor for the RFA is the region's high needs assessment and the quality of the Hub's application.

- Mixed Delivery Model- its purpose is to fund quality preschool. One of the special features of this model is that it allows a variety of settings- private preschool, public school, Head Start, ESDs, charter schools, relief nurseries, community based organizations, and OPK to participate. This gives families a choice.

**Discussion items:**

- **Reactions, Comments, Questions about Preschool Promise**

- Preschool Promise will begin in September 2016. The interested preschools will play a role in convincing, through our RFA that they are ready and they are willing to implement these kinds of standards. The RFA contains a list of things that are required for a site to be eligible. A preschool, after going through this list, will need to consider what they are able to provide and if they can show their capacity.
- **RFA**
  - Mary-Curtis went over the Implementation Timeline for Preschool Promise. She explained that the Hub has developed a skeletal process that will help work toward completing the RFA by its due date, February 15, 2016. She explained that we will need to do a lot of leg work to get out and about and get the information needed for the needs assessment, and will need to lean on the AAC for support in this process. An Ad hoc committee of 4-5 people will be formed and will have 3 meetings between January 8th and the 16<sup>th</sup>. The ELC will announce selected Hubs in May, and will be effective by September 2016.

**Hub role:**

- The Hub will identify preschools and work with them to prepare applications. Basically the Hub is a flow through. The Hub plans to collaborate with all during this process; the Hub will make investments in providers to help meet these standards. And it's possible that the Hub may need to seek additional funding outside of this initiative and outside of the Hub. The Hub is able to seek funding to give to you.

**Preschool Provider Program Standards:**

- The power point listed some general standards for providers. Mary-Curtis said that she will distributive a more comprehensive list of standards. She urged strong QRIS rated 3's to apply and said that the Hub will help support them in building a waiver.

**Parent Survey Questionnaire:**

- Before wrapping up the meeting Mary-Curtis asked the council if they were able to survey parents. She explained that the Hub developed a questionnaire for parents that would help them get a better sense of what they see the needs are for creating better preschools in the region.
- Mary-Curtis distributed the Parent Survey Questionnaire.

- **Metrics Update** – No update on the metrics were given.
- **Other Updates-**
  - Dave Holmes announced that Three Rivers District has a great interest in cooperating with providers at most of their schools. He said they have space available at most of their schools. He discussed that their model with Michelle Gallas at Hidden Valley will become a lab and will provide Early Childhood Development classes to high school students. These classes will transfer into credits at RCC. He urged people that were interested in collaborating to get in touch with him and that he'd love to have those conversations.
  - Rosemary Jernigan announced that DHS has a story telling event coming to the area; one will be in Jackson County and one will be in Josephine County. The title is "Seeing Color" and will focus on race in the valley. 6-8 presenters will tell their stories about being brought up in this community. Flyers were passed out for this event.
  - DHS is looking for ways to collaborate on an RFP that is due 2/18/2016. The award is up to 4.6 million dollars. They are looking at the community to create the vision. The Grant is through ORPIN, would be a 1 year contract, and would begin July 1st. The target is family stabilization, preventing entry or re-entry into TANF, and promoting job retention. The RFP number is 4119. The contact person is Steve Phillips at (503) 945-6173.
  - Eileen Micke-Johnson wanted to remind everyone about the JCAEYC winter conference taking place on February 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, and the special one day parent track free to parents on February 27<sup>th</sup>. More info can be found on the OAEYC website.
  - Pam Arbogast announced that she will be distributing post cards about the book bag program in Josephine County and is doing outreach to increase the usage of that. She also turned in ECS's QRIS portfolio!! She will also be meeting with SMART on Monday to talk about identifying new providers in Josephine County.
  - Ashley Dibble announced that SOELS Hub now has an active facebook page. Please find it and let the Hub know what you'd like to add!  
<https://www.facebook.com/Southern-Oregon-Early-Learning-Services-Hub-521205271381309/?fref=ts>
  - Mary Wolf announced that CCRN received funding toward Mind in the Making. They received \$1,350 and are getting support from AllCare and are hoping for support from the Hub. She wanted to let everyone know that as they receive something from CCRN about MITM trainings to please pass it along to everyone and to consider taking them yourself. She also mentioned that there is a possibility to collaborate with SOU and offer a 3 credit class, but this will be more cost. She also announced that their RFP was accepted to work on Kindergarten transition activities and that we will be hearing more about this in the near future!
- **Waitlists-** Not discussed at this meeting. Will be on the agenda for the next meeting.
- **Next Steps** –
- Form a committee to move forward on Preschool Promise
- Waitlist items were not discussed during this meeting and will be discussed at the January meeting. Please The AAC agreed to select Goal 2: Indicator 2.2 as the next

indicator to focus on: *Increase the number of children from Early Head Start, Head Start, OPK, Relief Nurseries, Healthy Families Oregon and/or other waiting list served by Hub partner programs*

AAC Members are being asked to go back to their home agency and take a look at their waiting list services and protocols and to come prepared with the following info: 1. How many children/families are currently waitlisted; 2. What services can my organization provide to that population, if any? 3. Is there a process or opportunity for referral? For those organizations who do not have a waitlist: Is there something your agency can do/offer by way of services to partner wait lists? Or how can we bridge the gap? Also, Members were encouraged to think about the agencies and organizations not represented: Who needs to be at the table for this indicator, how can we reengage/engage that organization?

- As these questions are answered, data should be reported to the Hub's Child and Family Outreach and Resource Coordinators, Diane Conrad ([diane\\_conrad@soesd.k12.or.us](mailto:diane_conrad@soesd.k12.or.us)) and Ashley Dibble ([ashley\\_dibble@soesd.k12.or.us](mailto:ashley_dibble@soesd.k12.or.us)).

#### NEXT MEETING

The next AAC meeting will be held on Friday, February 12, 2016 in Grants Pass at Options Clinic; 215 SW "G" St Grants Pass from 10:00 AM -12:00 PM

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 by Mary-Curtis Gramley

Recorded by: Ashley Dibble

