



Southern Oregon Early Learning Services  
**Agency Advisory Council**

**Date:** 1/11/2019

**Time:** 10:00- 12:00

**Location:** Southern Oregon ESD  
101 N Grape Street, Medford

**Members in Attendance:** Peter Buckley (Southern Oregon Success), Kelly Carter (SOESD/ECS), Molly Clement (CCRN Warm Line), Susan Davis (Josephine Community Library District), Lisa Farlin (Southern Oregon Head Start), Patricia Foster (The Family Connection), Jani Hale (Kids Unlimited), Darcy Larson (Douglas ESD), Adrienne Liufau (KAIROS Jackson Services), Geoff Lowry (OCDC), Jessica Machen (DHS), Talia Mathias (United Way), Tami McGonagle (CPSD #6), Eileen Micke-Johnson (RCC), Nancy Peterson (Jackson County Library Services), Carrie Prechtel (AllCare Health), Rhonda Schock (Great Beginnings), Heather Shunk (Kids Unlimited) Megan Stevens (Southern Oregon ESD), Tara Stoll (Bridging Communities), Brystan Strong (Jackson County Library Services), \*Rebecca Tree (Roots and Wings), Mary Wolf (CCRN & Family Support and Connections), Brittain Zimmerman (Kid Time)

\*Via Zoom

**SOELS Staff Members Present:** René Brandon, Teresa Slater, Chelsea Reinhart, and Karen Johnson

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

R. Brandon called meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. and introductions were made.

### COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: BRIDGING COMMUNITIES

Tara Stoll provided an overview of Bridging Communities, a family network serving Jackson and Josephine counties. They are funded by the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities and their goal is to connect families who are experiencing challenges to support each other and feel less isolated. They link families using Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/bcoregon>, and by hosting monthly events such as “Parent Coffee,” and dinners for working parents. Please contact Tara at [tara@bcoregon.org](mailto:tara@bcoregon.org) with opportunities to present to families.

### DISCUSSION: ENGAGING FAMILIES EARLY AND KEEPING THEM ENGAGED

Topics discussed:

- **Which parts of the continuum do you serve?**
  - Pregnancy
    - DHS
    - Family Support & Connections

- Early Head Start
  - Warmline
  - The Family Connection
  - Jackson County Library
  - Josephine Community Library District
  - Oregon Child Development Coalition
  - Southern Oregon Success
  - Child Care Resource Network (through providers)
  - Kairos (pregnant teens)
  - United Way (funding only)
  - AllCare (funding only)
- Parents of Newborn
  - Same as pregnancy plus:
    - Kairos
    - Early Intervention
    - Bridging Communities
    - Kid Time
    - Kaleidoscope
- Infant/Toddlers
  - Same as parents of newborn plus:
    - Health Care Coalition of Southern Oregon
- Preschool Age
  - Same as infant/toddlers plus:
    - Great Beginnings
    - Early Childhood Special Education
    - Roots and Wings
    - Learning Loft at Kid Time
- Kindergarten Transition
  - Same as preschool age plus:
    - K-12 (Kindergarten Launch)
    - Kids Unlimited
- **What services do families receive from your organization?**
  - AllCare Health
    - AllCare Community Engagement and Investment Team (funds)
    - Community Advisory Council (funds)
    - Babe Store
    - Transportation
    - Smoking cessation
  - Jackson County Library Services
    - Meeting rooms
    - Parent brochure
    - Changing catalog system to help with access

- Storytime
    - Parent group activities
    - Event guides
    - Early literacy newsletter
  - United Way (funds)
    - Health
    - Education
    - Transportation
    - Income
    - Women’s Leadership Council (must be referred by agency)
    - HOPE Chest (typically \$350 or less and must be referred by agency)
  - Southern Oregon Success
    - Adverse Childhood Experiences study (ACEs) training
    - Self-regulation follow-up training
  - Great Beginnings
    - Pre-kindergarten
    - Group support
    - Parent engagement
  - EI/ECSE
    - Mental health consultation
    - Referral support
  - Kid Time
    - Parent panel on children with disabilities to support inclusive environment at the museum
  - Kairos
    - Mental health services
  - Bridging Communities
    - Connect families with children experiencing intellectual and developmental challenges (Does not require a diagnosis to participate)
- **What are some unmet needs?**
- Inclusion
  - Access (waitlists)
  - Infant/Toddler resources
  - Limited services
  - Full-time program support (lack of bridge support)
  - Housing (lack of safe, affordable housing and shelters)
  - City councils’ approach to low-income housing and shelters
  - Transportation
  - Expanded, reliable childcare (including evenings and weekends)
  - Case management to support parents
  - Misconception about services (fear of CPS)
  - Social emotional support rooted in all phases
  - Ensuring children and families feel they belong

- Unrealistic expectations of children
- More practice related to Protective Factors
- **Referrals - would you benefit from a more coordinated process?**
  - Warm handoff is preferred, but there are sustainability and funding obstacles
  - Should provide mentor to parents to help them navigate the process
  - How to create self-sufficiency for families not eligible for DHS, but need support
  - Family Support and Connections offers a great support system for parents
  - 211*info* is a good place to start, providing communication with a live person
  - Early Learning Division is considering coordinated enrollment for preschool
  - Requirement for systems of care in each county for CCOs
  - Home visiting services/MIECHV

#### **PROGRAM UPDATES**

- In November, SOELS held a Community Resource Orientation for Providers in Jackson County, and will be having one in Josephine County at DHS on February 15. You can register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-resource-orientation-for-providers-tickets-53694778528>
- The Hub will host a grantee appreciation dinner on April 18 at Inn at the Commons
- SOC-ORAEYC 2019 Together for Children Conference February 22 & 23 at RCC
- Some adults are losing TANF benefits due to 5-year limit; restriction does not apply to children's eligibility
- Government shutdown has affected the amount of state funds available for SNAP program; food pantries have extra food to meet the need
- Jackson County Library is now hosting two Kaleidoscope Play and Learn Groups at the Concord in Medford and Anderson Vista in Talent
- Jackson County Library's Babies First Book program distributes books in English or Spanish to families with babies; the program is being restructured

Meeting adjourned at 12:03 pm

Submitted by K. Johnson