



Southern Oregon Early Learning Services

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Agency Advisory Council

Date: 3/9/2018

Time: 10:00- 12:00

Location: SOESD

101 N. Grape Street, Medford

Members in Attendance: Ann Ackles (Jackson County Public Health), Jessica Allen (Advantage Dental), Peter Buckley (Southern Oregon Success), Gina Dusenbury (Southern Oregon Head Start), Patricia Foster (The Family Connection), Cecilia Giron (LISTO), Rosemary Jernigan (DHS), Blair Johnson (Southern Oregon Head Start), Geoffrey Lowry (Oregon Child Development Coalition), Eileen Micke-Johnson (Rogue Community College), Nancy Peterson (Jackson County Library Services), Megan Pinder (Jackson County Library Services), Carrie Prechtel (211info), Heidi Schultz (Douglas ESD EI/ECSE), Sunny Spicer (Kid Time! Discovery Center), Pam Thompson-Arbogast (Southern Oregon ESD EI/ECSE), Mary Wolf (Child Care Resource Network)

Guest: Diane Conrad (Jackson County EI/ECSE)

SOELS Staff Members Present: Rene Brandon, Teresa Slater, Chelsea Reinhart, Molly McLaughlin and Karen Johnson

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

10:05 AM René Brandon called meeting to order.

OREGON HELPS AND EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT DEMONSTRATION

C. Prechtel demonstrated the use of [Oregon Helps](http://211info.org/oregonhelps) website (<http://211info.org/oregonhelps>) that allows users to provide information about their household and prescreen for which programs they might be eligible. She also went over the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a benefit for working people with low to moderate incomes, and shared links with further detail and helpful tools.

- Must meet certain requirements and file a tax return; even if no taxes are owed, it could still result in a tax credit.
- Oregon.gov: [Oregon Personal Income Tax Credits](http://www.oregon.gov/dor/programs/individuals/pages/credits.aspx) - <http://www.oregon.gov/dor/programs/individuals/pages/credits.aspx>
- Earned Income Tax Credit Estimator: [EITC Calculator](http://www.eitc outreach.org/help/) - <http://www.eitc outreach.org/help/>

SYSTEM DISCUSSION: SUPPORTS FOR FAMILIES

R. Brandon shared PowerPoint presentation: *SOELS Investment Strategies - Family Stability*. There are two funding streams, Healthy Stable and Attached Families and Family Support used for this work. The HUB is looking at services that benefit and support the family as a unit, and has been communicating with different stakeholder groups to determine the best way to invest these limited funds and build supports that do not currently exist. The following are some ideas that came out of these discussions:

- Pregnant and parenting teens
 - This population is hard to reach (for example: only 25 teens are currently being served under TANF, while they account for about 200 births in Jackson and Josephine Counties per year.)
 - How to find those who are not currently receiving public assistance or in public school system?
 - R. Brandon will be visiting North Medford High School Teen Parent Advisory Council (focused on keeping Jackson County teen parents in school).
 - Convening a larger group of all system partners in the region who have an interest in the teen parent challenges. “Teen Parent Mapping Session” is scheduled for April 3rd from 1-3pm at SOESD.
 - Offer aged birth to three Kaleidoscope Play & Learn groups that are specific for teen parents.
 - Incentivize participation in programs by using a points system, which would provide the means to “purchase” baby supplies and equipment, or related items.
- Families in early recovery.
 - Substance and alcohol abuse is a critical problem in our region.
 - Some ideas to combat the problem:
 - Oasis Center of the Rogue Valley (René sits on the board)
 - Starting with 20-25 families with children and are struggling with opioid addiction (there is currently a large amount of funding available related to the opioid crisis).
 - To provide wrap-around support for individuals coming out of rehabilitation.
 - The HUB is bringing in funding to purchase child care slots for families in recovery, and to offer providers the tools necessary to effectively support the specific needs of these children.
- Continue to expand Kaleidoscope for Kindergarten preparation.
 - Limited by available time and space to facilitate groups.
 - R. Jernigan shared that DHS in Grants Pass has space available.
 - Very cost-effective
 - 90 minutes per week is showing promising results.
- Family Empowerment & Leadership Development
 - Grant opportunity with Northwest Health Foundation
 - In collaboration of Health Education Fund Partners.

- Looking through an equity lens in terms of race and ethnicity, geographical location, income and ability level.
 - Looking for innovative models for empowering parents and promoting parent leadership.
- Collectively they have \$1 million available for efforts focused on families leading for health and education impact.
 - There are two grant pieces:
 - Capacity Building Grant – \$20k-\$30k for one-year startup.
 - Implementation Fund – \$75k-\$125k for up to two years.
- The RFP is up on their site.
 - Requires a letter of intent (due April 4th by noon – and it takes two days to be registered in grantee portal), which they will review quickly and invite those that closely match their funding goals to apply.
- The Family Connection, Bridging Communities and LISTO have learned that children who experience disabilities are not being served at the rate that those who do not. How can we empower parents to be advocates for their children with disabilities within healthcare and education systems?
- The Family Connection is offering Nurturing Hope Parent Education Training, financially sponsored by the HUB.
- Bridging Communities offers Strong Start, a two-weekend training of 8-10 parent groups, where trainers talk about life-course framework, child’s strengths, gifts and capacities, navigating special education, effective advocacy at the local, state and federal levels, and how parents can stay engaged by supporting other families.

SOME PROGRAM UPDATES

- Jackson County Public Health received award to expand from just first-time moms to include multi-children moms, focusing on those whom are substance abusing with mental health issues. Will increase to five full-time nurses doing home visits for about 120 clients.
- Southern Oregon Head Start has building in Grants Pass and will have some space for community partners to rent. G. Dusenbury shared that recent assessments indicate that, of all our community strengths noted, parents, staff and community partners noted our public libraries most often.
- Southern Oregon ESD EI/ECSE thanks Head Start for recruiting a parent to discuss strategies for parenting a child with autism at their next Parent Chat group.
- Advantage Dental is expanding partnerships in Jackson County.
- Southern Oregon Success – Next ACES training will be on March 22, 2018.
- The Family Connection announced their Parent Conference with free parenting workshops at Grants Pass High School on March 24th.
- LISTO has opened space to community partners to share their services. Discussion needs to be in English and Spanish. You can contact Cecilia (Cecilia.Giron@socfc.org) if you are interested.

- Oregon Child Development Coalition announced that one of their local parents received recognition as Parent of the Year at the National Migrant Head Start Conference.
- RCC offering class on Parenting Education and Family Support (ECE 242).
- Jackson County Library Services - Summer Reading is approaching; if you have a site in mind, we may be able to take Summer Reading to that program. Announced Medford Comic Con April 28th and 29th.
- *211info* - Carrie shared she have been educating law enforcement on *211info* and providing them tools to deal with families in need of resources.
- Douglas ESD EI/ECSE has been looking for a new building, and will most likely be able to get a modular next year.
- Kid Time!– The Medford City Council is holding a public hearing on proposals submitted by Kid Time and the Southern Oregon Historical Society for possible long-term lease of the former Carnegie Library. The meeting is planned for 6:00 p.m. April 19th in City Council chambers.
- Child Care Resource Network – Family Support and Connections attended Nurturing Parenting Training provided by The Family Connection.
- The Early Learning Hub – Strengthening Families training series is a great follow-up to ACES and provides answers for how to support families. It is free. Contact Chelsea if you are interested.

Meeting adjourned at 11:57 am

Submitted by K. Johnson