

REGIONAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

Meeting Notes

December 7, 2022 | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Attendance

Steve Schenewerk
Erin Watson
Julie Hurley
Sandy Henry
Cynthia Hurkes

Analicia Nicholson
Gillian Wesenberg
Heather Freilinger
Heidi East McGowan
Hilary Mankofsky

Rhonda Janecke
Vanessa Pingleton
Dena Haudenschild
Athena Wikstrom

Please note: The Regional Governance Council (RGC) was held virtually due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) concerns.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair, Steve Schenewerk welcomed members of the Regional Governance Council (RGC) and individuals introduced themselves.

Early Learning Division (ELD) Regional System Assessment

Erin Watson, national consultant with Weaving Change, joined the Regional Governance Council (RGC) to facilitate the Regional System Assessment Data conversation and work with members to prioritize the data. The prioritized data will be incorporated into the South-Central Early Learning Hub's (SCELH) strategic planning process.

There are two large impact areas for children and families; Children Arrive Ready for Kindergarten with Reduced Disparities, and Families have what they need to be Healthy Stable, and Attached.

The Regional System Assessment focuses on Raise Up Oregon, Objective 2: families have access to high-quality (culturally responsive, inclusive, developmentally appropriate) affordable early care and education that meets their needs. There are a lot of factors affecting RUO Objective 2, some of which include:

- Lack of diverse, qualified Early Care and Education (ECE) workforce (possibly due to low wages, mindsets about ECE career path, and/or insufficient professional development/training.
- Market Failure: True operating cost of providing high-quality ECE that meets families' needs (ages, hours, etc.) is well above the market rate that families can afford or subsidy rates provided.
- Public Funding Policies: policies that disincentivize infant slots, policies that prohibit funds from being used for facilities, etc.
- Staff turnover leads to lack of knowledge of community resources and causes diminished referrals.
- Lack of facilities and/or funding to build or renovate existing facilities.
- Families are not always engaged in system decision-making, which leads to solutions that don't meet their needs.
- Affordable housing, livable wage jobs, public transportation, etc.

Through the Regional System Assessment process, we can start organizing and prioritizing root causes in a way that is actionable. Part of the role of the hub is to determine issues, like shared mindsets, goals, decision-making, policies and practices, connections, program and opportunity, human resources, financial resources, and environmental resources. The RSA is a process to help the region understand how conditions within programs, organizations, communities, and systems are helping and hindering RUO objectives. Understanding this can help design more effective systems change strategies. Erin and Hub staff reviewed 30 pages of data

collected during the carousel discussions at each level of the SCELH governance process, and pulled out the root causes affecting RUO Objective 2 to share with the RGC. Regional Governance Council members separated into small groups to review the data and prioritize the most important root cause for each of the four system issues. Members re-convened into the larger group and reported back about their discussion and prioritization. Hub staff will review the prioritizations with local partners before bringing the document back to the Regional Governance Council.

The Regional System Assessment (RSA) will include the prioritized information and will be submitted to the Early Learning Division (ELD) in April 2023. After this happens, there will be support for Hubs to help design cross-sector systems change strategies that address root causes and bring about systemic changes.

Examples of system change strategies to address market failure:

1. Organize diverse, regional, cross-sector partners to advocate for systems changes.
2. Support employers to invest in sustainable child care infrastructure.
3. Create community-driven funding mechanisms to increase ECE workforce compensation.
4. Support ECE providers' access to shared services.
5. Increase the ECE workforce's access to healthcare benefits.

There are example strategies and ways to be innovative in developing strategies. In order to support cross-sector system change strategies, there needs to be a capacity for collaboration:

- Cross-sector partners share a vision to help align efforts.
- Engage multiple perspectives including input from families, providers, businesses, etc.
- Ensuring there is coordination and alignment across multiple entities; a network of people taking action -this is not designed to be owned by one group.
- Adaptive learning. Ex., Is the strategy working? What needs to be adapted or changed?
- Convening all perspectives and entities in a neutral way.

Hilary Mankofsky, Early Learning Hub Coordinator with the ELD, complemented the amount of thoughtfulness and work that has been done by taking 30 pages of data and compiled it into an easy-to-digest document. Erin shared that she and Hilary are also working to pull out state-level issues and figure out a strategic way for the ELD to partner with Hubs to make change happen at a higher level.

Budget Committee

Steve provided an update on the South-Central Early Learning Hub's (SCELH) Budget Committee. The Budget Committee will build the budget for SCELH programs and will report to the Regional Governance Council (RGC) at each quarterly meeting. The budget committee has met once since being formed. Steve has also met with Douglas ESD administrators to receive input about budget information and processes.

Partner Updates

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) – Heather Freiling - CCRR is concluding the regional Market Rate Study in which the CCRR receives child care rates from providers and reports the data to the state. This information plays a factor in the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) subsidy rates that are paid for child care. CCRR is also working on stabilization grant packages. CCRR has offered business training opportunities for providers, such as trainings about QuickBooks. Additional business training will be held in late spring. Lakeshore will also be doing trainings for CCRR.

Douglas County Child Care Coalition – Heather Freiling – The Douglas Child Care Coalition was developed to address child care issues that kept coming up in Douglas County's Biz for Kids meetings. The coalition is working on community education about child care through branding, have recently selected a logo, and have developed other materials to help spread the word. The coalition is providing workforce incentives such as help paying for

new provider trainings, and hiring bonuses (one at six-months and one at one-year). The coalition is hoping to spread the word about ECE career opportunities and support new and existing child care providers.

Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) – Cynthia Hurkes - KPI is continuing with virtual Early Learning Gatherings so everyone across the region has the opportunity to attend and learn from each other. Attendees include home visitors, early care and education professionals, K-12 teachers, and other partners. The last Early Learning Gathering had 21 attendees and focused on alignment. The next Early Learning Gathering will be hosted February 21, 2023.

Conscious Discipline for Families is moving forward. There are six groups in Douglas County, two groups in Lake County, and Klamath County is in the planning phase. Groups will be offering Conscious Discipline to families in a variety of different ways. The Spanish Cohort for Conscious Discipline (partnership with KPI and CCRR) has been successful with around 20 participants, and will be coming to an end in December 2022.

One challenge KPI has is recruiting bilingual individuals who are interested in the facilitator training for the Spanish leadership and kindergarten approach, Abriendo Puertas / Opening Doors. KPI is still looking for bilingual individuals to take the facilitator training to become certified and to then be willing to offer the series to families in their community.

KPI is also in the process of distributing 300 Teach My Kits for infant / toddlers. Cynthia is hoping they can distribute the kits in a way which receives feedback from parents.

Oregon Tribal Early Learning Alliance – Sandy Henry - The Oregon Tribal Early Learning Alliance is working on branding materials, and the alliance is deciding what function they want to serve in helping tribal providers be successful. For example, help with barrier reduction and suggestions about how to stay within the constraint of Oregon regulations. Sandy will be participating in interviews to hire a Tribal Hub Manager, and a Tribal Affairs Director for the Early Learning Division (ELD).

[Next Meeting Date](#)

March 1, 2023 from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm