**South-Central Oregon Early Learning Hub**

**Douglas County**

**Community Governance Council**

***February 18th, 2020***

***4:30-6:30***

***Minutes***

**Council Members:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Barbara Johnson, *Business (Chair)* |  | Debra Thatcher, *UCC President* |  | Shawn Lybarger, *Professional Advisory Chair* |
|  | Steve Schenewerk, *Faith Representative (Vice Chair)* |  | Marta Queant, *Language Specialist* |  | Bob Dannenhoffer, *Medical Representative* |
|  | Michael Lasher*, Douglas ESD Superintendent* |  | Jan Zurate, *School Superintendent* |  | Betty Wagner, *Social Worker, Therapist* |
|  | Tammie Hunt, *Cow Creek Representative* |  | Desta Welsh, *DHS Representative* |  |  |
|  | Charlene Stutes, *Non-Profit Director* |  | Maureen Short, *Non-Profit Director* |  |  |

**Staff Present:**

Gillian Wesenberg, Vanessa Pingleton, Cory Ortega, Athena Wikstrom, Cynthia Hurkes

**Others Present:**

Mandy Rigsby, Umpqua Health CCO

| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Decisions/Action/Next Steps** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Welcome/Introductions** |  |  |
| **Approve November minutes** |  | **Motion:** Maureen Short  Approved by Consensus |
| ***Overview of Regional Stewardship Meeting*** | The South-Central Early Learning Hub Regional Stewardship Team met on December 12 and approved the final plan. The Hub finalized the Early Care and Education (ECE) Sector plan and submitted it to the ELD on December 13. There is a gap in the amount of Early Care and Education sector services across the region. The opportunities for expansion include adding trusted providers, trained staff, and transportation. Staff require a lot of training to provide high quality care. Transportation is a necessity across the region as there is a lack of reliable transportation for families. The plan is great and provides a lot of information. Douglas County has the fourth highest per capita rate of Foster Care in the state. Steve reviewed the remainder of the priority populations outlined in the ECE plan. There was a foster parent recruitment meeting through Every Child last night. Steve and Gillian provided an overview of the parent preferences and expansion templates. Gillian discussed the parent engagement efforts across the region.  Steve discussed the Frequently Asked Questions for the Preschool Promise Request for Application.  A discussion was held around the obstacles we are finding with expansion including lack of work force, lack of facilities, teachers’ salaries, and the costs associated with facility renovations.  The group discussed concerns around children with high behavioral needs and the necessary supports to address the needs. The zero to five-year-old population is the highest underserved population in Douglas County. Mandy from Umpqua Health Alliance discussed the Mental Health Services available in the area.  Success stories are out there and need to be written and well disseminated. The South-Central Early Learning Hub would like to have the success stories sent in by our partners and parents to share through the newsletter. Barb shared that designing a presentation with these stories and an explanation of how the business community can assist would be helpful for the business members at a community service organization meeting. |  |
| ***Preschool Promise RFA*** | Tammie discussed the RFA process and that she has received guidance from the Early Learning Division (ELD) that if the Tribe wants to have lower slots or special circumstances, it needs to be included in their narrative.  Gillian walked the group through the RFA packet.  Coordinated Enrollment is the next phase of the ECE Sector Expansion Plan. Coordinated Enrollment will begin with Preschool Promise and disseminate to other groups in the future, including potentially Head Start. The group discussed the costs of running a Preschool Promise facility including staffing costs. |  |
| **General Discussion** | **DHS –** The Family First Act is coming into effect and will have additional guidance after the short legislative session. The Family First Act will provide guidance about how to keep children in their homes and how to keep families together. Housing needs will be the greatest service that could be decreased if current legislation passes. Child Welfare is down over 100 children in foster homes from last year. Child Welfare has hired 33 new positions to meet the high caseload demand. The increase in staffing will allow for more individualized services for families. Self Sufficiency is working on One Eligibility System which is a one stop program that determines eligibility for all of the DHS programs. One Eligibility should be rolled out this year. The work of Every Child has been really great for Child Welfare.  **KPI –** KPI hosted the Growing Early Mindsets (GEM) Institute. The first day included 70 individuals and the second day hosted 50 individuals that became the GEM Cohorts. Initially, there was going to be one cohort, but due to the greater than expected interest, there are now three cohorts. On March 5th, an Early Learning Team (ELT) meeting will be held at Head Start. The second meeting for the ELT will be June 4th.  **UCAN Head Start/Healthy Families –** The Application for the 20-21 school year is now available. The hope is to have the classes filled by July 1. The applications will be reviewed beginning April 1. The Oregon Head Start Association is putting out a scholarship for Head Start Alumni to get college scholarships. The scholarship is available on the Oregon Head Start Scholarship Website. Head Start is applying with the OPK RFA for two classrooms of eight students each. Head Start is also looking to expand two part time days to full days. They are hoping to add ten home-based slots in the Winston / Green area.  Healthy Families will be applying for additional funds with the Healthy Families RFA to expand an additional two FTE and to expand the supervisor position to a full-time position. UCAN is still waiting for the statewide Family Connects Home Visiting Nurse program rules to be rolled out.  UCAN has a new Executive Director, Shaun Pritchard. His background is around government councils and planning. Recently he has been working with a regional transportation council and a small community action network.  **CCO –** CCO 2.0 has begun. They received the five-year expansion. 2.0 is focused on care coordination. Case managers are working to ensure families are receiving all of the services they are eligible for. There are two positions available for care coordinators focusing on children. Behavioral Residential Services are being reviewed for effectiveness and ensuring placements are the correct OHP services.  **Cow Creek Tribe –** There will be a Myrtle Creek Generational Center (including Yimìsá Preschool Promise) open house on February 18 from 3 to 5 pm. The center is located at 825 NW Leon, Myrtle Creek, OR. The Tribe is applying for a Preschool Promise grant. The Education Department now has a cultural department and a language department. The Education Department is are now employing a linguist and two teacher learners. Additional children’s board books will be written and distributed. Cow Creek’s language was considered a sleeping language, but they are finding it is considered a dead language as they have no active languages. There are 17.5 FTE in the Education Department which has expanded from only Tammie. Tammie is planning on retiring the end of 2020 with a transition until February, 2021.  **EI/ECSE –** Planning is taking place for the new SSA funds. The current program is not fully funded, but the new funding will help move toward adequate levels of service. At adequate levels, 0-2-year-old children will receive services 1-2 times a week instead of 1-2 times a month. EI/ECSE is working to build partnerships to integrate children into services with typical peers. There is a staffing shortage and EI/ECSE is having a difficult time hiring needed staff.  **UPLiFT –** There have been367 referrals since the 2017 kick-off in Douglas County. This month there have been fourteen referrals received in Douglas County. Hope Clinic is using UPLiFT as their “go to” referral service.  **Home Visiting System Coordination –** The South-Central Early Learning Hub has been asked to apply for a grant for two more years. There is a Lunch and Learn planned for March with additional details to come. |  |
| **Wrap-up** |  |  |
| **Next meeting** | April 21, 2020 |  |