

REGIONAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

Meeting Notes

March 11, 2020 | 11:00 am

Attendance

Steve Schenewerk
Athena Wikstrom
Dena Haudenschild
Rhonda Nyseth
Rhonda Janecke
Vanessa Pingleton

Vicky Taylor
Maurita Johnson
Evelina Kovach
Cindy Walsh
Cynthia Hurkes
Heidi McGowan

Heather Freiling
Cliff Jones- Virtual
Analicia Nicholson – Virtual

Welcome/Introductions

Director Update / ECE Sector Plan Update

Gillian explained the vision of Coordinated Enrollment as presented by the Early Learning Division (ELD) and discussed the Coordinated Enrollment slide deck from the Early Learning Division/Hub Collaborative. According to current Preschool Promise coordinated enrollment directives, the Hub will perform the eligibility determination and placement. Programs will complete enrollment for each family. The first year of coordinated enrollment will only include Preschool Promise providers. The vision is that in subsequent years, coordinated enrollment will expand to other programs outside of Preschool Promise within the Early Care and Education (ECE) sector. The ELD has mandated that the Child Care Resource and Referrals (CCRRs) add additional personnel to assist with technical assistance, coaching, other tasks within Preschool Promise. The CCRR is requesting definitions of roles that will be added to their responsibilities so they can determine if the roles are able to be filled by one person for one Full Time Equivalent (FTE). The ELD is stating they plan to conduct four site visits per site per year. Parent engagement will be similar to Yoncalla Early Works with Parent Leadership Groups that help determine curriculum and culture. These groups could look different for each site. The Hub is available to assist with questions on applications for the Preschool Promise Request for Application (RFA).

Heather explained the PreK Network that Care Connections and Education oversees and how it is assisting the Preschool Promise programs including coaching, trips to leading programs, and other supports. The Network will expand to all three counties and the ELD is doing calculations to determine the financial supports that the CCRRs will receive.

Lake County is not able to expand and get Preschool Promise due to the lack of buildings and transportation. They have not been able to hire bus drivers throughout the county, so they have trained church leaders to drive buses to fill substitute positions. Facilities would all need a lot of renovation to meet licensing requirements. Red Rock, an employer in Lake County, is trying to build their business but has been unable to get housing for employees. Lake District Hospital is trying to get a child care program started for employees, but has run into barriers and time restraints due to other priorities. Heather advised that Lake County may be able to alleviate some facilities concerns by leasing modular buildings and that there are startup funds available through Preschool Promise, though the amounts are not known yet. One Lake County Elementary school is trying to expand the school as they are out of room for k12 students. The school is looking to pass a bond for renovations and expansion; they may also include preschool services in the bond.

Klamath County is working to start a relief nursery, and is considering a Tribal relief nursery as well. The relief nurseries could blend and braid funding to incorporate Preschool Promise slots, but they seem like different philosophies since Preschool Promise requires 900 hours a year, and the relief nurseries are typically part time. There was discussion around how sites are blending and braiding funds to encompass multiple philosophies. In Douglas County, the relief nursery has discussed opening a new classroom that

would be Preschool Promise funded to allow for the 900 hours to be reached. In Klamath County, the YMCA is accepting Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) payments for before and after care as well as holidays, and school breaks.

Strategic Plan

Heidi explained the goal of the strategic plan to serve as a guiding light, its narrow focus and that it is anchored in Raise Up Oregon. The Early Learning Hub began a strategic planning process last year, but it was put on hold due to the Early Care and Education (ECE) Sector Planning. The Early Learning Division is requesting that we have a strategic plan in place to provide a focus that is in alignment with Raise Up Oregon, be a “north star” for our work and a guideline on how funding can be spent. The Regional Governance Council reviewed the goals that had been decided upon in the fall and discussed metrics to reach our goals in small groups arranged by county. The small groups reported back on what they liked and any thoughts they had for improvement on the plan. The group liked the increased child care educator training called out and believed items that could use updating include:

1.1 – Kinder Kamp in Klamath – Summer transition program – Not funded by the Hub / KPI

1.2 - SSP Family Home Visitor / Parent Coaches fit into this?

2.1 – Community UPLIFT needs capitals

2.1 – Lunch and Learns for parents

Take Root partners with Sky Lakes to provide CPR classes and Play 2 Learns are being held

2.1.3 – Change survey to annual in-person focus groups

3.2 – Recruit business representatives into the PAC and Governance Councils – recruit from members of the Chamber of Commerce or the Business Management Group

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Dialogue

Heidi introduced Cliff Jones from Capacity Building Partnerships and shared about the equity work he has done. Members recapped local county PAC meetings and their work in progress. Cliff explained the plan is to create a framework and move to action while connecting our work with the Early Care and Education (ECE) sector plan. Cliff walked through the handout provided. The outside ring on the diagram is addressing how the community works together, intrinsic bias, and recognizing organizational inclusiveness - is every group and the right person / level from that group at the table?

Cliff asked the group to discuss barriers that are preventing equitable service and representation. Ideas discussed were:

- Barriers:
 - State policy barriers such as families losing health care due to making too much money but not enough to purchase insurance
 - Rules created that separate groups of work and/or have different criteria
 - Infant childcare not available – our area does a good job with kinship care
 - Lack of transportation
 - Many agencies don’t transport
 - Legislators too overwhelmed to hear issues
 - Could we potentially invite local legislators to meetings?
 - Lack of clear direction
 - Need to take information back locally and be a steward of the information
- Possible solutions included:
 - Trying to have employees who represent the community
 - “Look the same”
 - Legislators listen better to those impacted than a representative of those impacted

- Have to advocate for families with barriers who are impacted
- Cliff provided thoughts for the group to ponder including:
 - This process is about building power
 - Do you need to employ power to address and overcome inequity?
 - How are you engaging families?
 - Are you making excuses that build barriers or going to families and removing barriers?
 - Do our parents feel like powerful, impactful, change-makers?
 - There was a discussion that many parents do not recognize the affect they have on their child's life. Many parents are not recognizing that they are their child's first teacher.
 - We need to understand, empathize and validate barriers.
 - Acknowledge systemic barriers.
 - What are myths / stereotypes you are dealing with?
 - How can you stand up for yourself while respecting them?
 - Use "I see" positive statements that contradict the stereotypes.
 - Build partnerships that draw those with barriers in.
 - Self-advocacy programs teaching people advocacy skills and build confidence. Individuals who have been successful can teach others.
 - Broaden PAC members to include parents, ECE educators, business.
 - Have parents come to a structured time to limit barriers and prevent overwhelming them.
 - Follow through with feedback received.
 - Take a strength-based approach opposed to deficit model

The group stated that the numerous barriers were overwhelming and that it may be best to choose one or two to work on at a time.

Cliff invited everyone to use number 15 on the handout - "Challenge Narratives. I challenge narratives that fail to expose the impacts of the advantages those privileged by society's institutions and structures receive; and conversely the impacts of the disadvantages those not privileged face and the often real yet unacknowledged barriers they must navigate." from the handout and asked the group to come to the next meeting with answers to the following questions:

1. What is your leverage point? These are the items that have required the least activity with the most impact.
2. How are you showing value in people where others are seeing a deficit?

Resources for Regional and County

The group discussed possible uses for the available funds including funding Preschool Promise parent councils, parent focus groups, marketing for Community UPLiFT, and coordinated enrollment. Counties will be asked to submit proposals for Regional Governance Council approval and proposals for counties and the region will be voted on in June. Most of the funding will go to regional priorities and should be used to affect change not as an ongoing funding stream. The funding for July 2020 to June 2021 will be \$20,000 for Douglas and Klamath Counties, \$10,000 for Lake County, and \$100,000 for Regional.

Closing

Heidi provided an overview of the meeting that included the Strategic Plan, Equity Training, and resource discussion. The next meeting will include decisions on funding priorities.

Next Meeting Date

June 3 at 11:00 am