



Tuesday, December 8, 2015

9:00 AM – 11:15 AM

Steve Burnett Research and Extension Office
66364 Lonerock Road ♦ Moro, OR 97039

Present (italics indicate *Governance Board Member*)

Nancey Patten- Early Learning Service, Vice Chair
Brooke Ansotegui- North Central ESD/Preschools
Jennifer Bold- Business Sector
Amber DeGrange – Sherman County
Teddy Fennern- Gilliam County
Courtney Gallant- HAVEN
Jen Heredia- OCDC (Oregon Child Development Coalition)
Debby Jones - Wasco County
Judge Chris Perry – Wheeler County
Kristen Richelderfer- Parent Representative
Christa Rude- Regional Hub Coordinator
Terri Vann – Hood River County

Absent or Excused Board Members:

Debra Gilmore- DHS District Manager
Janet Hamada- Social Services
Gary Peterson – K-12 Education
Barbara Seatter- Behavioral Health
Teri Thalhofer-Health (Also ELC member)

MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chair Nancey Patten welcome the group, noting that our Chair would not be present due to illness. The group provided introductions.

Additions to the Agenda

- Hub Coordinator requested the addition of the following topic: Early Learning Council Meeting in the Gorge
- Amber (fiscal agent) requested that her agenda item be moved to #3 on the agenda.

Review of October 27 Minutes

Amber moved to approve, Debby Jones seconded the motion. Discussion followed. *Please note that Terri Vann was not here and Judge Perry was.*

The minutes, with discussed changes, were unanimously approved.

Fiscal Report- Amber DeGrange

Amber informed the board that we have a \$172,834 balance. There may be some funding that is county specific in that balance. The fiscal agent and coordinator are working on a process to provide more detailed fiscal reports. There are two strategies for funding currently: one that represents the interim stage: Quarter 1 and 2, between July 1- December 31, and the new contract representing the remainder of the biennium (January 1 2016- June 30, 2017).

Quarter 1 and 2

Amber noted that we have been working on a Q1-Q2 Payment Process (for the interim period of time). Reporting requests have been sent to the current programs for continuation funding based on a pro-rated amount from the 2015-2015 fiscal year. Given that a subcontract would be administratively heavy at this point in the biennium, a “claim process” (facilitated by Sherman County) was proposed to distribute the funding representing the July – December pro-rated funding based on continuation of services.

- Teddy moves that the claim process be approved for the interim continuation of services July through December, Judge Perry seconds the motion and it passes unanimously

2016-17 Funding Strategy

A document was shared representing an approach to funding for the rest of the biennium. Three funding mechanisms were highlighted:

1. Core Funding- to implement core activities of the strategic plan
2. Responsive Funding- to respond to emergent barriers and/or opportunities identified at a local/regional level.
3. Innovation Funding- opportunity for cultivating best practices at local levels that have the capacity to be scaled up to regional implementation.

Debby moves to accept the tri-level funding system, it was seconded by Terri Vann, and unanimously approved.

There was a discussion for a committee to review the budget and bring funding recommendations back to the group in the new year. A request for participant on committee was made. The fiscal agent to chair that committee, staffed by the Coordinator. Volunteers include: Debby Jones, Judge Perry, Jennifer Bold, Janet Hamada, and Teddy Fennern. The group will meet in Early January with a deliverable of a proposed budget for the next meeting.

Hub Coordinator Report

The Hub Coordinator opened remarks by noting that the topics in the report are following the development of the 4RELH by establishing needed infrastructure for the work to come.

RAC Update, KPI Effort

A proposal (hand out distributed to the group) was brought to the most recent RAC meeting for approval of the joint sub-committee – TEAM LEARN- between the Hub and the RAC. The RAC board

of directors approved the shared governance model. The coordinator shared that the work of this group will be to focus on preschool Promise and the Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation efforts as well as the alignment of preschool and kindergarten activities. A crosswalk of shared outcomes between the Hub and the RAC was reviewed by the group, demonstrating the areas where there were commonality. It was suggested that we add social emotional learning as a key emphasis (as a “yeast to make the bread rise”). The group agreed wholeheartedly and made the suggestion to add Debby Jones to Team Learn. Debby indicated willingness to participate and the Coordinator noted that she would take this request forward to the next RAC.

Defining “Hot Spots”*

The coordinator indicated that the Hub currently has metrics to work towards, and that the next phase would be to define “hot spots” for prioritization of efforts and funding. The state data from DHS provided a general sense but did not provide enough specificity.

The Coordinator shared a document with the group representing a review of data and prioritization for establishing “elementary school zones” where poverty and kindergarten readiness” indicated a need for focused attention. Additional data sets such as diversity, child welfare, and geographic disadvantage were discussed. The coordinator indicated that these data had been shared at least by email and in most cases in person with District Superintendents with a request for additional contextual information that would assist in identifying “hot spots”. One such example is Celilo Village which does not emerge through the data, but is an area for focus and resource.

Discussion included the sharing of context relating to tribal perceptions about Celilo; that there was a belief that school districts in the region made a decision that the children from Celilo should go to the Dufur school district without Tribal input. Since then, there has been some perceived resistance to efforts made toward Celilo Village. OCDC indicated an effort to provide Tribal Head Start at Celilo; child care and early Head Start would have funded a small program, but it has been difficult to get any initiative started. Noted that there was a committee that is formed through Health Equity that might be a place to connect. The Next Door, Mid-Columbia Health Initiative, has made inroads. Suggested to add Celilo and Tribal engagement as an agenda item of an upcoming Governance Board meeting and explore the opportunity for tribal membership on the board.

There was a question related to how Diversity is used to make funding decisions. In this case, it isn’t because the prioritization was made based on poverty and kinder-readiness as defined by the OKA scores. Noted that the diversity data provided does support the prioritization based on over-representation of diverse children in the achievement gap. Also noted that the Geographic Disadvantage data that could be a benefit too for remote areas such as Bakeoven, Antelope and other outlying areas. There was discussion about how the data sets as collected might also be used as a tool for other opportunities. It was also noted that “Approaches to Learning” scores in the OKA could be weighted in future as self-regulation is the biggest predictor of future success. The discussion continued and concluded with the group agreeing that we want to make sure that no child is left behind; no matter where children are, we need to be consistent.

The Coordinator also noted a vision for utilizing GIS mapping to better understand the services and gaps for each elementary school zone.

The question to approve the methodology and use this strategy to determine “hot spots” and prioritize them on an annual bases was called. Jennifer Bold moved to approve the strategy and prioritized zones and Terri Vann seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve.

UPDATE to Strategic Plan and Metrics

The Coordinator provided an update on the most recent changes to the Strategic Plan. The additional changes have been made and the final document will be posted on the Hub Coordination website:

- Focus Childcare Networks have been added to the strategic plan under “getting ready”
- Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation strategy also added to the “getting ready” section of the plan
 - Team Learn as the joint subcommittee for preparing a strategy.

The Early Learning Division, recognizing the early stages of the 4RELH, has accepted the revised plan and is giving us until March to establish more specific activities for implementation of the strategic plan.

The Coordinator distributed the updated metrics for the 4RELH noting the following:

- Metric 1 set by the state based on OPK, Relief Nursery and HFO data.
- QRIS related metrics were approximated based on the entire region as the hub had not yet adopted “hot spots” for the region.
- Metrics for Developmental Screens and Well-child exams had been vetted and discussed with both Pacific Source (Wasco and Hood River) CCO and GHOB/EOCCO (Sherman, Gilliam and Wheeler).

A discussion about the need to have a system for tracking the developmental screens that are happening in other non-medical home locations and get credit with medical providers. A question also emerged about the screening being only the ASQ, and could additional social emotional screening be included (ASQ: SE). Proposed that this topic be added as an agenda item to the local ECC/ECAT, RECC and/or Governance Meetings. Noted that the system would need to be a big one to capture all the places where screening happens. There was also emphasis placed on the importance of maintaining fidelity to the tool by engaging the parent in completing the ASQ.

Input Session “OUR KIDS”

The coordinator distributed a proposal for a universal construct for creating a sense of “normed” awareness about child development that could also serve as an access point for connecting families to a variety of activities and services. “Our Kids” would also help us understand where all of our children (ages 0-5) are in the region.

After presenting the document a general discussion occurred with the following highlights:

- This framework could be an architectural concept for the work.
- In a way, this approach is Health Promotion.
- The model could be extended to other groups of people and ages.
- A key is that we have to have a strategy to be able to do this with longevity. It needs to be sustainable. Then people can be excited about it because it’s going to last. Has to be the “way we do business”
- CCO’s could be key partners for this.
- Toolkits could also include providing books to children.
- Important to determine who could be the touch point for passing “toolkits” out; getting a commitment from each person/entity.

- Perhaps we could have a group of leaders from social services to cover/sponsor different levels of the toolkits up to two years; to get sponsorships for different stages of the toolkit.
- Judge Perry wants some toolkits in his office so he can give them out to families.
- IDEA: Internet and/or FB with tips and tricks for various stages of development. Also suggested to create a “Tip Hero” for Parenting via Facebook.

The Coordinator suggested that this work has been about establishing a high level model and that it could go to local ECC/ECAT’s for further development and planning with recommendations back to the RECC and then to the board.

Teddy moved that we support the framework and that it goes to each local ECC for further development. Seconded by Jennifer Bold. Discussion included that it be presented at the RECC and returned to the Governance Board at a later date.

Motion approved unanimously.

Added Agenda Item: Early Learning Council visit to the Gorge

The Coordinator shared that the Early Learning Council was interested in coming to the Gorge in January and shared the proposed agenda with the group. A two-day schedule was proposed with the Local Governance Board meeting being held in the morning of the first day with an Early Learning Partners meeting in the afternoon. The ELC could host their own business meeting mid-afternoon and would then join local Governance Board Members for dinner in the evening. The following morning would be the ELC regular (statewide) meeting. Both Hub Coordinator and Teri Thalhofer-ELC Member, shared with the ELC administrator a willingness to host the meeting and also a concern about the time of year and potential weather concerns both for ELC board members getting through the Gorge as well as Hub Board members getting from remote locations to The Dalles or Hood River. Conversations with the ELC Administrator (working with ELD Director Megan Irwin) ended with agreement that the spring would be a better time for hosting the ELC. No date has been determined at this point.

The governance board engaged in a conversation about how to best feature the region and the following suggestions emerged:

- Talk to CGCC about a place to host the meeting (Readiness Center)
- Create a virtual tour of the region that would highlight both the strengths and challenges of being so geographically diverse.
- Create an animated map with highlights from each county
- 1 second for each mile...

The Coordinator asked if the Board was interested in learning anything more about the Preschool Promise grant after the phone in Q&A session in a previous board meeting. The group agreed that it was not really needed at this point.

Updates and Announcements

2016 Calendar & Location Discussion

The coordinator asked the board to review the proposed calendar on the back of the agenda for 2016 hub meetings. It was noted that some dates were actually Mondays and not Tuesdays. Suggestions were made to switch locations for several meetings. The Coordinator asked the board if they wanted to include site visits for the governance board meeting day and the following perspectives were shared:

- The membership of the board includes folks from varying locations but all are charged to make decisions that impact the region so it would be helpful to understand more about each county.
- No matter where the meeting is held, there will be travel involved and if people are already traveling, it often means that they must dedicate the entire day to the meeting, so why not make the most of it and participate in site visits.

The group talked through a potential schedule for governance board meeting days and the coordinator agreed to make the suggested changes and send a revised version of the calendar to the Governance Board.

Announcements:

Janet Hamada noted that Healthy Families Oregon funds were awarded to the Next Door Inc. for all 5 counties in the Hub. The details are in the process of being ironed out. Also noted that the budget received by NDI was not any of the 9 budgets proposals that the state had requested of them.

Jennifer Bold announced that she is moving away from the daily processes of Condon child care and preschool to work on a capital campaign to build a new early childhood center in Condon. They hope to have the project completed by September 2017 and there may be a need for support from the Board. They are currently providing services at an 80 year old school and are looking at a 4000 square foot building to be built. They are meeting their capacity with 21 preschoolers in one classroom and also have 16 babies.

There were no further announcements and the meeting adjourned at 11:11 AM.

##

Respectfully submitted by Christa Rude with support from Teddy Fennern