

Regional Leadership Team



Monday, September 12, 2016

12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Columbia Gorge ESD

Members Present

Cindy Johnson, CGESD – 4RELH

Terri Vann, KFT

Brooke Ansotegui, NCESD EE

Amber DeGrange, Sherman County

Teddy Fennern, Gilliam County

Nancey Patten, Child Care Partners

Mike Goris, CGESD, 4RELH

Debby Jones, Youth Think

Christa Rude, CGESD, 4RELH

Jen Heredia, OCDC by phone

Welcome & Introductions

The Coordinator welcomed the group and introduced her growing team: Cindy & Mike. Introductions were made around the room.

Support from new ECC Specialist

The Coordinator passed out a new meeting calendar. The Coordinator and the new communications specialist will begin attending all of the ECC meetings. A calendar will be developed which will include the dates of all ECC meetings and items from each ECC that they would like posted.

The Coordinator and communications specialist will print and bring copies of shared agenda to the ECC meetings.

Parent Engagement

The general consensus in the group is that there is parent engagement happening in each county. Several agencies have parent meetings. In order for the Early Learning Hub to receive parent information the group proposed tasking agencies at ECC meetings to take topics to parents and bring back the answers to the group. Parent focus questions could be used like hot topics on the shared agenda.

It is important to keep communication going back and forth and to get more intentional information from parents. Make sure questions are ongoing and let parents know why we are asking.



Our Kids

A great deal of discussion was held on Our Kids Network. Finding a database that will work for us is proving to be a real issue. Suggestions from the group include:

- Using some funding for data development
- Connecting with the Public Health Departments or Home Visiting Connections

The Coordinator feels like we are short in terms of resources to be able to implement Our Kids Network, Mobile Preschool and data development. How do we split the funding for these three ways?

Applications for Responsive Funding/Innovative Funding

The Coordinator handed out an overview of what the process would look like and reviewed it with the group. There is no minimum amount, but there is a maximum amount that can be applied for.

- Responsive funding is: responding to a need that exists or expand or build on.
- Innovative funding is: a great idea to try which could be a pilot program
 - Completed applications for responsive funding would be submitted to local ECC Chair and 4RELH Communication Specialist.
 - ECC committee meets and determines whether the application should be brought to Regional meeting.
 - Innovative funding applications are submitted to the 4RELH Coordinator.
 - RECC meets to review applications. Applications for Responsive funding would allow other counties to “hop on” the request and recommendation goes to the GB for funding.
 - Governance Board reviews requests and makes decision on funding based on available resources and relation to strategic goals.
 - Funding Awarded and resources disbursed with timelines for reporting

Equity Training

The Coordinator handed out an Overview of the HUB. It was noted that two of our strengths are:

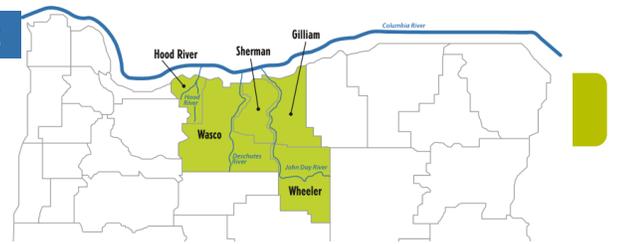
- 1) service based equity – documents and flyers are published in English and Spanish
- 2) data, metrics and continuous quality improvement – our process for defining elementary school zones that need to be prioritized include data sets relative to OKA scores, diversity, and geographic disadvantage.

An Equity training is required by the end of December. 4RELH is supposed to host it and invite others to attend. The Coordinator is pulling a group together for perspective and follow-up.

Website

Mike is looking at other HUB websites and asking for input from the group. The general consensus is that it should be simple and clean. The group also likes the idea of one shared calendar, but also a calendar for each county.

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Other ideas are:

- links to various things
- a link for parents and a link for professionals
- use of local photos

What channels should be use for social media? The group consensus is that FaceBook is the most used in this area.

MMCI (Making the Most of Classroom Interactions)

This is a model that would be good across all counties. It supports teachers and child care providers. Head Start and OCDC already use this.

The program sells itself after it has been implemented in schools and programs. We could host an information session in October. We are looking at 17 elementary schools and could train up to 20 instructors at the first round. Due to the costly investment it would be important to make sure the instructors being trained plan to stay around for a while.

There is the potential to be one of the first programs to have materials in Spanish.

If people are interested we go forward, if not we go more like we did with KPI.