



Tuesday, March 29, 2016

12:45-3:00 PM

Sherman County Public Library
65912 High School Loop, Moro OR 97309

Meeting MINUTES

Present (italics indicate Governance Board Member)

Gary Peterson – K-12 Education, Chair
Nancey Patten- Early Learning Services
Jennifer Bold- Business Sector
Amber DeGrange – Sherman County
Teddy Fennern- Gilliam County
Debra Gilmore- DHS District Manager
Debby Jones - Wasco County
Kristen Richelderfer- Parent Representative
Barbara Seatter- Behavioral Health
Teri Thalsofer-Health (Also ELC member)
Teri Vann – Hood River County
Suzanne Cross, Columbia Gorge Health Council
Coco Yackley, Columbia Gorge Health Council
Trudy Townsend, Pacific Source CCO
Brooke Ansotequi, North Central ESD
Brenda Massey, North Sherman Preschool
Nora Zimmerman, GOBHI
Jen Heredia- OCDC (Oregon Child Development Coalition)
Zenaida Lyles- ELD Hub Facilitator for Eastern Oregon
Christa Rude- Regional Hub Coordinator

Absent or Excused Board Members:

Janet Hamada- Social Services
Judge Chris Perry – Wheeler County

Chair called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

2. Minutes

Noted that the minutes contain unofficial notes of the conversation with the state regarding options for backbone organization (as an addendum).

Amber DeGrange moves to approve meeting minutes with addendum as noted. Jennifer Bold seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

3. Pathways

Suzanne and Coco shared handouts with the group regarding pathways and shared an overview.

Pathways: A centralized mechanism for utilizing a centralized system that coordinates tracks and measures both the processes and the resources that allow for Community Care coordination of those served.

- For Early learning, the connection currently is about developmental screening.
- Pathways is not just health related, it also recognizes social determinants of health. Pathways are a skeleton or framework that allow us as a community design it to work with our selves.
- Where this model is used in other states, the framework is the same, but what is tracked and measured is community defined.
- The hub contracts with agencies in the community who are already doing the work of the Hub (health care), to utilize pathways in order to get to improved outcomes.
- There is not much of anything that couldn't fall into a pathway, both medical interventions/treatments and/or social service interventions/treatments could be made into a pathway.
- Noted that work is underway to identify the ways that the hub can be recognized and/or integrated into this framework.

Best way to understand how it works is to look at the picture model with Joel, a home visitor from MCCC who is doing a home visit. Various opportunities to support the family emerge in the one visit. The idea of pathways would enable Joel to connect the family to services by "opening" a pathway for areas where support was needed. And if there are resources connected to the pathway, then Joel's organization can receive funding by supporting the family in completing the steps identified in the pathway. The second page shows the pathways that were opened, outcomes that were reached, and how they will be funded and/or paid. Noted that the bottom right square should say that 100% of the payment go to MCCC.

Question was raised about who this is for? How is GOHBI involved? *Right now this is a Pacific Source/Columbia Gorge Health Council effort, however there could be a future opportunity, and it is emerging.*

Noted that for the Health Council, the focus is on families who are attempting to get Housing.

Question about how funding is provided?

Payment is based on a Relative Value Unit (RVU) payment. If the pathway requires a higher amount of work, there is a higher RVU. Each pathway has an RVU number that represents both the degree of work involved and the payment for outcomes. RVU's are how payments get tracked and followed. Suggested that it could also be based on the risk of the client.

Community member commented about how this model might support funding from multiple sources. There may be ways that funding could be made available for different strategies/pathways. The pathways model could provide a framework to support shared outcomes, through different funding sources.

Question: How is Pathways family focused? The model allows one person to provide case management support to a single family for a variety of services across an area. So a family participating in Pathways wouldn't have to repeatedly prove their poverty or eligibility from one service center to the other, because the person they have a relationship with as a family support worker/community health worker would be able to connect them to multiple services through the system. Important to note that the system is based on permissions that control access and who sees what.

Noted that this could be a way to support programs in documenting and sharing developmental screens and recruiting children and families to participate in "Our Kids Network".

How do you ensure that the family or individual stays the central focus... and is not so that everyone becomes a dollar sign? **This is an important focus:** we need to find and connect people to help and supports, that is the focus--not recruit families for funding. Another way of thinking of this is that it's not *about* funding. It's changing the way we do our work, it's organizing better, communicating better and get more information about our programs. Ultimately, Community Care Coordinator may not see how much money is being brought into the organization.

How do we determine care coordinator and who becomes lead? The hope is that we don't go in and open a new pathway for each client. There is a quality assurance piece that the <health> Hub will be providing and staff anticipate that there will need to be triage meetings to say who is the right person "on point" with a family.

From the example earlier, what is the aunt told that she is participating in? Lay language might sound like: "I'd like to offer you "pathways"- meet with me on a regular basis?" Individual/choice based. For example: if a person had 8 pathways open (one of them being smoking cessation), and doesn't want to quit smoking, but needs housing and transportation, they could focus their efforts around housing and transportation, and not smoking.

How does the Joel of this person around mandated reporting requirement? Coordinators will have community health worker(CHW) training (there is a list of certifications and requirements) and they will have to be Pathways trained.

What is the contract with CHW in another agency? For example, their employer could have a contract with the Hub Council, so which Care Coordinators could have the contract? If you don't get paid for up front work, you get paid for the completed pathways- how does that work?

They are looking at 3 different models including:

- only paying for completed pathways to
- paying .5 FTE to an agency for participating in the program
- or something in between these two.

Is there an incentive for the people to complete the pathways? Is there an incentive to get a specific pathway funded? Not at this time.

Given that the ideas are shared outcomes and shared goals, could a specific area be prioritized? What if the pathways coordinator has done a lot of work to get the person in but then they aren't eligible? What are the other ways to incentivize? There was a group discussion about options and recognition that this is an effort in process.

4. Regional Early Childhood Committee (RECC) report

ECC and Communications Specialist Position

RECC- ECC have been in existence for a very long time. When the other system ended, people decided that we want to keep these committees together and determine what our charge was. The Early Childhood committee is: what?

In the past the coordination of ECC had been done by county model, now it is voluntary, and there is a need for someone who can coordinate ECC meeting and taking care of the minutes and online and get the minutes and find out what happened. We want someone to both support county level ECC's and also to do the media component, and get ready for Our Kids.

MOTION: Teri T. moved we go forward with this position as described in the packet, Terri V.

Discussion:

- Board member noted there was broad support for this function at the Regional ECC meeting. People can't provide logistical support on an in-kind basis and the current staff are not able to add it to existing work. There was strong support for moving this forward.
- Question raised: Do we have the financial capacity? Noted that the budget is in the process of being developed and that the motion could be to direct the finance committee to explore the addition of his decision.
- Question raised: Does it take money away from programs?
 - 2 ways to look at it: We could take all the money and push it out
 - ONE RFA committee and get it out
 - Coordination/Collaboration and the spirit of working together. We have all suffered at not having dedicated staff to look at integration who can see this work and see the vision to move it forward.
 - The charge for early learning hubs is about integrated systems. We need the system support for "Our Kids" to support it.
- A clarification about the reason for asking about the difference between supporting funding and coordination. An example was shared relating to suicide prevention that demonstrated the importance of coordinating efforts.
- Noted that this capacity conversation has been happening at the tri-county level (Sherman, Gilliam and Wheeler). Suggested that some of the GOBHI funding could be used to support this.

Chair raised the question for vote with the revised motion that the position be reviewed in the budget planning process. Motion carried unanimously.

Community Health Survey

A synopsis of the Columbia Gorge Health Council's Community Health Survey was distributed for informational review. This survey will provide important data that will support decision making. We may also want to think about how to shape questions to suit our efforts for the next survey.

Clarification made that Community Health Survey goes to Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, and Gilliam. This tool is a full community assessment and could provide relevant data for our work.

Our Kids Toolkits

Our Kids update is that this is going to go back to ECC- shared agenda for focus on parent engagement in the toolkits.

Children's Fairs

Children's Fair dates and opportunities were discussed.

Requested Letter of support.

Jennifer Bold's child care board undertook a capitol project. Currently housed in the southeast class room of an elementary school building. They have been doing Head Start since 2002 and last year took on EHS and have doubled their capacity and they are lacking in the infrastructure to meet the needs of the kids that they have. Requesting a letter of support from entities who would support the project. The community is ready for this project. There has been overwhelming support. Noted that the school district is also taking on a building process and this preschool has not been invited to the conversation and so they are moving forward with their own grant. The Ford grant is due in 8 weeks. Sample letter came to Coordinator yesterday... Jennifer is asking that we provide a letter of support from the board for moving forward with this project.

Is there a motion? Teddy moved, Nancey seconded. Unanimously approved.

5. Governance and Bylaws:

Bylaws: They were approved in June 2014, and there was a discussion from last fall. We haven't established terms and there are several other updates that need to be made. Are there a couple of folks who would work on the Bi-laws with Chair Peterson: Debra Gilmore and Nancey Patten volunteered.

6. Fiscal- Proposed Budget Structure

Last meeting the question was how we would handle the Sherman County. The Columbia Gorge ESD was identified as the operational implementer for the agreement with the state. The fiscal function stays with Sherman County. The only money that comes from Columbia Gorge ESD will be for reimbursement of the coordinator position.

The Coordinator role will be expanded to include both coordination and operational emphasis.

Resources from the hub will be contracted to service providers using a three-way contract between Sherman County, CGESD and the contractor. This strategy emerged as an effort to keep administrative costs low. A system for ensuring payment by Sherman county will be developed with CGESD. The agreement between CGESD and Sherman County and this model will need to be approved by state, however they have already supported this arrangement while it was in the process of being negotiated.

It was noted that regional initiatives have an interesting dynamic and can be tricky but are clearly trending from the state perspective. We are working towards achieving an element of balance between CGESD, Governance Board, and Sherman County as backbone/fiscal. While the state contract seems to make the Governance Board a "token" entity, we are building the system to make this work for us as a region.

Noted that the original philosophy for this work with DOJ and DAS was under a governor who had a transformational vision. Wondering about the vision after this November.

Suggested that in order to maintain compliance with requirements for funding, we may end up funding to large counties who could then fund smaller entities. This raised a discussion about specific conversations about funding the eastern part of the state of Oregon made at the last ELC (in connection with the Preschool Promise grants). Agreed that there needs to be increased awareness about eastern Oregon at Early Learning Efforts

Budget “buckets” Overview

Overview of the buckets provided in a document and by the Coordinator.

The chair called the question about whether the group is willing to approve the buckets. There was a concern raised that somehow things relating to HVC had changed with-out there being conversation, or people being at the table. Clarification was made that the funding directed for Healthy Families Oregon was existing funding and that a bucket of funding could also be used to expand home visiting. It was requested that a clearer vision for Home Visiting Connections be shared at the next board meeting along with the presentation of the annual budget.

A call for the motion was made: Jennifer Bold moved that this overview be used as a template/blueprint for developing the annual budget. The motion was seconded by Teri T. The motion carried unanimously.

KPI

The Coordinator, (who also serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Regional Achievement Collaborative) presented the overview and timeline for KPI Investments with a request to move forward immediately with the process in order to provide time for school districts and preschools to plan before the school year was over (timeline outlined in the supporting documents).

There was a call for the motion to implement the plan as presented: Moved by Terri Vann and seconded by Nancey Patten. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Chair encouraged Board Members to engage with the KPI and local school districts in order to support this effort.

Calendar

A proposed model for calendaring was presented as a follow-up to questions after the December decision to adjust the meeting schedule.

Noted that in the planning phases of the Hub, the timing and the location of the Hub meetings was deliberate to support maximum participation. The will of the group historically was to meet in Sherman county as a central location.

Discussion continued noting that it’s important to see what it <early childhood efforts> looks like in other communities. It’s also important for other programs be a part of this process.

It is important for Sherman Gilliam and Wheeler to have the board visit to get a better understanding about what it takes to provide early childhood education in these areas. For groups who have visited, it is eye-opening

Further suggested that visits could include child care programs.

Noted that this is the model that the ELC takes. Teri (as an ELC member) has seen that there are a core group of Council Members who travel and the work has changed because there is a shared awareness of the children in Oregon.

When people have a sense of what it looks like across the region, it makes a difference about how we work. The understanding about what it’s like and what families are facing in their communities makes a difference in the

way we do our work. When we are at the table and we are responsible for these programs, you want to know in your mind what people are looking like.

Suggested that the proposed model and visits might be appropriate for the rest of this year and that the board could revisit this model next year.

Nancey Patten moved that we adopt this proposed calendar of meetings with every other meeting being a traveling meeting. A friendly amendment was added to make the non-tour meetings “as needed”, 2 hours long, and with the location in Sherman County. Second: Jennifer Bold and Barb Seatter simultaneously seconded the motion.

Discussion: Non-tour meetings would not be “required” to attend in person and phone/vtel options would be accepted.

Call for the vote was made and the group unanimously approved the motion

Grants

Preschool promise: We didn’t get it. The board received an email; Call Christa with any questions.

Nancey provided a report on Focus Child Care Networks. There was a question about why we are not supporting Child Care Centers. Noted that most of our child care occurs in family child care and there are other resources for centers.

Announcements

Nancey is on a sub-committee about the referral process for child care centers to 211. Nancey will add question.

Teri: When Early Learning Council comes, there is an impact for traveling and a need to get local feedback from families. Please add discussion the RECC Leadership Team Agenda. How can we make transportation available for families to participate, and for the ELC to hear from Sherman Gilliam Wheeler about what it is like to live in frontier communities?

In closing, the Chair asked that the fiscal committee take on a review of compensation for the Coordinator by reviewing comparable salaries from other Hubs. It was noted that Linn Benton Lincoln Hub is similar to our hub in size and has 3 staff. The question was raised: “What does it take to run this show”

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM.