

FOUR RIVERS EARLY LEARNING HUB

Regional Early Childhood Committee



RECC Meeting

Monday, October 10, 2016

Columbia Gorge ESD

Present

Jen Heredia, OCDC

Terri Vann, HR ECC/HUB/KFT

Holli Francis, The Next Door

Nancey Patten, Child Care Partners

Amber DeGrange, Sherman County

Kristen Richelderfer, Child Care Partners

Mike Goris, 4RELH

Christa Ruder, 4RELH

Brooke Ansotegui, NCESD EE – by phone

Jennifer Bold, Business Director 4RELH – by phone

Teddy Fennern, Gilliam County Family Services

Susan Gabay, DHS

Tori Vaughn, CGESD EI/ECSE/SKP & Migrant Program

Cindy Johnson, CGESD 4RELH

Introductions and Welcome

The Coordinator welcomed everyone and introductions were made around the room.

Call for Additions to the Agenda

- a. Vroom Distribution Agreement: anyone who has ordered materials will receive an email with the number of items ordered and a distribution method. Mike will check in with agencies the second week of November and again the second week of December. There will be easy questions to answer to give feedback to Ari.
- b. Hood River Children's Fair: around 450 people showed up for Hood River's first Children's Fair. There were 21 booths set up and everyone was very enthusiastic about it.
- c. Vroom Training in Hood River on October 10, 2016: The class is full (25 people are registered). Another class will be held on November 7 in The Dalles. The class is free. The purpose behind



the training is to learn about the science behind Vroom. It was shared that OCDC staff were asked to attend a training before they begin passing out materials to parents.

Innovative and Responsive Funding

a. Regional Review Panel Membership

The Coordinator is working on a rubric to be used when reviewing applications. It was originally thought that this group would review applications but since we only meet every other month it would take two (2) months to get approval.

We are looking for five (5) people who have willingness and expertise in the Region and who can be objective. The group would meet monthly to review applications, the process would take about 90 minutes and members would receive packets in advance.

After some discussion the group agreed to ask the following people to be part of the group:

- Susan Gabay - she has agreed to do this
- Noemi Ochoa
- Lisa Roth
- Julie Smith
- Jan Leonard, Rebecca Humphreys or Katie Hamms

Website and Calendars – Communications

Handouts were passed out which explain the key components of the 4RELH website.

- Simple navigation
- Parent based part of the website
- Community partners part of the website
- Integrating Facebook/Social media into the website

Calendars:

- Parent calendar
- Community partner calendar

Both calendars will be regional (from multiple sources). Send events, play group dates, classes, etc. to Mike for website calendar(s).

a) Intro of new logo option – everyone liked the new logo. The only suggestion was to alphabetize the counties.

There was some discussion about having the website on the CGESD website domain which is where it is currently located. Everyone agreed that it needs its own website. Amber made a motion to recommend to the Governance Board that Four Rivers Early Learning Hub be hosted on its own domain. Teddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.



Hot Topics

- a. Absenteeism: This topic came up first at the Wasco ECC meeting and then at the P-3 meeting. There is concern for extended absences. This is not only a problem in Oregon, but a National one as well. It was noted that:
- Programs that have the man power to contact families after an absence have the best attendance rates.
 - Native American families have the highest rate of absences
 - Chronic absenteeism is the strongest indicator for drop outs
 - Preschool parents don't see absenteeism as a problem

A strategy that is used in one county is:

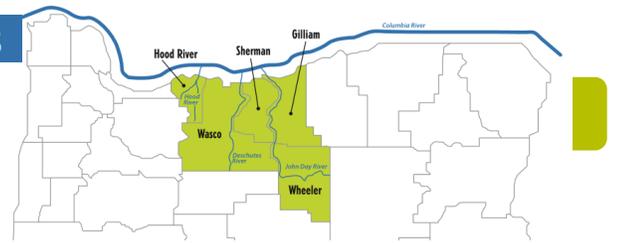
- Friday school to make up missing seat time

Ideas to help increase attendance:

- DHS would like to include good attendance in a plan through the self-sufficiency program
- Educate preschool parents on the importance of good attendance
- Make attendance part of Kindergarten Readiness
- Learn how to help families with obstacles that create absenteeism
- Identify existing resources

Use this topic as a shared agenda item – find data and resources

- b. Pre-K Infrastructure
- c. Our Kids Network Update which connects with d. Updates from September Board Meeting: Budget adjustments.
- At the August RECC meeting Melissa Knutson gave a presentation on “Making the Most of Classroom Interactions (MMCI). The Governance Board voted to reallocate the funds we were allocating to MMCI to Mobile Preschool.
 - Colonel Wright and Chenoweth Elementary schools need assistance. It was agreed that we would focus on those districts for Mobile Preschool.
 - A draft of the position description for Our Kids Connections Lead Preschool Teacher was handed out. It is not for distribution as it needs to be approved by the ESD superintendent.
 - The Coordinator would like to have Our Kids Connections up and running at two apartment complexes in The Dalles in January.
 - The Coordinator also noted that Professional Development is important and we will continue to look for ways to support it.
 - The \$60,000 investment in Our Kids Network has been reduced to \$35,000. There will be \$10,000 for infrastructure allowing us to connect with data for Birth to 5 year olds through Clara which is used by Pathways through a contract with Vistalogic.



Parent Engagement Updates

How do we get the parents input to this committee? Knowing what parents want is the piece that keeps us on track. At this point we do not have a specific question, but we may in the future. Some ways that parents can be involved with their child's learning are:

- Kindergarten transition activities
- Visiting their child's new kindergarten classroom
- Visit the school cafeteria; see/taste the food
- Volunteer at their child's preschool

Preschools could work together to do kindergarten transition activities.

Additions

- a. Overview of Our Kids Connections – "mobile preschool"
 - The Coordinator shared a PowerPoint with the group.
 - The teaching team must be qualified and partner with other agencies to have guests visit the preschool.
 - They will need to visit the Tutu and Me website and work with the consultant to figure out activities. Items used at preschool should be things that can be found at Goodwill or another thrift store.
 - There will need to be "take home" kits.
 - Staff will need training on cultural humilities and safety.
 - It will be important to teach families to use what you have and build on strengths.
 - 1:1 program. One adult to child (mom and child, grandparent & child)

How will we choose who can participate in mobile preschool?

- This is for children who have no preschool placement. Age ranges from 3 to 5. We want to reach the children who are not involved in anything.
- How do we recruit?

The space will determine the size of the program. 15 to 20 would be a good number.