

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

Joint Preschool Application Meeting Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	9:00am, November 16, 2017 Philomath City Council Chambers, Philomath
MEETING CALLED BY	Eric Pommier
WORK GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Aoife Magee, Audra Baca, Debbie McPheeters, Eric Pommier, Jerri Wolfe, Lynn Hall, Lynnette Wykoop, Kathleen McDonnell, Wendy McKenna, Jacquie Keller, Autumn Belloni, Suzanne Miller, Barbara Dougherty, Jennifer Hartsock
VERSION	Draft
RECORDED?	Yes

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	Revisit Discussion from August 8 th Meeting
	The State mandates that HUBs facilitate arrangements between Head Starts and Preschool Promise regarding their application and selection processes. The Work Group is focused on creating a single application providing parents with information about all the preschool opportunities that meet their needs.
	The Work Group is starting by developing a screener that will help determine a relevant program for parents to which they can be referred.
	Eric Pommier shared his experience with previous screenings and applications.
	Jerri Wolfe wants to schedule a public awareness event ("Preschool Round Up") with printed materials for children and their families.
	Suzanne Miller believes the last Work Group meeting was groundbreaking.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Review Outcomes of Survey
	Eric presents the Joint Application Eligibility Matrix survey that lists eligibility for all programs and their process for prioritization.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to coordinate people on multiple wait lists so everyone can get served in the most appropriate venue. • It is about creating parent choice – to help parents know what their options are. • They want to create a single point of contact for families. • To make access easier for parents. • The intent is not to mandate a change to what is going on already for all HUB Partners.
	The Work Group will start by developing a screener to sort which preschool opportunities meet the needs of individual families. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The screener is a first step to creating a universal application.
	The Universal Application is not for every program – i.e. community-based preschools don't have eligibility requirements.
	They plan to schedule an event – preschool roundup - that will link parents to multiple agencies who will participate in the same room.
	Eric conducted a survey of preschools in the tri-county area (see Handouts). However, only 7 programs responded. He will send out another survey to include more preschools.
	Kidco plans to refer out applications that don't meet their requirements.

Kidco is working with a few partners to pilot a universal application next Spring to help weed out issues and guide the Work Group on next steps.
It would help if there were resources to hire an employee who would work with families on the application process and offer unbiased and neutral information about all agencies.
Training about all the various programs and their requirements would be critical.
This position closely resembles what Pollywog is doing.
Using QRIS or SPARK ratings to categorize agencies might create a hierarchy of agencies. This isn't the Work Group's goal.
Lynnette Wynkoop recommends asking agencies if they are licensed and/or recorded on the survey.
Eric explains that this survey and universal application helps us focus on serving the community instead of our own agencies.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Next Steps
Eric agrees to post the survey url on basecamp so Lauren Sigman and Lynnette can send it to their listserves.	
Lynnette agrees to send out the survey to state-wide licensed and/or recorded preschools and programs.	
Jennifer Hartsock agrees to invite Lynnette and Froukje Spaak to the Work Group basecamp in order to connect with Eric.	
Eric plans to follow up on certain open-ended survey answers to gain more detailed information (i.e. program fees).	
While using this screening, it would help to provide families with a list of required documents for their recommended agency.	
It would help to have the resources to hire an employee who would work with families on the application process and offer unbiased and neutral information about all agencies.	
Jerri points out that this position closely resembles what Pollywog does.	
Audra Baca offers a listserv for community partners and agencies in each county for the proposed "Preschool Round Up."	
Baby Blast is February 22nd. We can market the "Preschool Round Up" at this event.	
Aoife recommends Boys & Girls Club take the lead on facilitating a "Preschool Round Up" in Sweet Home.	
Eric plans to contact Laurie Romeo from the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Santiam.	
Aoife recommends contacting Tyler Grove from the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Santiam.	
Eric plans to contact Jennifer for Lincoln County contacts.	

NEXT MEETING	Thursday, January 11, 2018
9:00-10:30am	Philomath City Chambers Office, Philomath
MEETING ADJOURNED	10:30am