

Early Learning Hub Conference held at LBCC

Nearly 200 early learning teachers, childcare providers, administrators and other cross-sector partners interested in early learning attended the First Annual Early Learning HUB Conference for Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties. In the morning session, Dr. Megan McClelland from Oregon State University and Elizabeth Tremaine, MS, from Portland State University provided conference attendees with research relating to self-regulation, other foundational skills and kindergarten readiness in Oregon. During the afternoon session, local presenters provided examples of activities and processes that help children develop these skills, such as Yoga Calm being taught in the Philomath School District, professional development to align kindergarten and preschools in Waldport, and the impact

of Collaborative Problem Solving in Lincoln County.

Pollywog staff was available at the Conference to talk with participants about the Pollywog program, and hand out literature and marketing materials.



What's Happening

- ✓ Our next Pollywog Partners' Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6, from 8:30-10:30pm at the LBCC Luckiamute Building, LM-131. We will be discussing HIPAA/FERPA training, finalized versions of the Pollywog Memorandum of Understanding, and the status of the Pollywog campaigns.
- ✓ The information campaign that is being created for Pollywog for November is a "resource list" so that families will know where they can get help during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons. We have a list that was created a couple of years ago, and we are contacting organizations and asking for updates; however, if you have current information, we would appreciate you sharing it with us as soon as possible so that our Pollywog families will have a wonderful holiday season.

Pollywog Progress

Currently, there are nearly 160 families in the Pollywog database. Pollywog families received another targeted information campaign, this time on library story times. Linn County families received information on story times at all the libraries in Linn County. Benton County families received information on story times at all of the libraries in Benton County. At the Friday Pollywog Partner's meeting, partners discussed additional topics they wanted to see in future information campaigns.

A chart will be going out to all partners asking for their input on possible information campaign topics. Two of the pilot partners, Samaritan Health Services and Old Mill Center have signed the MOU, and are ready for closed loop referrals. Staff train-

ing on how to use the database is continuing. Family Tree Relief Nursery is scheduled for training in early November. We will be testing the closed loop referrals with the pilot partners as they sign the MOU and complete staff training. We are also scheduling training of additional staff members and prenatal class instructors with Samaritan Albany General Hospital.

Additionally, we have drafted a User's Manual for those that have received training. Our intent is to give copies of it to each licensed user.

October Pollywog Partner Meeting

The Pollywog Partners met on Friday, October 27th. They discussed additional needs for training, and explored how the closed loop referrals would work within their particular agencies.

Partners supported the plan to produce a training video to introduce Pollywog to staff who meet with clients. Pollywog staff will be preparing a summary sheet and a written release form that will help Partners' staff sign families up with Pollywog when the website is not available.

Suggestions were collected for future

information campaigns. In addition to the topics themselves, Pollywog staff is asking Partners to identify "touch-points" for topics - an age, a community event, a season - any factor that



may influence when a particular information campaign should be sent to families. Pollywog can target campaign audiences by age or County or other demographics, so different campaigns might go out to different audiences.

Partners also discussed staff training on HIPAA and FERPA requirements. Some of the Partners already train all staff on HIPAA requirements, and others have more generalized training on confidentiality. Pollywog staff will be looking at sources of training.

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