

Linn, Benton, Lincoln Early Learning Hub
Backbone Meeting
April 15th, 2014 from 8:30-10:00am

Linn, Benton and Lincoln county representatives from the sectors below, including support from each County's Commissioners have self-organized as a consortium to have statutorily designated authority to integrate early learning services across systems and traditional geographic boundaries. The ultimate goal is to achieve higher levels of kindergarten readiness.

Attendees: Rebecca Austen, Mary McKay, Susan Waddell, Pat Crozier, Kim Whitley Jerri Wolfe

1. Updates:

- Monday's meeting is to drill down groups.
- The website is up and running, it will be continually changed and edited. Within a few hours of it going public there were 207 views.
- As interest grows more people are being added to the email list in which there are currently 254 contacts.
- Tomorrow from 1-3 at Old Mill Center there will be a governance meeting which is open.
 - A question was asked, "Does the governance committee allocate the money?"- This is something that will be discussed, but one idea is to develop a short term process for decision making.
 - The goal for tomorrow will be to make a plan.
- For the Budget and Resources group where are the reps from? Are all counties covered? It was asked that both individuals from United Way come to the meeting On Thursday from 8:30-10. It was agreed upon that this group needs more representation from Lincoln County and that Frank Moore will be asked to attend.
- The Data and Evaluation Committee will report on what exactly our populations are and where our boundaries lie.
- Tatiana sent out the most recently updated Timeline, which is now on the website.

2. Regional Boundries, Mill City, Harrisburg, Monroe

1. How do we address the fringe areas?
 - The boundaries of the CCO are very clear for the most part. There are only a few areas in which they are not. There are three options here either the people in these areas are unclear (meaning we do not know where they go for their services) they go wherever they want, or they go to the next largest city, like Monroe and Harrisburg. The Tribe goes wherever they want.
 - Each of the potential question areas are now being considered and asked if they have any unique people/organizations that need to be contacted by us.

- They will be asked specifically if they have any organizations that provide service in regards to 0-6 year olds, these are the organizations that we need to make sure to support.
- We also need to pay special attention to libraries in these and all areas as there are two separate sections that deal with literacy. Libraries will show that we are providing assets to literacy.
- Of all the areas of the HUB it seems that the Northwest corner is a place we should investigate to see where they go to get services. These people should be part of the conversation.

3. Governance, Framework, Role of the Board?

- We have had some feedback on the MOU; some believe that some of it needs to be in the steering committee. Some of the responsibilities overlap with the Backbone group as well. Is it time to refine these groups or wait till a slightly better date?
 - There was a consensus to wait.
- For the structure of the Governance the current idea is that there will be 6 people from each county which is 18 total plus one LBCC spot. LBCC is the agency that does the contracts and has to ultimately sign off on the agreement and be held responsible. This group would be responsible for Fiscal oversight, overseeing the smaller groups, resource allocation, and the big picture view.
- The question of, “Where does the LBCC Board fit into the Governance/Steering committee?”
 - The LBCC board is basically controlled by two people at the moment as they are in the middle of hiring on a new head. For now Greg has already signed off. Jeff and Jerri meet on a weekly basis, so that he is informed and involved. The board as a whole has not signed off on the whole thing, but they do not feel the need to do so at the moment. They seem to happily approve items as they come along.
- The question of how to select people for the board came up. The board would be the broad board of 18 or so. Part of the issue is that from the first round there were individuals that already agree to be on the board, so how do you respect those who have already volunteered? Do you keep them on or not?
 - To this the group said that the diversity of the board is too important to just let those continue on without further review.
- It was said that it’s now a different ball game. Lincoln County has a new superintendent and he is involved and interested.
- For k-12 Maria is representing Benton County and Don is representing Linn so that solves the issue that they were thought to be representing the same are. Currently ESD has no representation.
- Both the CCO and the DHS must be part of the board as designated in the grant. They could be in health care, but the CCO cannot represent all the health related sectors.
- Concern for county employees of Linn County have not appeared at the meetings is being handled. Judy Trainer was asked, but was unable to attend.
- Health Care representation is debated as to how to set up the people and amount of them.

- Who is the access point?
 - The CCO is not a great person for this, this would be better suited at the clinical level not the administrative level as they are closer to the people themselves.
 1. What dictates a clinical board member?
 - This would be a person who has a medical degree or training and also practices in the field.
 - Should this be an issue at the smaller committee level?
 1. The concern here is that unless there is representation on the larger end there will be no support at the lower levels.
 - WIC would be an option.
- Other concerns for the board are that the smaller districts would not be properly represented, and that there needs to be rural representation as well and that parents need to be represented as well.
 - Head start is one idea, or a Tribe parent who is maybe also involved in CASA
 - There is also a clause in the grant stating equity lens is partly about the ethnic population of the areas being served and making sure that they are part of it.
 - There is also terms that need to be established as well as bylaws.
 - One suggestion is to give the decision to the sector to see if the people who have already agreed to serve on the board are still the best candidates. These people also need to be aware of the new structure as they may not be interested due to all the changes.
- One issue with this is that some sectors like parents cannot be asked, there is no body to ask. Now the only concern is with the governance board representation.
 - Need a process for decision making
 - What to do about flex fund money?
 - Monday's meeting will discuss this and the two apparent options:
 1. Continue to fund these groups for another year till they either have an opportunity to apply for their own funding, something that wasn't previously an option or
 2. Do not fund these groups.
 - LBCC has to sign off that they will deal with these funds. Is this something that we want people to weigh in on? In reality it is not really their decision as it will all channel through LBCC and it is their final decision.
- **Decision: The group decided that all of the counties and sectors need to come together to decide as they might have great representation in their sector, but two sectors could be far too similar to represent the broader diversity that the HUB is involved in. All counties need to make decisions in regards to the other counties. We need to sit down with names of possible board members from all the counties and then choose because this will create the best representation.**
- For the Backbone committee there are some concerns
 - One is that there is a power concern; it is at current not a very broadly represented group. This is partly due to the list on the website only reflecting those who have attended meetings rather than all who have been invited.

- Different wording may be in order, instead of work oversight change this to, “carry out activities as assigned, which could include...” Also the phrase of Group Facilitation was brought up as something that sounds more supportive and positive in general.
- Some issues were out of the control of those organizing the group. These are mostly attendance related issues. One complaint is that there is not enough warning time for them to make time for the meetings, which is difficult to accomplish as the task at hand is moving along so fast and time is also running out rather quickly.

Next Steps:

1. Alliance meeting on the 29th ESD Building from 8:30-10
2. Monday April 21st 1-5pm Planning meeting at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Philomath
3. Strategic Planning meeting April 24th 8-10:30