

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

Data & Evaluation Work Group Meeting Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	1:30pm, July 16, 2015 LBCC Cascade View Room, Albany
MEETING CALLED BY	Lynn Hall
WORK GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Jessica Deas, Loren Zimbelman, Peter Bamworth, Norma O'Mara, Shelley Paeth, Rich Waller, Jerri Wolfe, Julia Young-Lorion, Alison Myers, Renee Smith, Kristi May, Tab Danby, Bettina Schempft, MaiKia Moua, Lynn Hall, Carol Dinges, Susan Trachsel, Don Dorman.
VERSION	Final
RECORDED?	Yes

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	Review of 6/11/2015 Minutes
Minutes were available on Basecamp and website.	
CONCLUSIONS	
Approved.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Kindergarten Assessment Data Talking Points	
Last month while we were reviewing the State Data, we were concerned that the Siletz Indian numbers appeared to be very low, only 42.		
Our role as a work group is to review and compile data that the Work Groups will need to make decisions.		
We have created a set of "Talking Points" that are intended to break down what data we have found on the State Assessment, and how we can use that data.		
Average scores in our area are at or above State levels, except in language sounds, where we were slightly below State levels.		
If a subgroup is small enough that a child could potentially be identified, the category is emptied and an asterisk is put in the column.		
The State wants us to increase our Kindergarten Assessment numbers by 8% in two years.		
What are the gaps in services to these children that are performing below State levels?		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Post the Talking Points on Basecamp	Hub State	ASAP

DISCUSSION ITEM	Review Child Welfare Data (TANF/SNAP)	
Review of DHS TANF children.		
Increase in TANF children, reached its peak in April 2014, and numbers are going down.		
Susan Trachsel reported that as more support was available to give to families, more families came off the program.		

SNAP also reached its peak in March 2014, and numbers are going down.
Teen parents are coming off of TANF, and we are looking at our lowest numbers in years in this area.
Child Welfare numbers: this information is for LBL counties, and varies quite a bit between counties. Lincoln County is over-represented in the Indian community, and Linn County is over-represented in the Black community. (These numbers can be easily skewed if a family has a large number of children.) Large spike in children going into Foster Care in Benton County during the first 6 months of 2015.
Benton and Lincoln County both are having more children enter foster care than leave it. Linn County is having more children leaving foster care than entering it.
Our DHS region is now practicing "Differential Response", which is a gentler response to a family's situation: DHS just shows up at your house with the Police vs DHS phones you and asks to make an appointment to see you and invites you to have someone there with you to help support you during the DHS visit. The Differential Response doesn't put a "black mark" on the family's record.
Hispanic numbers are decreasing in foster care in the region, and Indian numbers are holding steady.
What about this data is important to our Hub partners? Or is this simply informative information that helps us to see that our processes are working.
It's also helpful to our partners, who don't have the capacity to crunch all these numbers, and try to figure out where to target their expansion.
We might need to be putting more services towards these foster children: they are in a safe environment, but their trauma isn't being treated. What about when they transition back to their families? Are they getting extra services and counseling?
We also have other anecdotal data that tells us that these foster kids change schools often, they have more sick days off school than more kids, etc., etc. Can we bundle all this information together to get a more complete picture of the needs of a foster child?
The State is trying to create a "super data file" of information for incarcerated individuals, linking in members of the family, linking in other State services that are being used by members of this family, etc. It's a pilot program, and they are just now linking education data to this super data file. Eventually, we will be able to have a complete set of data from all agencies about a family. State Economic Forecasting Office was the organization spearheading this.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Data Analysis
New metrics coming from the State on November 1.	
New website that is being built for the Hub will contain a "Resources" landing page for us to place this kind of data so that stakeholders can use it to write grants, etc.	
Kristi May asked the D&E Work Group to present these "Talking Points" to the Governing Board once we have refined the data so that they can see the value in the data that is being collected. Jerri Wolfe suggested that the D&E Work Group would be ready to do this for the September Board Meeting.	
FTRN expressed their appreciation for providing this data to small organizations that don't have the capacity to sift through the data themselves.	

NEXT MEETING	August 20, 2015, Old Mill Center, 1:30pm
MEETING ADJOURNED	2:44pm