

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

Early Childhood Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	10:40am, August 20, 2015 Old Mill Center, Corvallis
MEETING CALLED BY	Kristi May
WORK GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Renee Smith, Shelley Paeth, Sonya Hart, Paul Smith, Norma O'Mara, Cyrel Gable, Peik-Kuan Lim, Susan Trachsel, Cindy Bond, Kristi May, Tab Dansby, Lynn Hall, Julia Young-Lorion, LeAnne Trask, Medora Tuck Stevens
VERSION	Final

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	Review of Last Month's Meeting Minutes
	Posted on Basecamp and website.
	Cyrel has a couple of corrections, which LeAnne will make and post revised versions.
	Motion to approve – Shelley Paeth
CONCLUSIONS	
	Minutes are approved.

DISCUSSION ITEM	New Hub Metrics
	Will be discussing the goals that are particular to this Work Group: 2.1, 2.2,
	One roadblock for children is the waiting list. We want children to get the services, but having a wait list also indicates need and shows the state and federal regulators that more funding is needed.
	Another mandate for us is to increase the number of ASQs performed on at-risk children in the three counties, and number of providers trained to perform ASQ evaluations, and number of children served in poverty "hot spots".
	Another mandate is for us to increase the number of children in 3, 4 & 5 Star QRIS rated programs, increase in the number of children served by DHS in QRIS star rated programs and other early learning programs. –How is that going to be reported?
	FSC doesn't currently collect that data, but it wouldn't be that difficult to gather that info.
	DHS doesn't collect that data because their data is tied to a current case and one adult, rather than to the children.
	FTR also doesn't collect that data, but when they hold a class, the Ladder Evaluation asks if they are being served by DHS. It's self-reported, so they don't have to enter the information, but it could be available.
	WIC uses a specific identifying number for each family. That number translates to the DHS system and correlates their benefits together. Maybe that number could be used to help get these data without duplicating.
	Concerns about expanding capacity with the QRIS program. The Alsea Pups Preschool only has one teacher, and to move that teacher from the classroom for QRIS training and bringing in a substitute, is misplaced. The promise of additional funds from the State for doing it is a carrot, but we just don't have the time. We're committed to doing it, but it's on the back burner for now.
	For now the QRIS is voluntary, but it's probable that it will become mandatory to receive state funds.

QRIS also requires using a licensed facility, and there are some cities in our counties that simply don't have any facilities that will qualify.

The Focused Care Network also is directing funds to child care providers who need to be licensed, and helping them to do it.

The Alpine Preschool is not a licensed facility, but they are working hard and including at-risk latino kids from the town, but they are entirely off the state's radar. If they could be mentored, they might be able to get their QRIS rating and funding. Could the Hub help with that?

It's more costly to attract a staff that has the education to get a 4- or 5- star rating, and low-income families wouldn't be able to afford that kind of facility. –And if the State increases the minimum wage, the fear is that it will decimate the early childhood infrastructure. Quality child care is going to cost more.

There are funds coming from the state that will add "slots" at the better child care facilities and use them for low-income families.

The State is also losing a lot of private child care providers because they just don't want to deal with the pressures from the State with the licensing requirements, USDA food programs, and QRIS programs.

The Pre-K money is being spent, just not very effectively.

We need to figure out what to do creatively to help our teachers get this additional training.

Maybe the first step is to get people licensed, because just doing that would improve child care. Then move on to the next step, the star ratings.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Maybe we could bring in Linda Nelson and have her help us to come up with some innovative ways to improve QRIS ratings?	Kristi May	ASAP

NEXT MEETING	Thursday, September 3, 2015, 10:40-11:40am
Next meeting will be held at the Newport Public Library.	
MEETING ADJOURNED	11:42am