

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

Healthy Beginnings Steering Committee Meeting

Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	12:00pm, September 11, 2015 LBCC Fireside Room, Albany, OR
MEETING CALLED BY	Lynn Hall
MEMBERS PRESENT	Hilary Harrison, Lynn Hall, Kristi May, LeAnne Trask, Rachel Murray, Hilary Harrison, Megan Hawley, Juan Guzman, Jaya Lapham, Eder Mondragon, Iris Carasco, Tina Dodge-Vera, Kristty Polanco, DeAnn Brown (remotely), Suzanne Miller (remotely), Julia Young-Lorion (remotely), Omar Hernandez (remotely), Lauren Sigman (remotely)
VERSION	Final

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	PowerPoint Presentation
Steering Committee Objectives:	
Inform community partners about NW Health Foundation Grant opportunity.	
Introduce the Early Learning Multnomah (ELM) Parent Leadership Program.	
Redesign the ELM Parent Leadership Program to meet our needs.	
Gather input on RFP questions.	
Introduce Collaborative Partners list and sample letters of support.	
Communities Collaborate is the name of the 5-year grant, and it is due on October 9, 2015.	
RFP Summary:	
Measuring Community Capacity – engaged, connected leaders and systems to support resilient communities, community-specific and region-wide action in Oregon and SW Washington, strong, respectful relationships, shared knowledge and understanding of the supports and barriers to healthy childhood outcomes.	
Funding Structure:	
RFP is for one year, there will be 10 collaborates, annual support ranges from \$50,000-\$150,000 per Collaborative, and total investment per collaborative will be \$250,000-\$750,000.	
Eligibility and Review Structure:	
Leadership, outcomes for better childhoods, building power, regional perspective, partnerships, equity, and momentum.	
Partner Lists and Letters of Support will be discussed later in this meeting.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	ELM: Parent Partnership Program
Parent Partnership Overview:	
Contracts with Culturally-Specific Community Organizations	

4 Culturally-Specific Organizations (CSO): Latino, Asian-Pacific Islander, African Immigrant and Slavic.
Parent Leadership Team (PLT) Meetings
Planning Team
Parent Accountability Council (PAC)
Education for Parent Leadership
Community Meetings
CSOs are contracted to: provide staff to support work with parents, provide feedback and advice to Hub, identify 2 parents and alternate from PLTs, encourage attendance, reduce barriers to parents, build leadership skills.
PLT: purpose is to broaden the parent voice from each CSO, 5+ parents, 2 parents attend Parent Accountability meetings, quarterly meetings, topics developed at Planning Team Meetings.
Planning Team: staffed by CSO, plan for the PAC, prepare for quarterly PLT meetings.
PAC: part of Early Learning Multnomah's (ELM) governing structure, 2 parent representatives from each CSO, monthly meetings, facilitator, their work is to develop <i>Guiding Principles</i> , this is an expensive parent engagement model.
ELM hires a facilitator for "Popular Education" during PAC meetings. Pays the facilitator to run the meeting and teach using the concepts of adult education. The PLT develops a curriculum, and the facilitator teaches that information to the parents.
Community Meetings: Attended by other parent-based groups who play an advisory role for the ELM and are valuable sources of parent voice. Contractors are responsible to get parents and staff person at the community meetings (in collaboration with ELM), report feedback to PAC and ELM.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Things we need to adjust with ELM's model
	<u>Things We Like About the ELM Model:</u> the focus on leadership and capacity building for parents.
	<u>Things to Change About the ELM Model:</u> that the county organization meets monthly and regional organization meets quarterly.
	Change to video conferencing for meetings to include all counties and support all agencies to have technological capacity to participate
	Remove the word "lessons" and change it to "training".
	Make sure that we are giving the parents the information that they need.
	Could the EL Staff work out a way to go out to meet with the parent groups and speak to them directly about what they need?
	We think that we can add agenda topics specific to HUB needs to already established, and on-going parent engagement meetings that occur within each of our programs.
	Tap into current meetings rather than adding Parent Leadership Team Meetings. Instead fund new meetings that are needed.
	There are already a lot of infrastructures already in place, and it seems kind of crazy that we are asking programs/organizations to come to us and work with us, instead of us going to them and asking what we can do to help.
	This is a proposed model, but it could be altered to reflect what the parents and organizations in this group want it to be.
	It's going to be difficult to get parents to come to another meeting—no matter how good your pizza is—and we have to find a good enough "hook" to get them to come.
	Maybe we could create a "menu" of potential trainings and offer them to the CSOs.
	Do we have multiple organizations that are interested in the same types of things?
	Ask organizations what trainings they need? Start with organizations and then go to parents. Bring organizations together not parents.
	The "ruralness" of some of our counties make this model tricky to implement.

Most of our families are focused on the immediacy of their needs and not on advocacy.
Parent engagement is a struggle for all agencies.
Families with young children are driven by their immediate needs, and as professionals, we offer them something that most of them aren't quite ready for yet.
Parents don't want to travel to meetings.
Parents in crisis live day-to-day; the desire and ability to give back takes time and growth. Most families in early childhood are not in the giving back stage.
Problem with sustainability: parents move on as their children age out of early childhood.
What did we learn from the Parent Focus Groups that will help us direct this grant funding stream?
Most of our parents were delighted to be asked what it is that they want, and most have never had that experience before.
Maybe the first year together should be developing capacity for the local agencies to do better parent-building work and their capacity to organize? Can we make that part of our grant?
Maybe bringing in the "Collective Impact" training for all of the local agencies, so they are all on the same page?
What will the agencies get from working with the Hub? Funding, primarily
Do we fit with what NW Health Foundation wants? If this grant isn't a good fit for our community, should we pursue it?
What will work for our partners? The ELM model is "apples to oranges" for us.
Multnomah County is just too different from our three counties, and I feel that we need to rethink their model and do what will work for our counties.
Should we be targeting parents of 6-8 year olds and get them to tell us what they wish they had known while their kids were younger? 0-6 year old parents don't know what they don't know yet.
Pay for facilitators at schools to meet/engage the parents of high needs families as their children enter kindergarten.
In Lincoln County, we should really take a look at our Native American population and how we can strengthen partnerships to build power to improve child outcomes. The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians also span across the three county region, and they are interested in pursuing this opportunity as well. This RFP process could really strengthen grassroots efforts that are already going, and reinforcing priority of what's important to the community.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Input on RFP Questions Placed on Wall Charts Around the Room and Received From Remote Viewers
<i>How would Year One of HB+HC Collaborate improve your capacity to build power for better childhoods?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create capacity • Build momentum • Give power/voice to grassroots organizations • Identify groups? Find more pockets of "active" parents • A lot of foundational work needs to be conducted and established before we can move to the implementation of a specific model. Early Learning Multnomah invested in comprehensive leadership training with parents before they developed their model.
<i>What are the strengths and challenges you anticipate this period?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Engaging rural families ○ High turnover of families – lack of consistency ○ Agency apathy ○ Agency level on Hart's Ladder ○ Creating safe places for contribution ○ Keeping parents involved, long-term ○ Need to answer "What's in it for me? in a real way for a parent to engage and see benefit for continuing that journey ○ Engaging parents, using parent input effectively to guide the RFP process—honoring their voice,

identifying what parent engagement initiatives that are already going on, identifying culturally-specific organizations that have capacity to be engaged in the work, capacity of community partners in this work, not a clear goal.

- Strength:
 - Hub's commitment to voice
 - Using parent voice in an authentic way to guide the HUB process, representation from various community organizations across the three county region.

How will your Collaborative's participation in the Communities Collaborate cohort help you improve outcomes in childhood?

- Learning
- Cross pollination
- Find culturally-specific organizations
- Define parent voice, increase ability of agencies to value voice, engage it and build it
- Our focus has been with older children, but it is a service that provided to adult leaders in Latino families of Benton County. This could expand culturally-appropriate service area.
- We aren't sure what the specific outcome is that we are trying to improve. Once this can be identified, then we will know how the collaborative's participation will look. This goes back to looking at the parent's voice/feedback in the planning grant and what key themes were identified.

What would be your Collaborative's unique contribution to a cohort of HB+HC Collaboratives building power for better childhoods?

- Focus on 0 – 6
- Connection with and integration with Early Learning Hubs
- Rural focus
- Broad/rural/multi-cultural small towns and midsize city
- We aren't sure what the specific outcome is that we are trying to improve. Once this can be identified, then we will know how the collaborative's participation will look. This goes back to looking at the parent's voice/feedback in the planning grant and what key themes were identified.

What are the types of support your Collaborative could gain from other Collaboratives or from NWHF?

- Trainings
- Development and guidance on agency collaboration and parent involvement in education to support school readiness
- Successful models in other rural areas
- Regional collaboration ideas

In what areas does your Collaborative want to grow, improve or expand upon to deepen its understanding of issues affecting childhood health regionally?

- Engaging more parents
- Finding pre-school parents and offering information/resources
- Recognizing different "cultural" groups
- Meet unique needs of regional parent groups
- Preparing parents for K-12 by empowering and educating them before kids enter the K-12 system
- Data driven decisions
- Evidence based models
- Sustainability models
- Qualitative data gathering and analysis

What other agencies/organizations should we include?

- Any other organization that has successful model in parent engagement.

NEXT MEETING	TBD
MEETING ADJOURNED	2:26pm