

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties

Work Group Day Meeting

MEETING COMMENCED	12:00pm, January 13, 2016 Linn-Benton Community College, Albany
MEETING CALLED BY	Kristi May
WORK GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Jerri Wolfe, Norma O'Mara, Nina Petrovich, ?, Autumn Belloni, Debbie McPheeters, Lauren Sigman, Alicia McWilliams, JanElyse Witt, Rocio Munoz, Rhonda Shult, Kathy Pecchioni Graham, Cyrel Gable, Bettina Schempf, Sandy Chase, Ashley Folgate, Rebecca Austen, Jasper Smith, Cindy Golston, Lynnette Wynkoop, Alison Myers, Sonya Hart
VERSION	Final

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	New EL Hub Website (LeAnne Trask)
LeAnne gave a brief review of the new website and walked the group through each of the primary menu options.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Vroom
Kristi May gave a presentation of the Vroom program and what materials are available to parents in our region to help with "brain building":	
Phone apps, tip cards, "The Brain Story".	
Showed video about how Vroom is helping parents now.	
Passed around a sign-up sheet and asked partners to help us launch Vroom to parents in our region.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Strategic Plan / Work Plan / Linking it Together
This is the final version of the Strategic Plan, approved by the State.	
Some of our funding streams are tied directly to Hub indicators.	
Glossary of acronyms to help our partners be clear about the terms that are being used.	
This is the final version of the 1-Year Work Plan, also approved by the State.	
We held several Work Group Meetings with partners helping us to create a list of projects that we could accomplish, and then pare that list down to create a workable plan that we could submit to the State.	
Meetings will be held with various partners to discuss what metrics they can help us to meet, and what funding streams we can direct towards them.	
Some funding is available only to specific organizations. For example, the Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation funds are only going to the school districts in the three counties, and meetings were held with the superintendents and their representatives to work out an equitable distribution of those funds among the 12 districts.	
Some of the funding will require that we go to an RFA process because there are multiple organizations that can provide the services. There is a Procurement Policy that was created by our Fiscal Oversight	

Committee, and this will be the standard that we use to make our decisions. Please read through this policy so you know what our expectations will be.

The Hub is also working to hire an epidemiologist intern, in partnership with Benton County Health Department. He will work closely with the Data & Evaluation Committee to interpret data that can then be passed along to the Governing Board to help in their decision-making process.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Work Group Day Scheduling
	Work Group Day is becoming more of a reporting day, rather than a working-on-projects day. So we are considering making a change to the way that we are scheduling our meetings.
	We are considering a quarterly Work Group Day, with reporting on state issues, Hub issues, and reports from partners about projects that they are working on.
	Some partners are still in favor of the monthly Work Group Day, now that we have a clear Work Plan we could start getting some things done.
	Should we put things out to the partners again, to see how they feel about keeping this format or altering it?
	Maybe the Committee Chairs should look at the Work Plan and review what their group should be accomplishing, and let them see how many meetings might be necessary.
	Maybe people could come better prepared so that we get more done during our hour.
	Maybe we could have a working lunch period where updates are given, rather than take away from meeting time.
	Some agencies are having to draw back a little because they can't maintain the level of attendance that they were during the first year. Still want to be good partners, but just can't maintain the pace.
	There is a huge benefit to coming to the meetings, hearing what's going on, seeing other people, getting energized for the work.
	We are thinking that we will still have a quarterly Work Group Meeting, and we can create a yearly schedule for that. Each Work Group can then determine how much more time they need as a group. Morning meetings are the preference, 3 hour blocks, on Thursdays again.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Family Connections Project
	IHN-CCO gave us \$300,000 during our first year as a Hub. \$100,000 went to the branding project, \$200,000 will go to the FC Project.
	This project must also meet CCO metrics.
	Samaritan was having trouble getting people registered for classes, and was looking for a way to transfer that responsibility to another group. Samaritan approached Parenting Education and the Hub and asked about aligning prenatal education with parenting education in an aligned system. Well-baby checks, ASQs, etc. could all be done and used to cover CCO and Hub metrics.
	We applied for Health Transformation dollars from the Oregon Health Group, and they approved the request. We are now looking at working with all 5 of Samaritans hospitals and other organizations in the area that provide early childhood services.
	Several meetings were held as we tried to figure out what services the hospitals were currently offering—and each of them was doing things differently—and figuring out how to align those services.
	Out of the mapping process came a vision of having a portal that would come through the Parenting Success Network to get information about other services that are available. We are referring to this package of information as “the package”.
	We would be able to see what families need: Healthy Start, ESD, Home Visitation, Family Relief Nursery, etc. We would also be able to see what gaps we have in our system.
	We want to be able to find families who are “wait listed” and get them to other resources that they weren't aware of.
	We will also have a database that we will be purchasing to track these families, so that people don't fall through the cracks.

Our timeline is: our project has been approved, we will have a part-time project manager hired for 1 year to help us get set-up and moving along—someone with healthcare experience, and we are also hiring a part-time family care consultant who will be answering the phone and talking to families to figure out what they need. We still need to deal with HIPPA issues, and databases, but we hope to have our people hired in February. We are hoping to “soft-roll” the project out in the fall.
In the meantime, we need early education agencies in this area to help us create “the package”: a virtual resource center.
Your data would be secure in this system. Child Welfare wouldn’t get your information if you also applied for WIC, for example.
It’s going to be particularly important for agencies who serve infants to make sure that they are part of this process.
We are also in the process of writing a grant to OPEC for parenting education classes in rural areas in league with the CCO.
We want our Hub partners to participate in order to complete Hub metrics, as this process goes along.
We have \$200,000 to get this system built, and then another \$100,000 to maintain it. The CCO has asked us to build into this new system a sustainability function, and if we help the CCO to meet their metrics, they get more money, which they will share with us.
We also want to make sure that the pediatricians and the OBs are onboard because otherwise we can’t keep this project going. And Samaritan aren’t the only providers in the area, and we will need to work to include them as well.
One partner wanted to make sure that we include information in culturally appropriate language and materials for our Hispanic neighbors.
We are also hoping to collect data along the way so that when grant writing opportunities arise, we will have valid data to support our projects.
We do relational work, and it’s nice to see that there is a bridge available for us to use.
There is currently a planning committee, but later there will be a steering committee to help move the process forward. We need to get our project manager hired as soon as possible.
The Health Care Alignment Work Group will have a big part in this process.
There are also two housing initiatives going on, one in Linn County and one in Lincoln County, and the Hub is involved, but we have not determined how this is going to align with our “package”.

NEXT MEETING	TBD
MEETING ADJOURNED	2:39pm