

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

Work Group Day Meeting Minutes

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| MEETING COMMENCED | 9:00am, July 14, 2016 Old Mill Center for Children and Families, Corvallis |
| MEETING CALLED BY | Kristi May |
| WORK GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT | Rich Waller, Carol Dinges, Autumn Belloni, Debbie McPheeters, Bettina Schempf, Barb Dougherty, Peik-Kuan Lim, Medora Tuck Stevens, Iris Higgins, Cindy Bond, Sandy Chase, Anna Menon, Renee Smith, Mirium Ulm, Shirley Blake, Kris Wessel, LeAnne Trask, Lynn Hall, Lauren Sigman (remotely) |
| VERSION | Final |

Agenda topics

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| DISCUSSION ITEM | Introductions |
| Went around and introduced everyone participating. | |

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| DISCUSSION ITEM | Vroom Update |
| We are six months into our 1 year Vroom grant, and the State is very pleased with our progress. They have asked us to continue on as a Vroom Hub, for which we will receive a small stipend. | |
| The state has also agreed that any agency that wants to continue getting Vroom supplies after our grant ends will be able to purchase additional supplies at the state negotiated rate. | |
| Is there a particular Vroom material that you feel is most effective for your people? The overwhelming answer was the tip cards, so we will begin stockpiling them so that we have them on hand for as long as possible. | |
| We do have additional posters here today, so feel free to take some home with you. | |
| Please continue to pass your anecdotal stories along to us – we need them for reporting. | |
| DHS is making a big push with Vroom to their clients, and the state is working with other major state agencies. | |

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| DISCUSSION ITEM | Kindergarten Partnership & Innovation Funding Update |
| Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation funding that went to the 12 school districts in our region. Each district got a flat amount of funding, and then allocated the rest based on the weighted ADM (average daily membership) of each school, so every district got a substantial amount of money. | |
| Each district seems to be very pleased with their share of the funding and has presented a project narrative that their district will be working on. | |
| Lincoln County is expanding their LIFT program and increasing their summer programs for transition into kindergarten. | |
| Santiam Canyon School District is working on holding a preschool by-mail since so many of their families are remotely located. They will mail materials to interested families who will then work with their families, and they will also be holding events at the local schools routinely so that families can come in for those. | |
| There is a hand-out today that lists all of the projects that are currently being worked on by the districts. | |
| Sweet Home is partnering with Boys and Girls Club for a preschool program, "Pumpkin Seeds". | |

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| Lebanon is also partnering with Boys and Girls Club for the Pumpkin Seeds program at one of their elementary schools. |
| Corvallis is also doing summer programming and some professional development. |
| Albany is opening a Child Development Center at Waverly Elementary School, and this center will be free to any child coming into that school. |
| Harrisburg will be using their funding for professional development between kindergarten teachers and preschools and child care providers. They will also be purchasing some curriculum that both groups will use so that the kids will have some cohesion. |
| Philomath is doing a summer transition program and planning to partner with Strengthening Rural Families to develop a preschool in Blodgett. |
| Scio will also using their funding for professional development. |
| Central Linn and Monroe have not submitted their plans yet. These are “use it or lose it” funds and they must be used by 6/30/2017, so we want them used asap. |
| There is a P-3 Conference in Seattle in November, and we are looking for a cohort of up to eight people to attend from the KPI group. |

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| DISCUSSION ITEM | Early Childhood Coordinating Council Work Group Update (ECCC) (Debbie McPheeters and Renee Smith) |
| Held a meeting in May and realized that their charter was obsolete and their tri-chairs were past their terms. | |
| Looking for ways to determine who has “wait lists” and what can we do to help those children while they are on the wait list. | |
| Talked a lot how to engage families that aren’t currently engaged. | |
| Talked about a central resource manager that could help people engage, provide warm hand-offs, and get information out to partners about available services. | |
| Introduced Barb Dougherty as our Lincoln County Tri-Chair. | |
| How do we recruit more child care providers to attend our meetings so that we can know what they need? | |
| They will be holding a meeting from 1-3:00pm following this meeting today. | |

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| DISCUSSION ITEM | Health Care Integration Work Group Update (HCI) (Bettina Schempf) |
| Held a meeting in May and had Kris Wessel come and talk about the Family Connections Project and what is happening. | |
| Also talked about the ASQ training that went on in Lincoln County and how well it was received. There is a follow-up process built in this training, so we have more to learn about this training. | |
| We discussed closed loop referrals, and discussed “theoretically” how it can be avoided across all systems. | |
| We have a meeting scheduled for August 2 where we will be discussing what will be next: ASQ hand-offs to providers, funding for additional QRIS trainings, pursue incentives for ASQs to be reviewed, or start working on the metric for well-child visits? | |
| Want more input about how other groups are working through these problems. | |
| Recently attended a meeting with OSU regarding international families and the help that they need and resources that they have been using. Are Hub funds the most appropriate use of state funds given that many of the families will be leaving the country and not entering our schools and effecting our numbers? We’d like to help, but our resources are stretched thin. | |

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| DISCUSSION ITEM | Data and Evaluation Work Group Update (D&E) (Rich Waller) |
| Held a meeting in June and reminded the group of why they exist: to inform the Hub of data that will help them to make decisions to reach their metrics. | |

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| Spent time talking about the third grade scores and how they relate to the kindergarten assessment scores, and the difficulties of using that data. |
| Anna will be working on formatting our data: data for public, which audience it fits for. Also mapping out our hotspots and overlaying it with child provider data. Also looking at families served by DHS and receiving additional resources. |
| The state is looking at changing some of our metrics (again) and some of the metrics are simply not working (unmeasurable). |
| Family Tree Relief Nursery reported that they use the D&Es data for grant reporting, Governing Board reports, and share that data with other groups. |
| We want our Hub partners to go from “data” to “data-informed” in their decision making. |
| Meetings will be held on second Monday of each month from 9:30-11:30, and we will rotate counties. |

| DISCUSSION ITEM | Family Connections Project Update (Kris Wessel) |
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| | The FC Project will be named in the next few weeks. There are many things happening simultaneously: naming, branding, website, database, data collection, collaboration among agencies and partners. The pace of the project is moving along at a good rate, but we’re being very careful not to duplicate systems and cause our partners more work and angst. |
| | Having lots of conversions with lots of people to move the information forward, and make sure that we have good strong relationships. We want sustainability and continued input. |
| | The project originated because the Maternity Health Care Coordinators at Good Sam were getting frustrated about the amount of family screenings and training that they were having to do to get families into the system. They decided to move the piece for getting parents signed up for prenatal classes off their plates and fit nicely into the work of the Hub in getting families set for prenatal classes and then on to parenting classes, and beyond. |
| | We will conducting a “pilot” with two committed health partners in the next few weeks, and hopefully after we work out some bugs, we will add more partners. |
| | We’re still assessing the needs of our partners. |
| | We’ll begin with the health care partners, and then move on to the early learning partners, and then begin connecting them to resources and agencies. |
| | We’ll be starting with the Maternity Health Care Coordinators, and handing off to the Health Care Navigators, and this will be our first test of systems. |
| | The state has a new policy that CCR&Rs will no longer provider resource and referrals, and that 211 will take over—except in our region. We are working to bring a 211 Community Engagement Coordinator to work with our Family Connections staff at Linn-Benton Community College, and they will learn the system and see how the Family Connections Project will effect change. 211 and the FC Project will work together to make sure all family needs are met in our region and we will support 211 in building their inventory of local resources. |

| DISCUSSION ITEM | Hub Updates |
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| | RFA Process: |
| | You can review the hand-out for a list of agencies that have received RFA funding in the last month. |
| | Our Governing Board does not want to use RFAs again. They want to make data-driven decisions instead. |
| | Annual Work Plan: |
| | The state has a new funding cycle, so our new Work Plan will need to be completed three months early. |
| | Gives us a chance to review what we’re working on. Any partners that have projects in any of these metric areas that are making an impact, please let us know so that we can include it in the new Work Plan, due on August 30, 2016. |
| | State Site Visit: |

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| Informal visit for us to review how we are doing on our metrics. They will have a formal “Monitoring Visit” for us in February 2017. |
| Lots of compliments from the state. Referred to us as a “high functioning Hub”. |
| “The Raising of America” Viewing: |
| August 2 at the Pix in Albany, from 11:00-1:00pm. Lunch will be served, and Senator Sara Gelser will be introducing the topic. Everyone is welcome, but we really need you to RSVP! |

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| DISCUSSION ITEM | Partner Sharing |
| LBL-ESD is really struggling with the sheer number of referrals and kids that need help. Got a little additional money from the state and turned it into more staffing for the 0-3 year-old staff. | |
| ERDC is struggling with the number of kids that are being wait listed for their program. There are 3,000 people on the wait list, and it is a first come, first serve basis. Keep referring people because there are some “fast track” programs that let you advance up the wait list. | |
| DHS is also making some changes: more time to allow people to transition from TANF to a real job – which is what we want. Also, some case management services are available during that time period too. Also, DHS has a new SSP Coordinator in Lincoln County, so she may not be aware of the family stability agencies in the area. It would be good for Lincoln County agencies to become familiar with her. | |
| Family Tree applied with the Community Services Consortium to help people to match up with a mentor to find employment. Home visiting and family support would also be given. They were given funding for this and are looking forward to using this to help their families. Also, FTRN has some openings, so this is a good time to refer families for services. And finally, having a Strawberry Cake Festival this next week and are looking for volunteers to assist so that they will win funding from Oregon Freeze Dried. | |

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| NEXT MEETING | Thursday, November 10, 2016, 9-12:00pm |
| Next meeting will be held at the LBL-ESD, Albany. | |
| MEETING ADJOURNED | 11:36am |