

# Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

## Early Childhood Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

<b>MEETING COMMENCED</b>	9:00am, March 10, 2016 Clemens Primary School, Philomath
<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	Kristi May
<b>WORK GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	Renee Smith, Barb Dougherty, Jerri Wolfe, Cindy Bond, Cyrel Gable, Debbie McPheeters, Jaime Williams
<b>VERSION</b>	Final

### Agenda topics

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Introduction
Welcome to new members, and returning members.	
We are meeting today to try to review the metrics and indicators and work plan that our Work Group should be working on, and allow us to recommit to our work. Also, want to make sure that the work of this group is in alignment with what our members think it is.	
We also need to create a meeting schedule for the coming year.	
We also want to encourage everyone to use the website to review for upcoming meetings, and to sign-up for meeting notifications.	

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Update to Vroom	
Held an orientation in Lincoln County and in Linn County, simultaneously. Many partners couldn't attend, and we are trying to set-up a second orientation to care for those agencies. (Afternoons are better!)		
Would like to see more child care providers involved in this roll-out.		
We wanted to have a main person from each agency involved, so they could go back and train the other members of their agency.		
We also have to report to the state on how the materials were distributed, and how their funds were used. For our partners to get more materials, they have to report to us how they distributed the materials, so we can then report to the state.		
We are also not listed as a "referred by" Hub on the Vroom site. The state has been trying to get Vroom to get that updated, but so far it hasn't happened, and it isn't a detriment to us—just frustrating.		
We also have a professional relationship with Safeway, and they will be posting Vroom materials in their stores. We might be able work with Fred Meyer and Costco.		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Send Vroom reporting document to Debbie McPheeters, Renee Smith, and Cindy Bond	LeAnne Trask	ASAP

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	QRIS Metrics & Funding
We have some unallocated resources available through the Hub, and we are looking at ways to invest in local partners to support the process. We have funds that are available now, but won't be available next contract period. One time lift is all we have.	

<p>We are considering investing some of these funds in our partners who are not advancing in their QRIS rating. What are their barriers? Why aren't they working towards their rating? Do they need stipends to support staff? Do they need professional development and don't have the funds?</p>		
<p>There should be a way to use "staff experience" as a qualifier, instead of following the state's "one method" approach. Lots of providers and centers can't find people with AAs or BSs. Head Start has moved to only hiring teachers with BS degrees.</p>		
<p>QRIS is on the back-burner for a lot of centers: they don't have time, they don't see the benefit, or they don't have the capacity. The CCR&amp;R has detailed information regarding where they are in the process.</p>		
<p>The Race to the Top funds end in December, and the state is telling the CCR&amp;R to continue the work but without the funding. Maybe the Hub could help with that? Some of the Hub funds for this purpose are somewhat restrictive around provider level work versus child level services.</p>		
<p>We also see that some providers are sitting back and waiting to see if the QRIS program will last. They have seen lots of programs from the state come and go, and they are reluctant to get involved if this program is going to go away too.</p>		
<p>Some of these centers need a mentor to help move them along. There is a lot of documentation to submit to the state as part of the QRIS program, and a lot of these people just need someone to help them through the process. They also need a stipend to pay for additional help.</p>		
<p>We just want people to at least have a 3-star rating—just get on the board!</p>		
<p>The Community College in Newport has no early development classes. Maybe the Hub could encourage the CC to bring in some additional early learning classes.</p>		
<p>A lot of these Hub funded programs use the language DHS "Hot Spots" and require that the funding be used only in those areas. Unfortunately some of the state mapping only shows that "Hot Spots" as being in metropolitan areas, and not in rural areas.</p>		
<p>The state is also requiring "The Tool" be completed by the Hub and its agencies by the end of June 2016. The Relief Nurseries are also contracted with the same requirement. Kristi invited the Relief Nurseries to come to a webinar that the state is sponsoring on The Tool.</p>		
<p>The CCR&amp;R is a way to contract with a Hub agency to then turn around and work with the providers and centers to give them individual attention and create a plan toward star rating.</p>		
<p>What's in it for the provider to get star rated? You get money, several different levels of money, plus staff members get money directly to them. Incentives for the business and the individual staff members.</p>		
<p>The other thing is that it is important to have policies in place (best practices).</p>		
<p>We are also going to be challenged in recruiting (and keeping!) bilingual/bicultural personnel.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Contact the Relief Nurseries and invite them to come for the state webinar regarding The Tool.	Kristi May	ASAP
We would like to recommend to the Governing Board that some of the unallocated funding be used to create an additional Focused Child Care Network, and stipends to centers who are working towards star rating.	Kristi May	Bef. April
Would like to see a list of who has their paperwork in to WOU, at each month's meeting	Jerri Wolfe	Next Meeting

DISCUSSION ITEM	Metrics
<p>Jerri Wolfe gave a brief overview of the Family Connections Project, and ideally this project will funnel people out to the other agencies within the Hub, where services will be available. Also want to increase well-baby checks and ASQ screenings.</p>	
<p>The ASQ piece is messy right now: duplication (multiple times) or no screenings at all, and no way universal reporting system so that the ASQs that are being done and being reported to someone.</p>	
<p>Also the message is being sent out by the PSN that parenting education is for everyone, and the moving from prenatal classes to early childhood classes is a perfect connection.</p>	

2-2.A Will our Committee be working with the Hub to increase the number of children that are served? How are we going to do that?

“Pay for Prevention” from OHSU looked at 10 years of DHS data to predict a child’s probability of ending up in foster care. Renee will send a link to the data to Kristi. Very important information.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
2-2.A – put on the May agenda as a subject that this committee will discuss, particularly areas that have wait lists, and the fact that these services aren’t available on the coast at all. Map out where services are available in each county.	Kristi/Renee/Debbie	May Mtg.

<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	Thursday, May 12, 2016
Set-up in Linn County	
Invite some of your agency friends because we need more input!	
<b>MEETING ADJOURNED</b>	11:02am