

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties Parent Engagement Committee

MEETING COMMENCED	10:30am, June 9, 2016 Old Mill Center for Children and Families, Corvallis
MEETING CALLED BY	Kristi May
WORK GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Audra Baca, Shirley Blake, Jerri Wolfe, Jasper Smith, Cindy Bond, Cyrel Gable, Laura Lundeen, Tina Dodge-Vera
VERSION	Final

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	Welcome and Introductions
	New Parent Engagement Coordinator (shared with Old Mill Center), Shirley Blake.
	Worked for Strengthening Rural Families for a couple of years as a Community Coordinator, working in Alsea, Monroe and Philomath, with some work in Lincoln County.
	Grew up in Monroe and went to Oregon State. Married a Philomath boy, and moved to Philomath, and has a 4-year old son.
	Looking forward to working with the Hub and Old Mill.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Vision for the Shared Parent Engagement Coordinator Position
	Old Mill Center's Vision -
	This is Old Mill's 40 th year, and we believe that parents are a child's first teachers and they know best. If we work with parents, we get the best outcomes.
	We want to take our engagement with parents to the next level, and we're hoping Shirley will help us to get there.
	We want to create an organization where parents can serve: on the Board of Directors, on committees, etc.
	We want to remain culturally sensitive and recognize that we don't know it all.
	Early Learning Hub's Vision -
	The Hub's vision is similar: we don't know what we don't know. We want to work with Old Mill and with Shirley to accomplish the Hub metrics that the State has assigned to us.
	We have held a number of parent engagement meetings in different communities, and it gave us a picture of what their communities are like and what resources they are currently taking advantage of.
	We want to include the parent voice in our decision-making.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Review of Community Partner List
	In Lincoln County:
	There is no Relief Nursery, but there is a Relief Nursery effort going on at this time.
	Julia Young-Lorion is leaving Lincoln County Material Child Care, and we don't know who the next person is.

Signe Miller's name is misspelled.
Tribal McVee, Jessica Phillips.
In Benton County:
King's Valley Charter School is Philomath School District.
Yasmin Brambila is the new director at Casa Latinos in Benton County.
Benton County Health Navigators / Creciendo en Salud (should be combined), and it should be Rocio Munoz.
Casa Latinos Unidos should be: Jazmin Brambila
St. Mary's Catholic Church (Corvallis) contact is Ina Hecker
Ina Hecker is the contact at St. Mary's Church.
Milestones should be added, with Tanya Pritt.
La Leche League, Esther Schiedle.
In Linn County:
St. Mary's has a volunteer coordinator, and Tina Dodge-Vera is sending the new information.
HART Family Resources is Edie Moro, not Renee Smith.
Centro de Bienvenida (The Welcome Center) is Yasmin David, not Viviana Gonzalez.
Add Boys and Girls Club to list, for Albany and Lebanon.
Family Tree Relief Nursery should be Renee Smith.
We have nothing for Linn County Health Department.
CHANCE, with Jeff Blackford for Alcohol and Drug.
Oxford House should be added.
The child care centers in Sweet Home should be added.
Pregnancy Alternative Center in Lebanon, Julie Johnson.
La Leche League
Linn County Health – Home Visitors, Norma O'Mara – Cocoon and Baby's First programs
Linn-Benton Community College Parenting Education – Parent Advisory Committee
Next Steps:
Once the partner list is updated and current, what's the next step for Shirley?
Kidco has a Parent Advisory Committee that we want Shirley to become familiar with them.
Visit Family Building Blocks in Salem to see how their parent mentoring program is run, and they have a parent leadership program that is successful.
We want to figure out where the gaps in service area, and the Hub wants to fill those gaps.
We need the parent voice to help us steer the Hub.
We want different levels of opportunities for parents to decide how they want to participate.
Where are parents already coming together?
What other groups already have parents coming together that we can get information from them?
Maybe we need to send out a survey to our partners to see who has parent groups regularly meeting?
Where are the opportunities for parents to be involved?

When parents attend parenting classes, some of them want to continue and attend other classes, but we run out of classes to put them into and we lose them.
0-3 sent out information a few days ago about a survey they sent out to over 2000 parents asking what they want. (Share with people at the table.)
OPEC also has done parent surveys and has data available from that.
We have some “connected families”, but what about the “unconnected families” and where are they hanging out?
After babies are born, where do they go? How do we keep them connected? The Family Connections Project will help with that and will impact a lot of our metrics. We need parents to help inform this project.
Are we doing this to serve parents, or are these parents serving us by giving us information only?
How do we find out who needs to know what's going on?
Because State funds flow through the Hub, we need to meet the needs of parents in our communities with those funds. The parent feedback will inform our funding decisions.
Maybe we could have Shirley call some of these organizations and find out what they do with their parents?
Some organizations have given up on having parents being involved because it's hard to get and keep parents engaged.
Head Start has a national initiative regarding parent engagement with lots of links to research on this subject.
Parent engagement is going to look different, depending on where you live. What works in Multnomah County doesn't work in Harney County.
What questions do we want to know the answers to?
How do you train your employees to engage families?
Are you engaging families in any way? Parent Committees?
When do you give parents surveys? (We could sneak some of our questions onto already established surveys that the agency might be distributing, i.e. Head Start.)
How familiar are you with the Hub? Would you like more information?
How do you reach hard-to-reach families? (What can we learn from their strategies?)
Let's put a framework of questions on Basecamp and then let people fine tune them and add some additional ideas for approaching these other agencies.
Families can be found at markets, restaurants, libraries, trailer parks, laundromats, etc.
We need to make sure that flyers and marketing are all casual and full of “whimsy” to entice families to come.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Next Meeting
We need to give Shirley some time to get these initial steps accomplished.	
Some organizations are out on furlough for the summer, so we may need to wait to get in contact.	
Shirley will be responsible for getting this committee back together, when she feels that she is ready for us to proceed and needs our input.	
Could we also get some kind of training on how to engage families? Maybe the ECCC Work Group might be a better place for that to happen. It's a good idea, but not in the purview of this Committee.	
The ECCC will be meeting on July 14, so it could be discussed with them then.	

NEXT MEETING	At Shirley's discretion
MEETING ADJOURNED	12:00pm

