

# Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

## Early Childhood Coordinating Council Work Group

### Meeting Minutes

<b>MEETING COMMENCED</b>	1:00pm, July 14, 2016 Old Mill Center for Children and Families, Corvallis
<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	Kristi May
<b>WORK GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	Eric Pommier, Stephany Koehne, Autumn Belloni, Debbie McPheeters, Barb Dougherty, Medora Tuck Stevens, Cindy Bond, Renee Smith, Anna Menon, Shirley Blake, Lynn Hall, LeAnne Trask, Bonnie Vander Stelt
<b>VERSION</b>	Draft
<b>RECORDED?</b>	No

### Agenda topics

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Introductions (Renee Smith)
Barb Dougherty is our proposed new Tri-Chair from Lincoln County.	
Vote by members of the Committee: unanimously in favor.	

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Wait Lists
<p>Old Mill has a wait list and involves families that already have children in service, and then involve the rest of the family in services. Time of year effects how long people are wait listed. Might have someone waiting for a toddler classroom, but ends up getting into an early Head Start classroom instead. It's a juggling act. Still receiving home visits, support groups, respite, etc. while they are wait listed. Outreach capacity is about 75 families at one time. (Hiring a new person.) 19 families in their therapy classrooms. Also receive referrals from OSU-Bates for families that need additional services. In order to be wait listed, they are already qualified. Outreach services do not have a wait list at this time.</p>	
<p>Healthy Families (at Old Mill) has a "no wait list" policy, but it's kind of messy. When people come in, we have a 90-day window to start services from date of baby's birth. Now our services have expanded to include prenatal care. Eligibility factors include teen parents, drug and alcohol, OHP, etc. We prioritize people based on their risk factors which moves them to the top of the list for services. We take into account if they are referred by a partner, such as Good Sam, the police, etc. Our capacity is 96 families (85 is our published capacity). We offer intensive, weekly home visiting services. If no case worker opens up and the family are beyond the four month "cut-off" period, we are not allowed to offer them services. Normally families receive services from new born until three years old.</p>	
<p>Family Tree Relief Nursery: if we have openings in our home-based services, we qualify them over the phone to start receiving services such as: respite, clothes closet, food pantry, etc. Once they demonstrate that they are a good fit, we do a case conference to see if they are ready to move into a classroom program. We have a large capacity in our home-based program (80-95 families), plus some specialized prenatal classes. Sometimes we have a wait list for outreach services—mostly Spanish-speaking families because we don't have enough Spanish-speaking staff to help them all—but we try to serve 22 preschools and 16 toddlers in Albany, 8 preschools and 6 toddlers in Lebanon. Most of our clients are at or below the poverty line. We also try not to "double-serve" families because we don't have enough resources to do that. We have a lot of flexibility, and can assist agencies like Head Start that have rigid requirements – can work well together.</p>	

<p>LBL-ESD is not allowed to have a wait list, but the time between appointments for services gets longer and longer. Kids 0-3 get a full developmental screenings. We struggle with kids who don't qualify but clearly have big needs. All we can do is refer them to relief nursery or some other organization. That's where the gap is. If a kid is already in a community preschool setting, we leave them there and go to them with services because our classrooms are already full.</p>	
<p>Mari's Place has a wait list and we give priority to families that are living in shelter on-site. We offer programs and want families to begin getting resources, like respite. Our second priority enrollment is a referral from DHS, especially if they are being reconnected with a child that was taken from them. We also have a separate wait list for community families, who can pay for services (sliding fee scale). Those families generally have a child that needs services but hasn't been diagnosed yet. We can help 10 families at a time, and we usually have "quite" a wait list. We have lots of preschoolers—our room is packed!</p>	
<p>Samaritan Learning has a 91 child capacity: 10 in infant, 10 in 2, 20 in 3, 20 in 4, and 30 if they are attending school. 64 kids a day is about average. 15 people on the infant waiting list. You need to sign-up for the wait list the minute you find out that you are pregnant or you probably won't get in. Often can't have a classroom at capacity because of the behavior of some of the children. Have to balance the number of kids that are in ERDC, and we scholarship about \$30,000/year. Work with Head Start, which is only half-days still.</p>	
<p>Head Start is a Linn-Benton Head Start. Unlike them, we are federally mandated to have a wait list large enough to fill anticipated vacancies. Have to calculate your attrition. Total enrollment is 437 children (as of the first day of school): 337 Head Start, and 52 Early Head Start slots. Last year we had 146 on their pre-k wait list, and 8 had declined a slot that was available. An application is only good for 1 year, so have to reapply each year to be on the wait list. Takes about 14 days from the time they submit an application to the time we close their application, either accepting or declining them. We hold "round-ups" each week for seven weeks. Must be at 100% of poverty guidelines, or homeless, or TANF, or SSI, or in foster care: categorically eligible. If they are disabled, they are categorically eligible (we are required to serve 10% disabled kids: 49 children). Can NOT go over 489 children or under 489 for more than 30 days. No family is on their waiting list who is not eligible. Kids in Early Head Start have precedence when moving into Head Start, if they are still eligible. Other factors: domestic violence, parental alcohol or drug, parental mental illness, partner referral, etc. Duration grants were made available (and Kidco has applied for it) by the fed this year to increase the length of school days to 6 hours, but not add more enrollment. Kidco also asked for a reduction in class size. Grant money will be awarded in December 2016. Lebanon and Albany make up almost 70% of our wait lists. We also have a Home Visiting Head Start program, and people are just not interested in it. According to the state of Oregon, a lot of rural Head Starts have closed because the families have moved to more metropolitan areas, like Portland. Not first come, first serve: based on need.</p>	
<p>Head Start in Lincoln County is not here today, but they spoke with Kristi May and told her that they don't have a wait list. They have a relationship with the LIFT program at Lincoln County School District and have been able to move their wait listed kids to LIFT and then take them back when they have an opening.</p>	
<p>Where the communities that have wait lists?</p>	
<p>Maybe we need to go to the Child Care Director's meetings and ask them to partner with us so that we can help with their wait lists.</p>	
<p><b>CONCLUSION</b></p>	
<p>Ask Jerri Wolfe how much of the Inclusive Child Care program is being used?</p>	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Next Steps
More info from the state regarding our metrics around waiting lists.	
Strategically invite child care providers and other agencies to attend these meetings.	
Would Kidco be interested in coming back after their get their enrollment together, and discuss what we could do to collaborate and help things go better for them? Yes.	
What about having a mobile Resource Fair with all of our Hub agencies?	
JumpStart Read for the Record is coming up again on October 27, and we will be sending out a MailChimp to everyone to invite them to participate.	

<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	September ?
Will set-up a day and publish it on Basecamp and the website.	
<b>MEETING ADJOURNED</b>	3:00pm