

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

Regional Hub Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	1:00pm, September 28, 2016 Western Title Building, Newport
MEETING CALLED BY	Tab Dansby
WORK GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Lindsay Hayward, Jen Richter, Kristi May, Emily Berndt, Sue Parrish, Lisa Harnish, Kate ?, Altaya Nolan
VERSION	Draft

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	Learning is Fun Together (LIFT) (Lauren Sigman)
Lauren is the supervisor of the LIFT program for the Lincoln County School District.	
The program was developed because there is so much homelessness in the county (163 preschool age children as of 2015/16) and it began as a playgroup. It initially met at a local homeless center and a local church provided food. (Began tracking in 2010 and found 23 preschool age children. Homelessness is tracking up in Lincoln County.)	
We created a video with the local high media media club that shows some of the activities happening at our LIFT classes.	
Program was developed to build social and emotional skills. We take them where they are when they start, and we work to get them up to the same level as their peers when they start school.	
We have a bilingual aide who has helped to get the message out into the community, and we have a huge turn-out of low-income and homeless children.	
We are working to build a relationship with our Hispanic relationship, and classes are taught in Spanish and English.	
Parents are also invited to come and help, and most improve their English while taking the class.	
We also have parents that have started with their kids in the program, and have gone on to become aides and facilitators in the program.	
The LIFT program model is very flexible; however, the same program doesn't work in all areas. We have had to adjust the program in Waldport (lots of grandparents re-parenting their grandchildren), in Lincoln City (parents got free preschool, but really needed child care instead and just wanted to drop off their kids), and Toledo (adjusted to 0-5 and made it more of a literacy playgroup).	
The program is tailored for each community with help from homeless advocates in the area. They work closely with families and are tapped into their needs.	
Also held a summer session for 6 weeks and provided transportation to participants.	
Including School Readiness support to 3-5 year olds not currently attending a preschool program, and includes a parent pull-out time (in Newport). Also offered support to parents to help them get their kids registered for Kindergarten. Also have homeless advocates available to help with housing, food, and transportation.	
Have used lots of blending and braiding of funds to make this possible, including: School District, Samaritan Grant, Great Start, and KPI funds.	
Including a pre- and post-literacy assessment to make sure that what they are doing is on-track with getting kids ready for school.	
Assessment results show that the LIFT students are outpacing all other groups in Kindergarten Assessment Data.	

Since its inception in 2011/2012, 414 Lincoln County children have been served.

CONCLUSIONS

Please post Lauren's presentation on the Hub website.

DISCUSSION ITEM 211 (Emily ?)

The 211 service is no longer just a "call in" service. We are now technically driven and can accommodate website queries, texts, and phone calls. We also have a new app that you can put on your phone for additional information. Over 9,000 people have downloaded the app since it was released.

Open from 7am until 11pm every single day, including the weekends.

211 deals with initial questions, but are now also trying to help with secondary needs. About 30% of those calls are also getting a secondary referral for something beyond what they initially called for, such as TANF, WIC, Headstart, preschools, food pantries, parenting classes, etc.

211 is also expanding their partnering services. Initially we were primarily parents with DHS and the CCOs, but now we are working on lots of additional partnerships.

Three of the Hubs in this room have given us funding and will have a 211 employee sitting at your facilities.

The "Help me Grow" initiative is 211's latest push, and they are working closely with pediatricians and child care providers to help parents get developmental screenings.

The 211 personnel that are imbedded with the Hubs are going to be giving local presentations about what 211 can do, and working to increase the knowledge base for their database (resource navigation).

We have used VistaLogic to create our database and they have been very responsive to the 211 need. Data is robust (90% updated compared to 70% two years ago).

211 nationally is a disaster resource. Quick to ramp up, quick to ramp down. Not emergency management, but emergency communications.

211 is very strong in other states, and we are working to make this investment pay-off.

The LBL EL Hub has added language to their contracts requiring partners to register with 211.

Is there a way to track how many people use the information that they get from 211 to actually get the services that they need? On some parts of 211, but not the entire service. 211 is also regulating how many referrals they give to people. If they give people too many, they get overwhelmed and don't call any.

211 calls all child care providers each month to find out how many openings they have. HUGE job, but every important to have that accurate information.

211 is working to be just as accurate as they can be. They are trying to have the same services offered in every county.

There is a meeting on October 6 of child care providers, and are trying to figure out how the coordinated database will work for them. Hoping it will help them to see the benefits of utilizing 211.

DISCUSSION ITEM Structural Racism (Tab Dansby)

LBL – Don't have a date yet, but we have a Director of Racism and Equity at Linn-Benton Community College, Javier Cervantes, who has been doing these trainings as a private consultant. We have contacted him and are in discussions for him to provide the training to our staff and our CCR&R. We are also having some trouble with the requirement that "all staff" attend. For CCR&Rs who have LOTS of part-time instructors, that is a lot of money for them to pay these instructors to participate. Who is considered "all staff"? Could we record the training and have those who can't participate in person watch it later and submit their reflections?

Lane – Hoping to do it in January with Johnny Lake. Going to do a combined training with ELDs, relief nurseries, etc. Looking at 4 half-day sessions for under 50 people. Will follow up with people later. We polled our partners and everyone is contributing, except the relief nurseries (who have no money).

Marion – Hoping for mid-December, and holding an equity committee to help get things rolling. We are looking at The Oregon Center for Racial Equity for a trainer. We will be open to other partners attending, but we don't have details yet.

Coos Bay – Who is paying for these trainings? Our sense is that people are expecting the Hub to pay for it, but we don't know how many people are going to be involved. Elaine Rechter will be doing our training, and we will be partnering with our CCR&R, and want to have about 50 people max in attendance. We looked at other trainers, but cost was prohibitive. Going to hold the training at Coos Bay because we can use the college for free. Asking our Steering Committee to attend, but giving up a whole day is problematic for most people. Called a huge group of trainers, and most didn't return my call. Finally spoke with about 7 different trainers before settling on Elaine Richter.
Yamhill – We don't have dates yet, but we're aiming at mid-November. We're 4 hours with our full CCO as staff development time, and then 2 hours of consultancy with just the Hub staff before and after the staff development time. We're working with "Figure 8" because we got some free hours with them through the CCO. We love their approach and person-ability, and the fact that they are local. (We also looked at Ignatius Bow, but he's too far away.) We want people to be comfortable to say what they really feel, and by keeping it internal, we feel that we'll get more direct answers.
Are any Hubs having conversations with local tribes about race equity? Lane County released an RFP for groups to do race education within groups that are under-represented in our area, and we have an Equity Council for their Hub with some of these representatives.
Don't want to hold a training event if we're simply "checking the box" as a requirement of our contract. Hoping to be able to put something on that will provoke honest conversation.
The list of trainers we were given was very incomplete and spotty. The ELD is asking that we turn in a list to them of who we actually end of using so that we can have a list for other Hubs to work from.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Update on ELC Metrics Committee (Kristi May)
The ELD has kept 5% from each Hub's Coordination funds as an incentive to complete their metrics, and the funds have to be given out to the Hub's by 6/30/2017. (Coordination funds can be carried over.)	
The ELC's Metrics Committee is reviewing the incentive metrics that they want to grade the Hubs on, and has created composite metrics (6) to qualify for to get the incentive funds:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOUs or DOCs in place with all sectors. - Demonstrated partnerships with culturally specific organizations. - Demonstrated blending and braiding of Hub funds with another Hub partner. - Met target for developmental screenings. - Met target for QRIS standards. - Met target for well-child checks. 	
The ELD wants is this be introspective, rather than work that you are going to be doing down the road.	
It needs to be taken into account that you are asking Hubs to show work completed before their deadline of 6/30/2017. Hubs self-selected what metrics they were going to put more efforts into, without knowing which metrics had extra money attached to them.	
Some of the metrics are easily measured, but some are not feasible at this time, so should Hubs be penalized for that?	
In order to be fair, the state should have created a rubric that was reviewed and sent out to all of the Hubs BEFORE the budget period began, letting everyone know exactly what the standards and expectations were going to be. That didn't happen.	
The ELC held a meeting yesterday, and they were wrestling with this incentive fund situation. They felt that they do need to do something, but maybe they jumped the gun this year. Next year, let's develop a better system and hold the Hub's accountable to metrics that they have seen and understand.	
Lots of good Hub work is happening, but measuring the results has been problematic. Because money is tied to this, it needs to be equitable and fair. There is a lot of Hub time involved in writing up this information to submit for the funding, and a lot of time for the ELD to review the information submitted by the Hubs.	

NEXT MEETING	TBD
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The next ELD Learning Collaborative will be held at the end of January, possibly at the Lane Hub.

Next quarterly Regional Hub Meeting should be sometime in December, which is improbable. Will send out a Doodle poll to help set it?

**MEETING
ADJOURNED**

3:10pm