

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

Early Childhood Coordinating Council Work Group

Meeting Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	9:00am, September 29, 2016 LBL-ESD, Albany
MEETING CALLED BY	Kristi May
WORK GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Jerri Wolfe, Barb Dougherty, Renee Smith, Lynn Hall, Debbie McPheeters, Autumn Belloni, Aoife Magee, Kris Wessel, Paul Adant, Laura Lundeen, Peik-Kuan Lim, Sheri Branigan
VERSION	Final
RECORDED?	No

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	Introductions (Renee Smith)
Welcome to everyone, and we appreciate Debbie McPheeters helping to set-up today's agenda.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Wait Lists
We want to review where we are with wait lists. At our July meeting we had a thorough discussion of wait lists and how each of the organizations present handled them; however, what are our next steps for this?	
We tried to get Head Start here today so that we could talk to them, but they are at a conference and can't attend.	
Several organizations commented that the transition into Kindergarten was so much better this year! Lots less drama and data flowed out to the interested agencies much faster. Huge improvement, and kudos to Stephany and her team for all of their hard work.	
Lincoln County Head Start is having a hard time coming up with a wait list of kids, which they are federally required to do. Also, Lincoln County had to drop transportation from their services because of funding shortages. It's really causing headaches in other areas.	
Family Tree is working to move families off of their wait list and into the classroom. Have lots of people calling and asking for services, and are sending out their intake people to assess needs and figure out what we need to provide. The intake teams are really busy and are hoping to have everything set by mid-November. FTRN also offers other services, like food and a clothes closet, to be able to give families at least something until they can get into the program completely.	
Linn-Benton Community College Parenting Education got an email the other day requesting a list of low-cost preschools in the area. We don't exactly have a list like that, and we do have other services that we can connect people to if they can't afford preschool, such as Juntos, which is a free program.	
Kristi May also commented that she needs to go out to Sweet Home and meet the new Superintendent, to share how KPI funds are being allocated in Sweet Home.	
Is it beneficial to keep discussing wait lists?	
CONCLUSION	
We need to keep on top of this and work to make sure that everyone is reporting so that we can share families between agencies to meet their needs.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Quality Childcare, CCR&R and ICCP (Jerri Wolfe)
	The QRIS funding will be ending in December, and the state is moving to a QRIS 2.0 kind of system. They have been working all along trying to figure out what works and what we can improve upon.
	Lots of people are participating in QRIS—more than we thought would participate—and so the program will continue on.
	The state has also hired an advertising agency to get the word out about what QRIS is and why it is of value to the community. The ad agency made a presentation at a meeting that recently and it looks like they are leaning towards a new name, “Spark”. Not in place yet, but there will definitely be a new name.
	According to the hand-outs that Jerri provided, lots of low-income families are still putting their children into child care that isn’t registered (47%). The state gives low-income families (ERDC) credits to use when accessing child care, but if the local area doesn’t have any star-rated programs, the families simply don’t have access to them.
	We would like to do more research and find out what kind of care those 47% of children are getting: grandma’s house, a friend, etc.
	The QRIS program is a very time- and labor-intensive process, and could easily take an organization more than a year to complete.
	Linn-Benton Community College is working with one of the preschools that they operate in Philomath. We are preaching QRIS, so we felt that even though we are technically exempt, it was important that we at least try to align with QRIS standards. It has been a lot of work, and it has taken more than a year, but we are making progress and hope to be star-rated soon.
	We believe that part of the issue here is that a lot of these low-income families are working blue-collar jobs that often have odd schedules and off-shifts. Finding child care for people in these instances can be very challenging for the CCR&R.
	Some families are still going to want to use family for child care, no matter what we offer them, because that is of value to them. It’s not a universal solution for everybody.
	The CCR&Rs are also looking at new funding from the legislature in the coming year, and there is some trepidation about how that is going to go.
	Inclusive Child Care (ICCP) is a program that Family Connections manages, and it is designed to give child care providers extra funding and aides to help with special needs children. The nice thing here is that children don’t have to be diagnosed to be eligible, but the parents have to pass some eligibility steps, such as employment and income. When children are having behavioral issues, we send them LBL-ESD, who test them and don’t take them because it’s a behavioral issue, not a physical issue.
	This program is designed to focus on the child care providers, who in the past have simply expelled kids with behavioral issues from their centers. Now we have funding to help keep the children in the center by providing more help to the provider.
	We have been advertising this program for over a year, but not many providers are actually asking for help yet. It’s improving, but it would be helpful to have our fellow agencies passing the word about this. We touch on this message in all of our child care provider classes, but will have to talk about it over and over in order to get it to sink in.
	We are also thinking of targeting some providers that have these kinds of kids, and offering them incentives to get them to come to training classes, or offer them technology assistance, or even coming to their centers and providing hands-on help, etc.
	We currently have 9 kids in consultation with the provider, but would like to do more. Call Family Connections at (541) 917-4899 if you are looking for help.
CONCLUSION	
	Please add a link to the Child Care Provider Calendar to the ECCC Basecamp project.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Pollywog Project (Kris Wessel)
	This project has been called lots of different names (Family Connections Project, CCO Project, “the project”, etc.) because it didn’t actually have a name. We now have a name: The Pollywog Project.

Our task in year one was to find a Project Manager, work with Family Connections, get a name and a brand, find a database, and to begin to create a pilot program.
VistaLogic is the company that is creating our database (and is working with a lot of other state agencies), and they are currently working to set-up a database to meet our needs.
Our pilot program is scheduled to begin in January, and it will start at Albany General Hospital with the Maternal Care Coordinators, who used to register newly pregnant families into prenatal classes. The Pollywog Project will take over that job and enter the families into the new database, and as we talk to them we'll begin moving them into other parenting classes, Head Start, Storytime at the Library, etc., and if they need other services, we'll give them a warm hand-off referral to other partner agencies who can meet more in-depth needs, such as Old Mill, Family Tree, and Early Intervention.
One of the project goals is to not put extra work on anybody, but allowing one-time data entry of the family's information.
This project will also allow us to see where the gaps are, and we might need to make some changes in the way that we are doing things to better meet needs. Just starting this program we are seeing gaps that need additional structure around them, and we have found other groups that are doing similar things, but slightly differently.
We are lucky to have this commitment with the IHN-CCO, and to be able to use the funding that they are going us to do more than put a band-aid on things but make a systemic change.
We have also created a Pollywog Evaluation Team with members from all different sectors of this project to help us to guide this project. They are not static representatives, but in fact represent every agency that provides the same kind of services that they do.
Kris was asked for an example of how someone would use this service: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pregnant family - Going to the hospital to meet with a Maternal Care Coordinator - Talked to about screenings, schedules, and pre-natal classes - If they agree to participate, they put their name and phone number into the Pollywog database and within three days they will receive a call to get them signed up for classes. During that conversation we will also discuss with them what other services we can tell them about, such as immunizations, child care, etc. - We will also go back and call them again to find out if they attended the prenatal classes, and if not what was the barrier, and what we can do to help you. - When we call them back again, we will offer early childhood parenting classes, literacy classes, community information, etc. As the family begins to trust us and tell us what else they need, we can make further referrals to people call Family Tree or LBL-ESD, and to other services in their communities.
Hopefully we are giving families lots of choices and helping them to see that healthy families isn't just medical, and there are lots of resources that they will be invited to be part of.

DISCUSSION ITEM	HCI Transformation Grant (Lynn Hall)
We submitted a grant proposal to the CCO for money to replicate the START training that was done in Lincoln County in Linn and Benton Counties to physicians and their clinical staff to learn how to use the ASQ and to increase the number of children who are referred to LBL-ESD, and to use the proper coding so that the ASQs are included in the CCO's metrics. Also want to find a pathway to get ASQs from child care providers to the physician's offices.	
We will know if we got the grant in two weeks, and we'll begin implementation very soon, if we get it.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Relief Nursery Update (Kristi May and Renee Smith)
The Olalla Center is moving forward as a Relief Nursery in Lincoln County, and submitted their request to the Oregon Relief Nursery Association. We missed the deadline, but ORN is still looking at the proposal and making a recommendation to move it forward.	
Olalla has been awarded several grants to make this happen, and they are checking with the granters to see if they can offer "relief nursery like" services until their application goes through.	

Relief Nurseries in Oregon are currently undergoing a revision of services by the state, so they are working their way through that. More information later.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Vroom (Kristi May)
Our official grant will be ending in December, but we have been asked to stay on as an “informational grant”, so more money will be forthcoming.	
We also placed a very big order, and we are overflowing with supplies right now. Send us a request for materials if you are interested.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	JumpStart Read for the Record (Kristi May)
The books and materials are in and most have been packaged up and ready to go.	
We will be getting materials out as soon as possible.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	ELD Hub Indicators of Success (Kristi May)
The Hub metrics aren't actually mentioned in the Hub Indicators that the state will be grading us on, which is troubling.	
In February, the state will be coming to review our work and let us know how they feel about what we have accomplished.	
The 16 Hubs around the state have been pushing back to the state that some of the metrics don't make sense or are unmeasurable.	
We are not concerned about how we will do in our review, but we are concerned about the metrics that are now not being used; however, the overarching goals have not changed.	
We feel that getting bogged down in the actual language is not helpful, so we will continue to move in a direction that seems like it will make the most sense and will do the most good.	

NEXT MEETING	TBD
We would like the Co-Chairs to meet and create a Doodle poll for future meetings. Would like to have a schedule set up for the next 6 months, at least.	
MEETING ADJOURNED	11:05pm