

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

Work Group Day Meeting Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	9:00am, May 11, 2017 Old Mill Center for Children and Families, Corvallis
MEETING CALLED BY	Kristi May
WORK GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Jerri Wolfe, Paul Adant, LeAnne Trask, Shirley Blake, Lauren Sigman, Cindy Bond,
VERSION	Final

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	Introduction and Welcome
Welcome to everyone who is in attendance today.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Vroom Update
We have a short video playing in Regal Cinemas theaters, as a way to advertise to young families during the big movie season. It's called "Father's Day", and it is projected to reach over 100,000 people.	
We will look to see if the Newport Regal can be added into the marketing plan.	
If there is an event that you would like us to attend, please let us know and we will bring Frisbees and bears.	
Shirley Blake did a Vroom presentation for Hispanic parents in Linn County, and she prepared the presentation in Spanish, so if anyone would like her to come and give a Spanish presentation, just let her know.	
We still have a budget for materials that we haven't touched, and we will see what materials we need before the end of our fiscal period.	
The Library in Lebanon also hands out "new baby bags", and there are Vroom materials included in it.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Kindergarten Partnership & Innovation Funding (KPI)
Some districts are having trouble spending down the funds that they were awarded, and we have some districts that are asking for more money. We are training to even that out so that we don't have to return money to the state.	
We took a six-month period for planning, and then a year for spending, at a biennium rate. We are hoping to receive more funding next biennium, now that the districts know what is expected.	
Is there a plan for getting this group back together after the budget period is over, to review what happened and get some peer review? That is a good idea and we will look into it.	
There really is a need for a P-3 Coordinator, who can help some of our smaller districts to initiate their plans. It might need to be requirement that the districts include fte for someone to actually do that work, prepare the reports, and attend the meetings.	
Lincoln County sent a letter to their legislators, talking about what they did with their KPI funds, and included their video and numbers for their project.	

The Boys and Girls Club also created a beautiful little video around the preschool for the Lebanon School District. They focused on the fact that they are working on social-emotional learning, and included Hub branding. It was very well done, for a very reasonable price (\$250), and it is posted on the Hub website if anyone wants to view it.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Early Childhood Coordinating Council Update (ECCC)
There is a new house bill that is potentially going to be adopted, that requires Hubs to convene early learning providers to coordinate the intake process.	
The Hub metric is for coordinated and aligned services, and this is in line with that.	
We have some state agencies competing for children: Head Start and Preschool Promise. We don't want to take away parent choice, but we do want the maximum amount of children to be served.	
One of the next steps is to create a round-up process that multiple preschools will attend.	
A second next step is to look at a universal in-take form that would allow us to see who is eligible for specific programs, and who would be better served by more universal programs.	
In Central Linn, they already have this system, and it is coordinated by the school district.	
Pollywog is also a piece of this process, and can provide that universal in-take form and information about the round-ups. 211 may also be of value in this process.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Health Care Integration Update (HCI)
No representatives from the Committee were present to give an update report.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Data & Evaluation (D&E) (Jerri Wolfe)
D&E has been working on several different projects:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our Epidemiologist, Anna Menon, is analyzing Kindergarten Assessment data and then creating some visual representations of that data using PowToons and Powerpoint presentations. This helps us to identify where we need to spend our dollars for maximum impact, and where we need to focus our efforts. - We have created a YouTube channel so that we can share those PowToons and PowerPoint presentations, and we have a page on the website, "Our Region", that also contains information that we can create. - We have also created a number of infographics that allows us to graphically show information on various subjects. We are currently working on Developmental Disabilities information, Early Intervention Data, Early Childhood Special Education data, and a sheet that is looking at the number of children in our region about are enrolled in preschool. - We are working on a series of messages about absenteeism in preschool and kindergarten, including infographics and a PowToon that can be shared with Parent Engagement groups. One of our District Superintendent's raised the issue at a meeting, and is concerned about the consequences in our region. We believe that this is a great way to educate and inform. We have found a lot of good information and data, and we are hoping to get that refined and ready for distribution, in English and in Spanish. We shared this information with the Early Childhood Coordinating Council, and asked them to spend time on this issue, based on the information that we are bringing them. - The D&E Committee is attempting to create a Social-Emotional Summit for partners in our area. We believe that we all do better when we all have the same information. Our plan is for a Summit on Friday, October 20, 2017, which will be free. Free parking, free conference, and across the hall from a cafeteria. Our focus will be on Social-Emotional development, with research and data presented in the morning and practical use information presented in the afternoon. Megan McClellan from OSU will be one of speakers, and Portland State representatives will also be making a presentation about the Kindergarten Assessment scores, and how that data reflects on the actual outcomes for those children. We are also hoping to find a speaker who can present about little boys and their development, and how that relates to preparation for school (because 	

boys have low scores across the board). We are also looking at videotaping the event, so that we can share it later.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Pollywog Project Update (LeAnne Trask, Jerri Wolfe)
	We are currently working on the referral process within the VistaLogic database, and it is working out beautifully.
	We are working on connecting each referral to the information stored in the 211 system, and include that in our referrals.
	There is a partner meeting tomorrow at 10:00am at the Luckiamute Building at Linn-Benton Community College, and you are all welcome to attend.
	We are also looking at adding to the VistaLogic database so that the Hub's contracting system is also part of the database, and other Hubs are contacting VistaLogic and asking for a database. We will keep you apprised on that situation.
	There is some anxiety out there about Pollywog, but we are working to hold meetings with local partners explaining what is going on, what we are doing, and why we are doing it.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Hub Updates
	At the last Governing Board meeting we talked about offering bridge funding to some of our partners so that they can continue their programs and services through the summer. We don't want to create lapses in service. We are prioritizing those programs, and then waiting to see what the legislature is going to do. The GB gave approval for this.
	The Legislature is in session, and the co-chairs have released a budget that reflects a 20% cut to the Coordination Funds to Hubs, a 20% cut to KPI funds, a 10% cut to Healthy Families, a 10% cut to Preschool Promise, and a \$20m cut to ERDC (1000 families effected). No cuts to ESD or Relief Nurseries. Several groups are advocating for changes to these cuts, and you can get involved in these attempts to influence the Legislature. There is also a proposed \$150m revenue package for education, and our fingers are crossed for that.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Partner Sharing
	Lincoln County School District - In lieu of spring registration, LCSO is getting parents to RSVP with their data, and pick up a "Welcome to Kindergarten Bag" (crayons, book, playdough, wikisticks, information about the LIFT program, "I can" statements, etc.). RSVP cards were created, and so far they have 180 (out of a projected 400) children RSVPed.
	Family Connections - The QRIS program has been renamed "Spark", and other changes have been made to the program as well. Before you had to be in business for 2 years, but now it is open to everyone. We also have two Focused Child Care Networks, and they have been extremely effective. Our Lincoln County group (6 ladies) has all gotten star-rated! The state just extended funding to September 30, so we have added additional participants to the group. The other group is a Spanish-speaking group (6 ladies), and they are working on turning in portfolios. They are also very productive and we are reaching out to increase the size of the group. There is a legislative ask for more FCCN funds, and we are hoping that will go through. We are also working to reach out to providers who aren't licensed and being served by "friends and families". We are providing a "Together" class in Lebanon for providers and children come and work on early literacy. Children receive books at the end of every class, and classes are held at Green Acres Elementary in Lebanon, so the kids get experience in going to school. It is working out well, and we will be able to collect data that can help us to refine the program. This is a pilot class. Also, Family Connections just finished their RFA for CCR&R services, and are having to include Lincoln County.
	Parenting Education - OSU is holding a Parenting Conference on May 22, and then that evening the keynote speaker will be making a community presentation at Linn-Benton Community College at 6:30pm. Free childcare will be provided. We also have a grant for parenting class in rural communities, so we added

a class in Philomath, and tried to add one in Lebanon (without success). We will be trying the Lebanon class again in the fall. We plan to add one in Lincoln county also.

DHS - we are working on our focus with families: treating them not as participants, but as partners. We are also experiencing a hiring freeze, except for our family coaches.

Parenting Education in Lincoln County - Family Promise is hosting a class, Samaritan House is hosting a parenting class at the Lincoln County Jail, DHS is hosting a class at the Self-Sufficiency Office, and Family Promise is hosting a class at the Seashore House in Lincoln City. Also, the State of Oregon is running a new program focusing on absenteeism in counties around the state, and Lincoln County has been identified as one of the five worst in the state. The plan is to not focus on the kids, but rather to focus on the family and why the children are not attending school. Also, they are focusing on younger kids rather than older ones.

NEXT MEETING	Thursday, August 10, 2017
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Our next meeting will	be held from 9-12:00pm at LBL-ESD in Albany.
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MEETING ADJOURNED	11:44am
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