

Pollywog Staff Changes and Family Connects

Most people are aware that the State Legislature mandated a universal nurse home visiting program in Oregon during the 2019 Legislative session. The State chose “Family Connects” as the program that would deliver those home visiting services, and our region--Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties--were chosen as early adopters of the new program.

The concept behind Family Connects is that before the family leaves the hospital after having a new baby, they are contacted by either a Family Connects representative or by the nurses on the maternity ward about signing up for a home visit, usually within the first three weeks after birth. (Please note that adopted and foster children are also included in the State’s vision

of the program.) Pollywog staff will also talk to prenatal families, as will the Maternity Care Coordinators, the Community Doula, and the Healthy Families home visitors. Ideally, all of these programs will be working together to ensure that every new Oregonian gets a visit from a nurse in their home.



Initially the Family Connects program wanted the Early Adopters to use their database and their method of identifying social service agencies to refer families to. Because Pollywog is already established in our region--and doing basically the same work--it was decided that Pollywog would be the official Information & Referral provider for Family Connects. The Oregon Health Authority is assisting that move by providing funding for a “Community Alignment Specialist”(CAS) to work within Pollywog to provide additional resource identification. In December we received nine applications for the CAS position, and we are pleased to announce that Connie Adams has been hired to fill the role. With her background in home visiting, her extensive knowledge of Pollywog and it's systems, and her contacts within the community, we foresee great strides being made with her help!

What's Happening

- ✓ The next Pollywog Partner Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 11, from 9-10:30am. This will be a remote meeting, using the Zoom platform. Meeting log-in information will be available on the Early Learning Hub website, and we will also be sending out a Google invitation.
- ✓ Currently there are 1,479 individuals in the Pollywog database, as well as 9 prenatal and 37 parenting education classes, 4 courses taught in Spanish, and 146 referrals have been sent through Pollywog. Winter term classes began on January 4, but in a few weeks the Spring Term classes will be publicized and you can begin planning your term!

Job Openings

The Early Learning Hub currently has the following positions open: Program Assistant 1, Program Assistant 2, and a Child Care Accelerator. Each of these positions has a full job description available on the LBCC Job site, including salary and benefit information. LBCC Job site: <https://www.linnbenton.edu/about-lbcc/jobs/index.php>

Working from Home

As most of you know, the Early Learning Hub and Pollywog staffs were "sent home" to work remotely during the Covid pandemic. If you are attempting to get a hold of us by phone, please remember that we are not there, and it would be better to send an email. If you calling the Pollywog main number, (541) 917-4884, please leave a message! There are no personnel sitting in the office, but we are picking up the voicemail regularly.

Also, child care is a HUGE issue right now, and our staff are working diligently to find resources for families. If what we give you the first time doesn't work out, call back and we'll try something else.

Pollywog Partner Update

Below is a list of all of the Pollywog Partners, by county, who are trained and ready to receive referrals through the Pollywog database:

Linn County:

Linn County Home Visiting Nurses
Kidco Head Start
Samaritan Albany General Hospital
Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital
Obria Medical Clinic
Family Tree Relief Nursery
DHS (Albany & Lebanon) - no incoming referrals
Family Connections
WIC
Old Mill Center / Healthy Families

Benton County:

Old Mill Center / Healthy Families
Old Mill Center / Preschool & Counseling
Good Samaritan Regional Medical Ctr.
DHS (Corvallis) - no incoming referrals
Community Doulas

Lincoln County:

Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital
Samaritan Health Center - Newport
The Olalla Center
Lincoln County Home Visiting Nurses
DHS (Newport) - no incoming referrals
CSC (Newport)

More will be coming soon!

Contact Us

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