

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties P-3 Alignment & Early Childhood Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	9:00 am, November 16, 2022 In-person, Philomath School District Office
MEETING CALLED BY	Kristi Collins
WORKGROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Lauren Sigman, Deanna Barclay, Barbara Dougherty, Debbie McPheeters, Susan Halliday, Kelsey Culbertson, Lynnette Wynkoop
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Kristi Collins, Matt Grams, Antonia Huerta, Jinguang Lin, Sam Rounsavell, Carmen Santacruz, Kelly Schell
RECORDED	Yes

DISCUSSION ITEM	Welcome and Introductions
Work Group Members introduced themselves.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Early Childhood Service Analysis Workbook
<p>Kristi explained that this meeting would be focused on the work of the Regional Stewardship Committee. The purpose of the meeting is to collectively work on the 2022-23 Early Childhood Service Analysis (ECSA) to fill in the data and narratives. The ECSA, formerly the Sector Plan, is a contract deliverable to the State. The Hub has requested an extension until the end of January as we need to collect more information about family needs.</p>	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Question 1: What is the state of high-quality affordable ECE slots in the region?
<p>Kristi reviewed the available data, which is broken down by county region.</p> <p>The workgroup noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many of these slots do not exist. • Home-based care was not included in this data. • Tribal Head Start data was not yet included. • KPI-funded programs do not fall into this category. • The lack of publicly funded family child care partnerships/delegate agencies should be added to the narrative • Relief Nurseries should be added under Certified Centers to capture that data. 	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Question 2: To what extent are families from priority groups being reached or affected?
<p>Kristi explained that infants and toddlers are a priority population in our region. Those populations are separated in this workbook, so we could not list that priority population that could not be noted in the narrative. The priority populations listed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Population 1: <i>Children who are emergent Bilinguals</i> • Priority Population 2: <i>Children who are Native American or are from Tribal Nations/Communities</i> • Priority Population 3: <i>Children who are Latinx</i> • Priority Population 4: <i>Children with disabilities</i> • Priority Population 5: <i>Children living in Rural Communities</i> <p>The workgroup discussed our Hub's priority populations. It was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linn County is still the county with the most need • For children with disabilities, the order of priority is Linn, Benton, then Lincoln • Unhoused families are not currently an identified priority population, and housing status is not always an eligibility criterion for child care and preschool promise slots. <p>The workgroup discussed barriers for families reluctant to engage with available services. Availability is not always accessibility. If more priority population groups were allowed, accessibility could be better captured.</p> <p>The workgroup discussed the extent to which programs are reaching our priority populations in each county.</p> <p>There was a discussion of where the data comes from and the difficulty of getting accurate data for the 0-5 population.</p> <p>The workgroup discussed waitlists and barriers to enrollment with Preschool Promise slots. Some programs blend PSP and community-based slots to allow flexibility for enrollment. Community-based slots are not publicly funded.</p> <p>The workgroup discussed subsidized Infant/Toddler slots. Publicly funded slots reach less than 1% of most of our priority populations.</p> <p>Relevant locally funded early childhood programs were discussed. The workgroup considered where to get this data. KPI programs, EI/ECSE, Old Mill Center, and School District programs were suggested. However, this type of funding is unstable, whereas public funding is. It was suggested that the data provided be broken into age groups to emphasize the lack of birth-3 slots.</p>	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Question 3 – family needs and preferences
<p>There was a discussion about the best ways to get family feedback on their barriers to child care and preschool.</p>	

Kristi asked the workgroup about the touchpoints where we already are or could begin collecting this data.

EI/ECSE said this could be added to the IFSP family service plan.

The workgroup discussed how to collect information from families not currently being served. Ideas suggested included:

- Social media polls
- What questions to ask? Simple Yes/no questions are suggested.
- Are you currently getting child care needs met? If not, why not?
- Interview those accessing the WIC office
- Paper survey in pediatric offices
- Paper survey for families in preschool and child care. This misses families who are not receiving services
- Create Google Form Survey

The workgroup expressed that it is difficult to capture this data because families are losing hope that things will change. Families have moved away, lost their jobs, and filled the need with informal care.

The workgroup discussed their experience and knowledge of family needs and preferences and helped to complete the workbook.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Expansion Recommendations
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Expansion requires more early childhood educators to enter the workforce.

Kristi asked the workgroup to consider where the Early Learning Hub and the Child Care Resource & Referral can have an influence on educating more staff. Ideas suggested were:

- Fast track degree requirements. We may be able to have some impact on reducing barriers to the expansion of services and programs.
- Pay discrepancies are a significant factor. An increase in wages is needed to attract and retain quality staff.
- Early Childhood educators need to be recognized as educators, not child care providers.
- Early Childhood educator credentialing

DISCUSSION ITEM	Next Steps
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The next steps for this work include the following:

- The workbook draft will be posted to Basecamp for workgroup review and feedback
- Opportunities to add questions to existing surveys – CHIP survey (Melissa I)
- ELH will work on a family survey for partners to share.

There was a proposal to move Dec meeting to 12/14 in-person at Philomath School District Office. Susan confirmed that space was available.

NEXT MEETING	9:30 am, December 14, 2022 In-person, Philomath School District Office
MEETING ADJOURNED	11:54 am