

**Early Childhood Hub of Lane County
Early Learning Stakeholders Meeting
Thursday, March 23rd, 2023
3:00 - 5:00 pm**

1. Welcome and Introductions

- In attendance: Jaycob Nolte, UWLC; Kris Coomes, UWLC; Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, UWLC; Dulce Cano, UWLC; Sara Loveless, 90by30; Krystal Sanchez, Migrant Education; Kristen Helton, Quality Care Connections; Zayra Longoria, ODHS Self Sufficiency; Bess Jayme, PacificSource; Rebecca Saxon, Eugene Public Library; Ariana Matthews, Willamette Family; Kalina Glover Moresi; Samantha Lin, EDLD Lab UO; Gretta Sagolla, Buena Vista/4J; Leslie Finlay, Relief Nursery; Drea, Lift Every Voice; Xana McCrea, ODHS Self-sufficiency; Tracy Stafford, Oregon Community Programs; Kristi Wedmore;

2. Connect Oregon Presentation

- Bess Jayme, MBA, Social Determinants of Health and Equity Program Manager from Pacific Source
- Slide deck is alongside notes
- Connect Oregon is a way to connect health care providers with community partners to create closed loop referrals
- Social Determinants of Health
 - Conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age
 - Non-medical factors that influence health outcomes
- Connect Oregon connects health care providers and social service providers to deliver integrated whole person care through this shared technology platform which is provided at no cost to all community based orgs connected with Trillium or PacificSource
- All organizations that have been involved in a case can see the entire referral journey at every step along the way
- Connect Oregon is currently being used by agencies in all 36 counties across the state and currently have 173 organizations active on the platform
- For those programs that are not on Connect Oregon, if they are listed on 211 they are available on the regularly updated resource directory that links Connect Oregon with 211

Group Discussion

- Do you see larger childcare centers being a fit for this program?
 - Yes with the caveat that they need a staff person trained and available to access and utilize the website and make sure they are responding to families
- All consent forms and materials are available in English and Spanish already
- Conversations are currently happening at the state level on how to create a through line with Connect Oregon and ODHS systematically and how to do it at a larger level for multi-state referral systems
- Contact information for Bess Jayme
 - bess.jayme@pacifcsource.com

3. Raise Up Oregon

- Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, Early Childhood Hub Co-Director
- The Purpose of this session is to gain Feedback from people in the community surrounding a section of the Raise Up Oregon plan
- What is Raise up Oregon?
 - It is a plan published in 2019 as a to-do list for government agencies to follow to create a broad range of support for families with children aged 0-5
 - One example is to increase Affordable Housing
- In this session we will ask a series of questions and add the feedback to the Early Learning Division and take it with all other feedback to change and adjust Raise Up Oregon for the future plans that come out of it
- Our current sector that the Hub has been tasked with looking at is to think intentionally around housing and the way it interconnects with Early Learning

Group Discussion

- **Current Goals**
 - The early childhood system is equitable, integrated, scaled, and family-centered.
 - All families with young children are supported to ensure their well-being
 - All children are thriving in early childhood and beyond
- Do the goals of our to-do list make sense to you?
 - What are ways to create more providers?
 - Workforce Development due to many families being eligible for support but support not being able to be provided
 - In the very first bullet if we could add anti-racist to some extent
 - From an education standpoint we are looking to these providers to uphold a lot of these systems how can we focus more opportunities around workforce development
 - To create something very specific for providers such as an opt in insurance
 - There is anxiety about supporting children who are struggling with their mental health and we need families to feel supported and we also need to make sure that the people that take care of children in educational settings are also supported
 - Could be everyone in the childcare sector alongside families as providers need to be ensured their well-being
 - As we are facing new legislation where we cannot remove children with challenging behaviors we need to
 - The quality of the care that the system provides is only as strong as the caregivers
 - A goal should be strengthening supports for providers and the people who do this work
 - The turnover is so incredibly high it can be difficult to do this work with the rate of change that is happening

- Agree that there be a goal added about support to child care providers.
- **Problems**
 - Are overburdened, need more support, smaller caseloads, and want an opportunity for connection
 - Experience stress, burnout, and lack of professional development
 - Have difficulty accessing or navigating support systems, and referral processes are either difficult to figure out or not there;
 - And there is a shortage of workforce that represent the populations of color in Oregon
- **Questions**
 - Resources, training and support around SEL for providers, families, and children is critical. Conscious Discipline and other resources available to us could be so impactful if made available systemically across our community.
 - What orgs state wide do we have that are able to:
 - Help with networking and collaboration
 - There is a gap/need for education in early education providers
 - There are smaller entities with resources but not necessarily state-wide
 - Quality Care Connections (response to earlier and also additional issues of lower funding)
 - The amount of work is insurmountable and cannot keep up with new arising problems within early education
 - Part of it is that the stress on meetings that places shouldn't be closing
 - We need more funding and a rewrite of their goals and steps to reach those goals
 - Is there a most important/biggest barrier from this list
 - Shortage of workforce
 - Difficult to find people who want to work with populations that they work with
 - More funding, more training, kids and families are coming in with a much more severe presentation and complex issues for clinicians to manage.
 - Providers are experiencing not only professional stress but personal stress as well in their personal lives.
- **Solutions:**
 - Expand system navigators and coordinators to assist professionals and families in understanding available supports for families with young children
 - Explore grouping services together in a single location as a one-stop shop
 - Build more family-friendly affordable housing that also has a child care facility in the complex
- **Questions**
 - What is the most exciting
 - Family-friendly housing w/ child care sounds super exciting
 - Grouping supportive services together.

- The last one family friendly affordably housing as transportation is always a giant issue and can get in the way a lot and if they are closer than the families are more likely to attend and meet the providers
- I also agree that family-friendly affordable housing w/child care seems the most urgent. And also exciting
- As a former center director and someone who has been working with programs of people trying to find new locations
 - There are no facilities for childcare, you cannot take a retail space for childcare there are certain hurdles and regulations that are needed to be addressed
 - There should be tax breaks or something similar that they create within affordable housing or housing in general to create childcare centers
 - It's been a frustrating roller coaster ride trying to work with land/property owners
- Which services would you include in co-location
 - Healthcare programs are put in a position of being social services more and more and more if there could be more co-location about social services
 - Libraries
 - Mental health services and early childhood
 - Developmental screenings
- Do you have experience co-locating and how did it work?
 - Seen this desire to come together and co-locate over many different conversations with different partners and wanted to create a BIPOC wellness center
 - Multicultural liaison for the city is looking to provide a multicultural center with co-location
 - It is important to have very clear mission and vision statement when you co-locate
 - Things can be pushed or pulled in different locations and can muddy the purpose
 - We have our rapid access center with our medical clinic in the same building.
 - Early learning and in the same building, food pantry, clothing, and health care/dental all in a pre-k
 - Also partnered with a teachers college
 - Trillium Family & Faubion project in PDX
 - Childcare resource agency in NV that got funding to build houses for low income families that also agreed to be family childcare providers
 - Rent-to-own situation
 - As a licensed family provider got to work towards owning the house

4. Early Childhood Hub Updates

- Governance Consortium Update:
 - Discussed Raise Up Oregon as well as talked about creating Group Agreements for new and returning members to adhere to any time they meet
- Program Updates/Announcements:
 - Triple P – TPOL: free for all Lane Co families!
 - If you are interested in taking a virtual training to be able to hold Discussion Groups for parents of children aged 2-7 please reach out to Jaycob (jnolte@unitedwaylane.org)
 - May 11-12
 - June 7-9
 - Preschool Promise
 - Currently working to get set up for next year and waiting for the new application to be released by the state

5. Agency Updates

- Quality Care Connections
 - Just started doing training with Small business development center with some seed money
 - Also doing a fast track on April 22nd for anyone who wants to work in childcare to be trained ready (About 10 spaces left)
 - Started Infant Toddler Network which is going well as well as the Spanish Business Network
 - They are currently scoring applications for mini makeover grant
 - This grant will give \$1,000 for very specific upgrades to existing providers
 - Provider Appreciation conference
 - Taking the opportunity to have a free conference to show appreciation for providers
 - Two onsite sessions and an offsite session
 - Looking for sponsors and donations to cover the costs if anyone is interested in supporting please let Kristen know
- Migrant Education
 - Started planning for the Summer Program and are still looking for some preschool teachers who are available the last week of June and all of July
 - You do not need to be bilingual to apply as a lead teacher
 - Link to the application, will go live later this week
<https://www.applitrack.com/lesdk12or/onlineapp/>
- Eugene Public Library
 - Ramping up programming over spring break

- Here's the library's Music & Music Dance Party: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=27345&month=3&year=2023&day=23&calType=0>
 - Here's a link to the current storytimes (it shows this month, but you can click through the months to upcoming storytimes): <https://www.eugene-or.gov/calendar.aspx?CID=77>
 - Sensory story time in May for kids up to 7 years old
 - In the summer adding a park story time near Aubrey Park elementary where families who may not be eligible for a library card can access resources and get a library card
- EDLD Lab UO
 - Currently recruiting Spanish-speaking Latina moms with children ages 22-32 months for our ongoing study of bilingual language development (MILO Study). Our study involves 3 remote visits which families are paid \$75-100 per visit. If you know of any mothers who have a child between the ages of 1 and 3 years old and someone in their home speaks any amount of Spanish to the child, please consider giving us a call at (971)220-5648 or emailing us at edldoregon@gmail.com for more information. We welcome children with disabilities and we have a bilingual research staff conducting these visits.
 - For more information or to register please contact: edldoregon@gmail.com or slim3@uoregon.edu
- Xana - ODHS – Self sufficiency
 - Pandemic EBT will have one more round coming out from Summer 2022
 - Will start being sent out at the end of March and through April and if you do not receive it by the end of April please reach out
 - xana.mccrea@odhs.oregon.gov - Community Partnership Coordinator with ODHS Self Sufficiency.
- 90by30
 - We are hiring Communications Coordinator job for 90by30 <https://careers.uoregon.edu/cw/en-us/job/531348/communications-coordinator>
 - Going to be starting a strategic planning project on May 1st
 - Welcome baby bundle will be on hold starting last day of March so if you or your clients are expecting by august please apply now
 - Welcome Baby Bundle for families expecting babies in rural Lane County - register here! https://oregon.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8cSMBcMukUh7tLn
 - And in Spanish https://oregon.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9M2DwpQagpfPUfH
- Buena Vista/Eugene 4J
 - Buena Vista PSP school is open with 18 families in their program so far
 - Registration for the Kits program is up on the 4J website

- Kindergarten registration is currently happening as well
- Collaboration with kindergarten and preschool teachers is being held with kindergarten teachers conducting observations
- Held a Conscious Discipline training with people on the Coast over the weekend

- Lift Every Voice
 - Held two different workshops over the past week with a Somatic Healing Workshop being held last Friday
 - Initially had 21 people sign up with 8 that showed up
 - This was a trial class to see how it would go in the future and worked with a licensed therapist to conduct this workshop
 - Additionally held a workshop on Tuesday with 61 people registered with 19 people show up
 - From both workshops the feedback received was to be able to offer more workshops like these

NEXT MEETING April 27th, 2023