



**Early Learning Washington County
Steering Committee Meeting: September 26, 2018**

Minutes

In Attendance: Marilyn Harrison, Renee Bruce, Nancy Ford, Jared Cordon, Olga Acuña, Stephanie Lind, Rebecca Collett, Amanda Whalen, Rolanda Garcia, Luis Nava, Peg King, Tricia Mortell, Katherine Gallian, Cate Drinan, Denise from LWNW, Darla Vang, Donalda Dodson, Bridget Cooke, Sue Parrish, Gwyn Bachtle, Alicia from ELD

On Phone: Sabi Velasco, Hannah Lobingier from Swindells

Staff: Adam Freer, Begoña Rodriguez-Liern, Rebecca Collett, Evan Weaver, Genevieve Ellis, Brittany Geertsen, Darla Vang

What was discussed:

Welcome & Introductions

Director's Briefing:

- Welcome to Amanda – new interim director of United Way – and to ELD folks!
- Kinder Readiness Network Launch this week was very exciting; seemed like a Metro-region early learning hub, clarified vision and next steps
- Exciting to hear about the ELD Plan – reflects deep thinking and conversations with a variety of community partners
- Update on Preschool Promise contract with CAIRO – separately reached same conclusion that CAIRO is not ready yet to take on PP. Black Student Success Grant will move forward. ELWC is negotiating with YMCA to see if it's feasible to launch a site this year.
- New Encore Fellow coming on to support CYF and ELWC work – former VP of Intel, bringing business lens to CQI and systems/operations work
- Governance Workgroup met in August (after the ELWC retreat) to continue finalizing charter with intent to present at this meeting, but need more time to make sure the draft charter is reviewed by all of the hub elements (operations, PAC, etc.). Aiming for authentic engagement of partners, recognizing that there will continue to be questions and evolutions.

Committee & Workgroup Reports: *Please see summaries attached to email*

- **Steering Committee:** July 25, 2018
- **Prenatal-3 (Early Connections Advisory):** August 9, 2018
- **Verbal Workgroup Reports:** Referral pathway and Professional Development groups met. PD workgroup took feedback from the Steering Committee to focus on local efforts rather than regional or statewide initiatives that they may not have as much control over. RP group needs to better understand who the “backdoor” person is at organizations to be able to check the status of referrals; conversations taking place in that workgroup are also happening elsewhere – want to avoid duplication and make sure people are having informed conversations. ELWC selected to be part of Lead, Learn, Excel cohort (along with Adelante and other community partners) – will be traveling to Eugene several times to learn more about this coaching model.

Headlines & Highlights

- **Black Student Success Grant** – last week had a site visit from the ODE to review benchmarks and indicators; work will center on building trust and connecting with the Somali community. The SPACE navigators are placed at 2 schools each in Beaverton School District. The state is pleased with the work we are doing, despite the challenges. The contract is through June 2019. We hope to have more information soon about the funding application for next year. SPACE navigators should become familiar with the programs for families receiving TANF because there are opportunities to connect students with workforce/STEM.
- **Family Resource Coordinators:** New materials-- double sided in Spanish and English (as well as 8 other languages), written in plain language with clear graphics. The coordinators took the first batch for distribution; the next order of 5,000 will go out through the ELWC governance structure.
- **Preschool Promise:** Moving forward with early learning behavioral consultant (180 hours of services available starting in October through LWNW). First round of observations will begin for classrooms that are not currently using CLASS; working with TeachStone to provide a virtual coaching tool; excited about this national model and to be in the frontlines of that work. The focus is on providing CEU credits to providers that have not been able to take advantage of these opportunities. Working with Douglas ESD to use WizeHive as a data collection platform.
- **Brookwood Library Ribbon Cutting:** ELWC has been able to expand the permanent collection at Hillsboro Public Library. There are books in Farsi, Hmong, and Vietnamese etc. The Hmong community did the ribbon cutting and a dance performance. It was very touching to see the performance by the Hmong community and hearing the voice from that community of how they want to be present in Washington County. Will have first of two sessions to train providers on how to use this new system.
- **Kindergarten Readiness Network Launch** – Health Share has a strategic investment plan called Ready and Resilient, which includes goal of creating a Kinder Readiness Network. Launch was earlier this week, had 60 leaders from across the tri-county area from health, education, early childhood, etc... Health Share has interviewed stakeholders and identified several buckets of work; landed on five priorities, but still working on sifting through information from the summit. Recognize that the work is cross-sector, families cross systems, and it is our job as system leaders to close gaps and help families thrive.
- **Mental Health Summit** – led by Clackamas County Behavioral Health; Nov. 3rd will host a conference focusing on taking care of adults and young children’s mental health – will target parents and child care providers; Dr. RJ Gillespie and a parent panel will speak.
- **Team Staffing Updates** – decided not to pursue opportunity of Preschool PAX GBG Kinder Transition Specialist; Still hiring for coordinator position since Janet left.

Centralized Access System for Prenatal to 6 (Evan Weaver and Cate Drinan) – see slides

- Clarification that SC has authority to make decisions about strategic direction – we recognize that there will be questions about implementation, which we can capture and look into further
- Conversations about Help Me Grow have been taking place in the community for years – parents want centralized, one-stop, no wrong door access to information and services
- Vision is taking referral systems that are already moving forward in the metro-area and providing a coordinated and integrated approach, so that families are not calling multiple numbers and telling their stories over and over

- HMG is the point of entry and can triage and connect families to specific local resources, such as Early Connections, through a warm handoff. Both programs coexist, with more deliberate and intentional interaction
- HMG is not a program or service, it is a system; willing to explore what it would look like to expand the HMG model; if HMG expanded broadly, it might allow local referral programs to go deeper into their own areas of expertise

Discussion of HMG presentation

- Budget and cost will be a part of planning
- How would current 211 system and related issues be addressed through this system without duplication?
- Intentionality about sustainability, especially from a fiscal standpoint – i.e. not grant funded
- Community Connect is owned by the continuum of care (partners referring or receiving people); functions differently from 211 – puts onus on providers to work together, rather than on the family to connect with services
- Question about reciprocity – is it one-way for the family or does it also inform the system?
- Issues about 211 have come up with the PAC around equity and linguistic barriers – concern that this system will be able to adequately address those barriers (i.e. separate number for Spanish speakers)
- As you are designing the system, make sure you're thinking about access for DHS system-involved families, who need services the most and have the most barriers
- Importance of flow and having an exit – worry about service capacity, what if there is no space; empathetic system can mitigate experience of services being full
- Data around capacity are collected, so that service capacity issues can be addressed
- What about needs for immigrant populations that are avoiding services and may not be able to go the conventional referral route? System needs to be aware of these issues and respond; importance of reaching families who will not call in by being a resource to the community – trusted liaisons will then reach families

Decision from Steering Committee

- Entertain proposal to support moving in the strategic direction of exploring HMG as a coordinated referral system, alongside Early Connections.
- 12 approve; 0 oppose

Adjourn