

Early Childhood Hub of Lane County

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Early Childhood Hub of Lane County

Family Leadership Council

February 9, 2023

Zoom Meeting

Notes

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Judy Newman (4J School Board)

- Judy helps to facilitate the Pediatric Advisory Team meeting and while there are pediatricians at the meeting there, they do not have power to create actions within the system.
- Judy Newman talked about one avenue to pursue to address the issue raised by FLC members regarding discrimination in the system related to patients with OHP insurance.
- In every county around the state there is a group called System of Care required by the CCOs (in Lane County that is PacificSource and Trillium)
- They work across systems and with community leadership to reduce barriers, improve services and increase opportunities with a focus on children, youth, and family
- Judy is on the group to receive barriers submitted by community members
- These barriers could be a policy issue that goes across both CCOs or other barriers experienced
 - They would love to hear if this is a systemic issue or if it is an office by office problem
- Some themes are lack of personal support workers, wait times for specific providers, reimbursement, inefficient care
- You can find the barrier submission on the lane county website which has a fillable form for the SOC review
https://www.lanecounty.org/government/county_departments/health_and_human_services/lanecare/SOC/barrier_resolution
- If there are any questions about this resource please let Adriana know and she will work with Judy

3. Dana Hepper Early Childhood Coalition's Parent Voice & Leadership

- This month we dig into the different options of advocacy and in March we will have a deep dive into the one/s that the group chooses to understand more about and potentially get things scheduled
- An anecdote was shared how a home provider was being forced to stop running a childcare out of her home by her landlord. Dana and organization tried to find if there were any resources or policies protecting childcare providers and they found that in California

landlords cannot treat childcare providers any different than any other tenants

- They then worked with people in childcare having this experience and wrote a bill and on Monday of this week the bill was voted unanimously out of the senate housing committee into the full state senate
- This example shows that sometimes people don't share their story to change the law but just to just share a story as this provider was just sharing frustrations and a bill came out of it
- There are four stages in determining how to share your story in advocacy
 1. Understand a problem that is facing children, families, or childcare
 2. Understand if this is a common experience among many people or an individual issue
 - a. If it is common it is probably something that needs to be changed at a systems level
 - b. And if there are more people it is easier to make that change
 3. Over time it is more likely to find solutions for those problems
 4. Understand who has the power to make a change with their decision
- This is the work that the Children's institute does, they listen to voices across Oregon, for issues as well as things are going great and need protection and then do the research to help with solutions and determine where and how can this decision get made
- Today we will begin to think about our own stories and identify how we want to use them to then at the next session connect our stories to things that are happening in legislative sessions currently
 - The first part of telling your story is stating your name, where you live (city/town) and the connection you have with early childhood (parent/teacher/childcare provider)
 - Second part is what you want to talk about the good/bad/ugly of it whether it be free preschool/head start/preschool promise. Themes discussed were:
 1. Transportation opportunities
 2. 0-3 childcare and offering it more as most places offers this type of childcare
 3. Early Childhood Education
 4. I would love to see free preschool for all. There is very strict guidelines for preschool promise and theres a huge gap between people who qualify and people who really need the service.
 5. More bilingual/bicultural staff in preschool childcare centers
 6. Childcare in your job sites
 - a. Easy access and not have long transportation to drop kids off
 - Third part is what you want to see change or improved. Themes discussed:
 1. More evenly distributed funding and access to early care and education.
 2. Affordable childcare is almost impossible to find
 3. Access to childcare in areas

4. Still out of work because of exactly that. I appreciated the time but then I'm a single mother and need to work. I signed up for early head start but it's not well funded in my area and there's just really nothing available for kids 0-3.
5. It is great to be able to be home with your kid AND being at home creates a stressor when you don't have that income.
 - a. Yes and that puts a strain on your relationship with your child.
6. Mental health consultants in the classroom for 0-5 and available
 - a. Preschool teachers are not therapists and often times it can burn them out
7. Ways to work together in the early education realm (HS/PSP/School Districts)
 - a. Set it up so everyone is working against each other instead of being collaborative
8. Teachers see a big difference in kids who have had some PreK education and those who just start in Kindergarten
9. Facilities being playful about where facilities are so they are where the people are
 - a. Transportation is so hard to get their kids to preschool

Group Discussion about Next Steps

- How does the Family Leadership Council want to participate in advocacy in 2023?
 - Option 1 join and attend an existing group lobby day? (May 9th)
 1. On that day, registration form and a training then Schedule a 15 minute meeting with a legislator
 2. Would have a facilitator and kick off introductions and a solution at the end
 - Option 2 if you want to have your own meeting with local legislators
 1. Invite them and put it on the calendar for them to attend
 - Option 3: invite legislators to join a meeting with you either virtual or in person to have a little bit more time to talk with people
- A poll was sent out to check if there
 - Overall the poll showed that Option 3 was the most favored and we can do option 1 or 2 if needed as back up
- We will meet again in March, the legislative session goes until the end of June so there is time to plan
- We will dig into these worksheets and some budgets and agendas that the Children's institute is currently working on
 - There might be things that aren't represented but we hope there is something on the
 - It is also okay to say that there isn't something on but please consider this as well
- At our March meeting we go through the agenda and flesh out our stories and plan more details of the event to try and get legislatures there and make it all happen!

- Question: When talking about the early childhood and care piece have children ever been present?
 - About 10 years ago STAND for children did have children at the capital and lobby day
 - 100% appropriate to include children in advocacy opportunities if we want to think about this and prepare for our meeting to have children that is a great plan
- Recording of this discussion session is available for viewing if requested

4. Announcements or other news/good for the order

- There was an ask for anyone who is interested in becoming a parent representative for the Governance Consortium paired with Adrian Pollut
- Also if anyone is interested in being more involved in the facilitation of these monthly meetings please reach out to Adriana
- Here is the link to the next Parent Cafe <https://bit.ly/ParentCafeFeb16>

Next Meeting: March 9, 2023