



2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Mid-Columbia Children's
Council



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Mid Columbia Children's Council is an equal opportunity provider.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year Ending November 30, 2015

	For Year Ended 11/30/2014 Audited*	For Year Ended 11/30/2015 Audited*	Budgeted 11/30/2016
Support and Revenues			
US Department of Health & Human Services	4,365,112	4,393,807	4,384,810
Oregon Department of Education	797,389	968,675	854,654
Washington Department of Early Learning	326,262	309,551	306,031
US Department of Agriculture-Child Care Food Program	199,011	188,466	206,000
Other Program Income and Grants	24,784	77,406	8,400
Private Grants	94,123	88,155	95,000
Loss on Leasehold Improvements			
Private Cash and In-Kind Contributions	159,830	103,729	160,000
Total Support and Revenues	5,966,511	6,129,789	6,014,895
Budgetary Expenditures			
Personnel	4,406,276	4,434,859	4,669,087
Program Supplies & Services	1,168,788	1,354,273	1,224,619
Management , General Supplies and Services	117,691	141,524	121,190
Property and Equipment Additions	138,831	193,077	0
Total Budgetary Expenditures	5,831,586	6,123,733	6,014,896

*The independent auditors' reports on the financial statements expressed unqualified opinions for the years ended November 30, 2014 and 2015. The independent auditor's reports on compliance with requirement of major programs expressed unqualified opinions for the years ended November 30, 2014 and 2015.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings:

Every year Mid-Columbia Children's Council (MCCC) is refreshed with new faces, new smiles, new experiences, new learning opportunities, new friends, and new program growth. We are excited to welcome you back if you are returning, and happy to welcome you to our family if you are new. Our desire is to serve you and your family to the best of our ability, and to build strong relationships.

All together we are committed to school readiness for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Your child's success in kindergarten through 12th grade is largely dependent on the early learning success in these years. We work together to provide quality early childhood experiences for children and families. We consider you the first and primary teacher of your child. This is one of many reasons our relationship and collaboration with you as parents is so important to your child and to us. If there is anything we can do to improve communication and our relationship with you please let your Family Health Advocate, Teacher and/or Home Visitor know. We thank you for the opportunity to support you and your child.

This has been a year of encouragement, healing, and growth. Mid-Columbia Children's Council is committed to positive organizational change. During August of 2014 a Core Team was trained and established to facilitate positive change. MCCC adopted the Sanctuary Model to promote positive organizational change. The Sanctuary Model is based on seven simple commitments that outline the way individuals agree to conduct themselves to support positive change:

- ◆ **Nonviolence:** being safe outside, physically; inside, emotionally; with others, socially; and to do the right thing, morally.
- ◆ **Emotional Intelligence:** being aware and managing our feelings that influence our behavior so that we do not hurt others.
- ◆ **Social Learning:** respecting and sharing the idea with those arounds us; people learn from each other, and from their experiences with others in a safe environment.
- ◆ **Democracy:** shared decision making; allow individuals to share in decision making that is appropriate for their group; with input from all levels.
- ◆ **Open Communication:** saying what we mean and not being mean when we say it; individuals agree to be aware of how they communicate with each other.
- ◆ **Social Responsibility:** together we accomplish more, everyone makes a contribution to the organization; this represents the agreement between individuals to take care of themselves and the members of the organization.
- ◆ **Growth and Change:** creating hope for our families, their children, and ourselves; represents a commitment to move beyond negative patterns created by trauma.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONT'D

The Seven Commitments are accompanied by a number of tools. The tools include: the Community Meeting, the S.E.L.F., Red Flag Meetings, Safety Plan and Self-Care Plan.

The Community Meeting is very much like a check-in; asking the questions: How are you feeling? (supporting emotional intelligence, understanding where each person is emotionally) What is your goal? (understanding each person's agenda for the time together) Who can help you with that? (creating a caring community of support) The Community Meeting allows individuals to make emotional connections and share everyday struggles.

S.E.L.F. is a tool used to work through conflicts and challenges. The individual or group goes through the S.E.L.F. recognizing each element while discussing the challenge. S.E.L.F. stands for: S = Safety refers to physical, emotional, social and moral safety; Safety is the basis of healing and growth. E = Emotions focuses on how we learn to manage and cope with strong emotions related to our experiences. We know that feelings drive behavior and if we cannot effectively manage our feelings, we will act them out in ways that are unproductive. L = Loss refers to the physical loss of a person, an emotional loss such as a divorce or loss of hope or trust. We must recognize that all change involves loss and we cannot move to a brighter future if we do not acknowledge and deal with loss. F = Future concentrate on developing the belief and hope that things can change and get better because we control our destiny and can create positive growth and change.

Red Flag Meetings can be called by anyone to respond to any critical situation to raise the concern to a team/community of individuals, to rally support and help identify whom can respond to address the need. Best practice is to call a Red Flag Meeting before an event or situation has risen to a critical condition as a form of prevention. The purpose is to respond to the problem before it becomes a bigger problem, to learn as much as possible about the concern, and to formulate a plan that will prevent the problem from escalating. It can also be used after an event to debrief. Red Flag Meetings are an empowering tool because they lend a voice to those whom may feel disempowered.

Safety Plans are outlines, personal items or images that help you refocus, take you to a safe place, and assist you to regroup emotionally. Commonly, the backside of the employee badge can be used to outline ways to handle stress and moments when overwhelmed as a Safety Plan. It is used to promote personal safety and the safety of others who might feel anxiety, threatened or uncomfortable.

Self-Care Plans can support ways to balance the demands of life with mental, spiritual, physical, and emotional replenishment. Self-Care Plans are different from Safety Plans in that they are activities that you can practice regularly to renew rather than supports to help you manage emotions when you are triggered.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about the organizational culture changes we are making. And again, welcome to Mid-Columbia Children's Council.

Matthew Solomon

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The early learning years are essential for later school success. Mid-Columbia Children’s Council prepares young children for success in school and engages parents as their child’s first teacher. MCCC established school readiness goals with input from parents, teachers, and school district partners. These goals are the expectations for children’s progress in language and literacy development, cognition and general knowledge, approaches to learning, physical health and well-being, motor development, and social and emotional development that will improve readiness for kindergarten.

Using research-based curriculum and best practices, our teachers and home visitors provide rich learning experiences for children ages 0 to 5 that build a foundation to last a lifetime. We are committed to providing quality teaching and educational opportunities that help children enter kindergarten, with self-confidence and ready to learn.



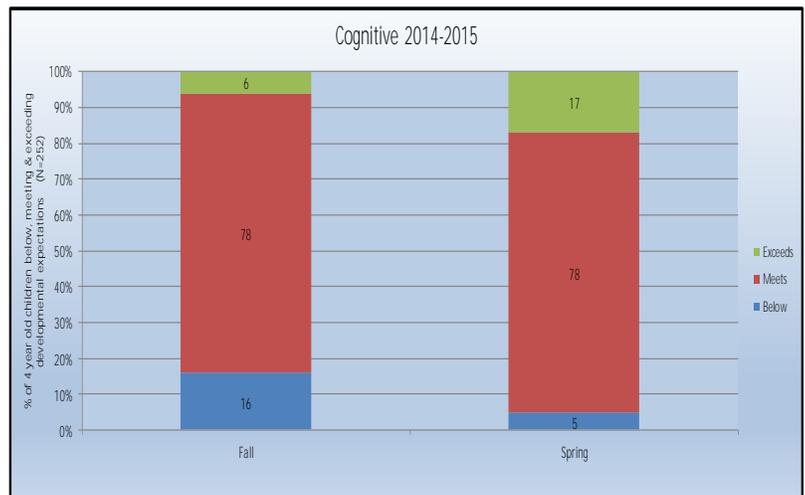
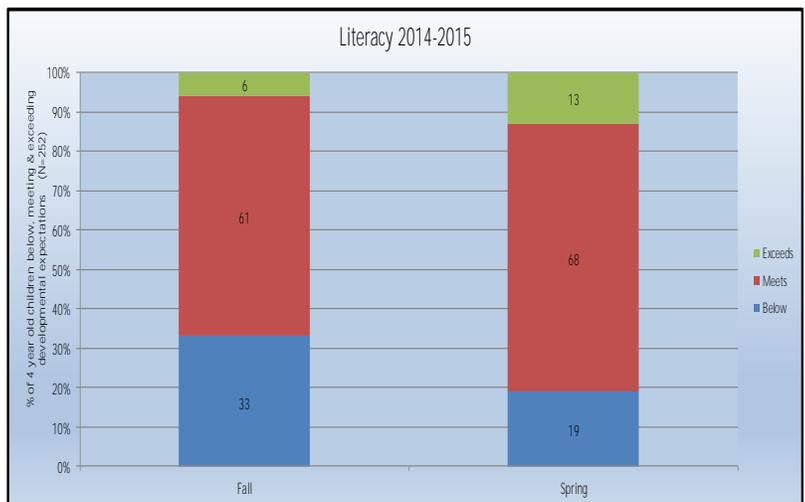
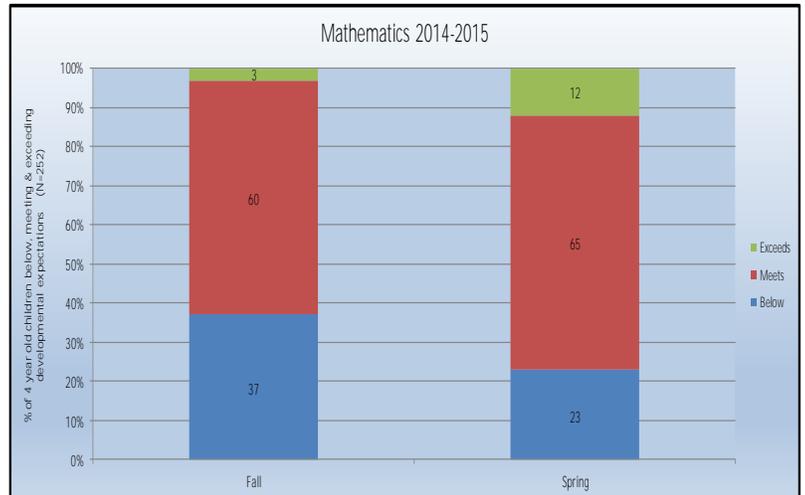
MCCC uses the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) to strengthen teacher practices shown to improve children’s readiness for kindergarten in all areas; social, emotional, cognitive, language, literacy and math. CLASS is conducted through direct observation by certified Education Coordinators and the results are used to support on-going improvements in teaching practices.



SCHOOL READINESS OUTCOMES

Children’s skills for a variety of developmental objectives are assessed three times a year using the Teaching Strategies GOLD™ assessment tool. The assessment system is aligned with *The Creative Curriculum* used in Head Start, OPK, ECEAP and Early Head Start programs. GOLD meets the assessment standards of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). It is aligned with Oregon and Washington Early Learning Standards and the Head Start Early Learning Framework. Teachers and home visitors use assessment data to plan for individual children and to support group learning in classrooms, at play groups and on home visits. Administrators use outcome data generated by Teaching Strategies GOLD™ to guide on-going program improvement, including professional development activities, to ensure all children are ready for kindergarten.

The MCCC Education Team uses the Widely Held Expectations Reports from the GOLD™ assessment tool to compare information about the knowledge and skills of children. This report groups children’s assessed ratings on the developmental continuum into three categories: below, meets, or exceeds typical expectations. Data results shown in the **Fall 2014 to Spring 2015 School Readiness** graphs shows that the majority of children entering our program do not have the skills expected for their age. However, by the end of the year they make tremendous growth acquiring the expected skills. The charts provided show significant progress in the areas of literacy, math, and cognition. This strong knowledge and skills foundation sets the stage for children’s readiness and success in school.



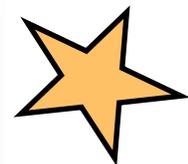
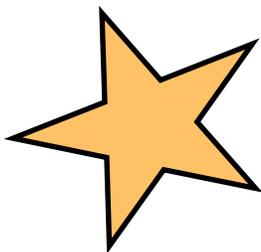
MCCC EARNS STAR RATINGS—QRIS

MCCC Earns Star Ratings for Quality in Oregon and Washington

Both Oregon and Washington State implemented quality rating systems. Oregon's program is called the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) and Washington's is named Early Achievers (EA). Both programs were developed to raise the quality and consistency of child care and early learning programs across both states. The quality rating systems recognize, reward, and build on what early learning and development programs are already doing well. The programs help ensure children in QRIS/EA programs are ready for kindergarten.

Mid-Columbia Children's Council is committed to quality programs for all enrolled children. Therefore, applications for ratings of all MCCC Centers were submitted and rated in the 2014–2015 program year. Of the ten centers reviewed, three received the highest rating of 5 Stars (excels in essential standards), four received a 4 Star rating (exceeds essential standards), and three received the "Commitment to Quality (C2)" rating.

The C2 rating was based on the need to move some Teacher Assistants, Bus Monitors, and Floater staff members to a Step 3 in the Oregon Professional Registry. These staff members worked diligently and attended a series of classes offered at the Columbia Gorge Community College. All of the staff completed the required professional development and achieved the Step 3. As a result, MCCC built on what they were already doing well; which is ensuring that all staff members working with children are well trained. MCCC has reapplied for the QRIS rating for the three C2 Centers in December of 2015.



PARENT ENGAGEMENT/INVOLVEMENT



Successful Parent Volunteer at Goldendale Site

John Rolfe is the oldest, (father) Superhero amongst the many younger ones attending Classroom #1. After looking at some photos posted on Facebook of Goldendale Head Start children's first day, John was unsettled by the old sign the children were posed in front of.

The sign was vintage, weathered and, hand painted. It had been put up on the site when Greater Goldendale moved the center to its current location.

John wanted the center to have an updated and weatherproof version so he created his own artistic impression that combines vintage with modern. We are all thankful that John Rolfe, our Father Super Hero, came in to SAVE THE DAY!



Advocacy and Policy Council

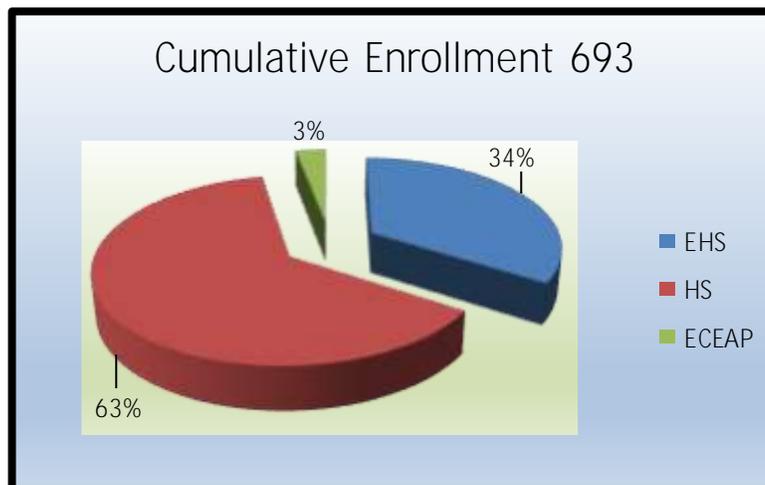
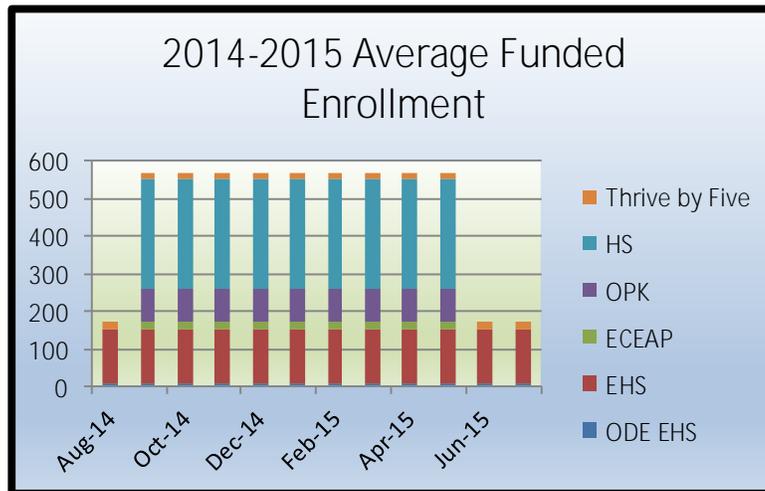
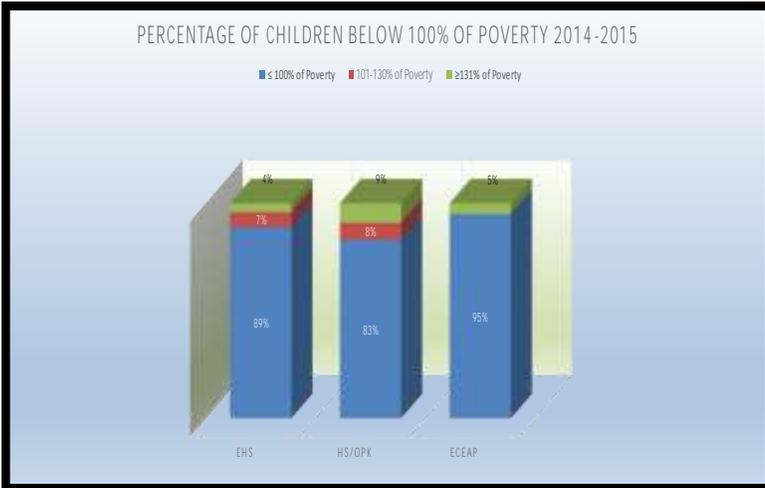
In the month of February, two of the Policy Council Members and an MCCC staff attended The Washington State Head Start & ECEAP Association conference in Olympia, Washington. The main focus of this conference was advocacy, and the parents met with legislators and Governor on Capitol Hill. It was a wonderful opportunity for the parents to tell their stories and advocate for continued funding for the Head Start & ECEAP programs. They did an amazing job! All parents can play an important role in supporting MCCC and Head Start. Now more than ever is it important for people to call and write to their Senators. Please talk to the Policy Council Members at your center on different ways to advocate for your children and to find out who your legislators are at the state and national level.



Roseann Sosa and Alina Slaight with Jackie Wolcott, attended Olympia, WA to do Head Start Advocacy

ERSEA/MENTAL HEALTH

ERSEA



MENTAL HEALTH

The focus of the Mental Health Component is to support the social and emotional development for children in our programs. This is achieved through consultations with parents, classroom observations, staff consultations, providing trainings for staff and parents, child observations, and collaborations with community partners. The effectiveness of our work in supporting social-emotional growth is measured by the

Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA). Teachers complete this assessment for each child in the Fall and again later in the Spring which allows us to

compare scores at the start of the program year with scores towards the end of the year. There are many approaches teachers utilize in encouraging social-emotional growth. Specific curriculum that aids in this process includes: Second Step, High Scope Conflict Resolution, Conscious Discipline, and Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS).



HEALTH

Children need to be physically healthy to learn and grow. MCCC works with parents to help each child become up-to-date on their medical and dental care. MCCC also provide a variety of screenings to determine if the child has vision, hearing or nutritional needs.

MCCC works with many different community partners in the various counties. One partnership that is consistent between all the communities are the dental visits to the local centers. Kidz Dental Zone visited centers in Wasco Counties, Little Shred-ders Dental visited centers in Hood River counties, Smile Mobile, a mobile dental bus, visited Skamania and Klickitat Counties and Advantage Dental visited Jefferson County. The dentists and their assistants screen every child for cavities and suspicious areas and also apply fluoride treatment. Children who screen positive for caries are referred to their dental home to seek treatment.



MCCC also partners with the OSU Extension Office to provide nutritional classes to interested families. These classes align with the Head Start model which is to serve children low fat, low sugar and low salt. These classes also promote eating family style which is used in all MCCC classrooms.

Number of pregnant women served: 20

Enrolled in their 1st trimester: 2 / 2nd trimester: 5 / 3rd trimester: 13

Number of children enrolled with continuous, accessible dental care provided by a dentist:

Early Head Start: 190 / Head Start: 427

Number of children enrolled with an ongoing source of continuous accessible health care:

Early Head Start: 211 / Head Start: 426

Number of children who are up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventative and primary health care, according to the state's EPSDT schedule for well child care:

Early Head Start: 192 / Head Start: 388

Number of children who have been determined by a health professional to be up-to-date on all immunizations appropriate for their age:

Early Head Start: 101 / Head Start: 317

Number of children who have been determined by a health professional to have received all immunizations possible at this time, but who have not received all immunizations appropriate for their age:

Early Head Start: 80 * Head Start: 88

Number of children who meet their state's guidelines for an exemption from immunizations:

Early Head Start: 4 * Head Start: 16

Number of EHS children who received medical treatment for the following chronic conditions:

Anemia: 11	Asthma: 8	Hearing difficulties: 6
Vision problems: 5	High lead levels – 0	Diabetes – 0

Number of HS children who received medical treatment for the following chronic conditions:

Anemia – 3	Asthma – 20	Hearing difficulties – 12
Vision problems – 66	High lead levels – 0	Diabetes – 0

SERVING OREGON & WASHINGTON

Administration Office

1100 E. Marina Way, Suite 215
Hood River, OR 97031
541-386-2010

Klickitat Center

PO Box 54
Klickitat, WA 98628
509-369-3800

The Dalles Center

1717 West 10th Street
The Dalles, OR 97058
541-298-8801

Belmont Center

2168 Belmont Drive
Hood River, OR 97031
541-386-1955

Madras Center

650 NE A Street
Madras, OR 97741
541-475-4870

Wahtonka Center

3601 West 10th Street
The Dalles, OR 97058
541-370-2636

Carson Center

441 Hot Springs
Carson, WA 98610
509-427-5815

Maupin Center

308 Deschutes Avenue
Maupin, OR 97037
541-395-3342

White Salmon Center

555 NW Loop Road
White Salmon, WA 98672
509-493-2666

Country Club Center

820 Country Club Road
Hood River, OR 97031
541-386-3269

Parkdale Center

4880 Van Nuys Drive
Parkdale, OR 97041
541-436-0859

White Salmon EHS

553 NW Loop Road
White Salmon, WA 98672
509-493-1902

Goldendale Center

920 South Schuster
Goldendale, WA 98620
509-773-3091

Petersburg Center

3855 15 Mile Road
The Dalles, OR 97058
541-370-2536

Approved:

Policy Council: 06/30/2016

Board of Directors: 07/07/2016



Thrive by Five Washington

