



**Policy Council Meeting - Mid-Columbia Children's
Council
February 23, 2023**



**Next Meeting
March 30, 2023
At 6:00 pm
via Zoom or at:
MCCC
1100 E. Marina Way, Suite 104
Hood, River OR**

Policy Council Members in attendance:

John Young, Kaelene McNair, Shawna Pruitt, Jordan Belozar, Natalie Humphrey, Danyell Beyer, Grace Poole, Margie Grimmer

Excused: Sky Vaday, Amanda Middleton, Stacie Petty, Layton Campbell

Unexcused: Emily Richardson, Samantha Dommer,

Chair: Shawna Pruitt

Vice-Chair:

Secretary: Kaelene McNair

Treasurer: John Young

MCCC Staff: Ronda Hull, Jese Robles, Freddy Gonzalez, Noelle Hanson

Guest Speakers: n/a

| Topics | Content & Discussion | Action |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------|
| I. Meeting Started | Quorum was not met at the beginning of the meeting, unable to call meeting to order. Proceeded to move towards agenda items that didn't require votes. | |
| II. Inspirational Sharing | Inspirational Sharing from attending the Oregon Head Start Association conference. Shawna Pruitt shared her attending the OSHA conference. Shared what she learned in workshops and her experience there. She felt like she understood the program and wants to become even more involved. Oregon Head Start Association conference in Salem, OR. Ronda and Jese shared their experiences as well and how useful it was to attend the conference. For Ronda, it was validating to hear from other Director's that are facing the same issues we are. | |
| III. Director's Report and OHS Letter | Enrollment Corrective Action Plan: from Office of Head Start, we would lose funding in HS, EHS, OPK, OPKPT. We will need a corrective action plan approved by PC. This will be sent by email with full explanation because our response is due before the next PC meeting. We are about 50percent enrolled and need to be at | |

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97 percent. A lot of our under-enrollment is due to staffing. HR will have a piece to fill positions, Family Services will have a piece to enroll in communities. Both of these components will have the majority of work needed but will impact all areas. Will lose funding if less than 97 percent would lose 2.8 million if we have the vacancies we currently have.

Are there any thoughts, ideas or comments from parents on improvements on what they see in their communities? Jordan, PSP is in Maupin and are these competing? Yes, especially in The Dalles. MCCC does more than PSP because we offer health and more comprehensive services. We want to ensure too many slots aren't competing against each other. The HUB's role in the counties is to ensure we are meeting the communities as a whole. Do parents not understand EHS & HS important? Are parent's not aware how important early education is important before they go to public school? How do we spread awareness? Is there a clearer picture for parents to understand they qualify for HS? There is a table we can publish to help parents understand. SNAP also made it easier to qualify. Exceeding the table can also qualify someone, but wouldn't want someone not to apply because there are multiple ways to get into the program. Staffing is our issue.

Danyell fundraising opportunity: Created a flyer to make money for children and the community. March 10 is National Preschooler Day. March 10: fundraising coffee shop, pizza and burger sales in Klickitat. Proceeds from sold items will go to KL parent funds. Read information on flyer about children development in early childhood. She is now a parent ambassador and is very passionate about child development.

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| | Freddy: we can provide data of children in our program vs not having preschool education. | |
| IV. Meeting called to order | Margie and John joined the meeting and we finally reached quorum at 6:54pm when the meeting was called to order. | By: Shawna Pruitt |
| V. Approve Agenda | Approval of agenda with changes: - Karen is unable to attend today and table ERSEA Training with amendment revision. -No credit card reports | Moved to approve: Danyell Beyer 2 nd : Grace Poole Motion approved unanimously. |
| VI. Consent Items a. Meeting minutes b. Personnel report c. Financial report | a. Minutes reviewed b. Had 20 interviews in the past few weeks – we are making process with staffing piece with additional advertising. CBR – Central Background Registry background check can take up to 4 months so we Lose some staff because they can't work. We are working with licenser and trying to figure out ways to expedite the process to be compliant with funders and licensors. Will be increasing wages to attract more applicants this year as well. c. Financial report reviewed | a. Moved to approve: Margie Gimmer. 2 nd : Danyell Beyer. Motion approved unanimously. b. Moved to accept Personnel and Financial report: Danyell Beyer. 2 nd : Margie Grimmer. Reports accepted unanimously. |
| VII. New Business 1. Action Items a. Enrollment Corrective Action Plan b. Parent Survey 2. Discussion Items a. Annual Report | 1.Action Items a. Already spoke about this when we talked about the OHS Letter. b. Need information – please make sure to get information from your FHA. For parent executive officers. 2. Discussion Items a. Requesting PC for any input if you have any input or stories to include in the upcoming Annual Report. Grace is | |

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| <p>b. Professional Photographs for Website</p> | <p>interested in demographics showing how data is collected because it appears that the majority of the children are white when that is not the case in her classroom or the community. She felt like the race chart wasn't displaying our diversity accurately. Freddy shared ChildPlus on how information is collected to the Fed's. We do not make the distinctions and they are yes/no or drop downs. Jordan suggested to put an asterisk to show how the data is collected. Would be great information to find out what staff are past parents of children in HS. Thank you for the feedback and dialog.</p> <p>b. Professional photographs: Shawna is interested. On Leadership page on website, Policy Council is governing body. Kaelene is a yes. John is a yes. Will make arrangements to have photographer come to Central Office.</p> | |
| <p>VIII. Old Business A. Vice Chair Election</p> | <p>Vice chair Election: Role is to assist chair as needed – Danyell Beyer nominated.</p> | <p>Motion to approve Danyell Beyer as Vice-Chair by Margie Grimmer. 2nd: Kaelene McNair. Motion unanimously approved.</p> |
| <p>IX. Open Agenda</p> | <p>Grace asked if there is anything specific to share at parent meetings? Talk about anything you consider important and an overview of the meeting. If there are serious topics discussed, it is good to mention. Using the agenda is a good thing to go through. Nothing is confidential and is open to the public. If your parent</p> | |

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| | <p>group has something to ask, to the policy group, that is also useful.</p> <p>Shawna had concerns and issues regarding Watonka, Petersburg & The Dalles into one meeting. Feels that it focuses only on The Dalles. Their information isn't pertinent to her children and their fundraising is only for their location. Jese and Ronda will talk about concerns with her privately.</p> | |
| <p>X. Meeting adjourned</p> | <p>Meeting adjourned at 7:44pm</p> | <p>Motion to adjourn by John Young. 2nd: Danyell Beyer. Motion unanimously passed.</p> |