



## *SOUTHERN OREGON SUCCESS UPDATE*

July 2020

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**INNOVATION NETWORK NEWS: FOUR PATHS FORWARD**

The Southern Oregon Success Innovation Network held a series of meetings last month to develop specific steps towards reaching our goal that by 2025, all parents and caregivers in Jackson and Josephine counties will have the knowledge, skills, connections and support needed so all of their children enter kindergarten ready to thrive.

Or to put it another way: strong families, thriving children.

Over 30 partner organizations from all levels of education, health care, mental health care, human services, public safety and workforce development participated in the meetings. The Network members agreed to form four work groups to take on specific areas of work:

1. Development of a Rogue Valley Parent Council to bring parent voice into programs across all sectors and to coordinate vital information parents need for their children to thrive.

2. Expansion of School Based Health Centers in regional elementary schools to increase access to needed health and behavior health services to everyone in the community, including a navigation process for families to access human services, workforce support, parent education, etc.

3. Increase Family Connections to develop peer support groups, perhaps in partnership with the [Family Independence Initiative](#), and to provide access to effective life skills trainings and supports.

4. Hold Two Early Childhood/K12 Summits in 2020-21 to better align early childhood programs with K12 and focus on the transition from preschool and child care to Kindergarten.

For more information, or if you are interested in joining any of the monthly work group meetings, please email [peter\\_buckley@southernoregonsuccess.org](mailto:peter_buckley@southernoregonsuccess.org).

## **RESPONDING TO CRISIS: RESILIENCE ON THE INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY & COMMUNITY LEVELS**

The science of resilience—the ability to positively adapt to life experiences—is robust. There are decades of study now on what builds resilience on the individual, family and community levels.

Dr. Ann Masten from the University of Minnesota identifies three core protective systems of resilience: individual capabilities, attachment and belonging, and community culture/spirituality.

In the area of individual capabilities, we need to understand and strengthen our ability to self-regulate, to experience emotions such as fear or anxiety and be able to return to calmness. It is in our calm state of mind that we are able to access executive function, to analyze information and make intelligent decisions.

To face the challenges confronting us, we need to become masters of self-regulation. This is something that our society is not presently good at. Awareness of how our brains work and the basic tools for self-regulation, such as mindfulness, meditation and others, will be essential.

On something of a side note, one of the basic needs for self-regulation and resilience is safety. We have far too many families in our community and our country who lack anything close to personal and/or financial security. Providing that security would go a long, long way towards increasing resilience.

Attachment and belonging build resilience for the simple fact that we are social beings. We have evolved as families and tribes. Humans who have been able to connect with each other, to collaborate with each other, have been those who have thrived. We need to consciously and continuously nurture positive relationships at the individual, family, community, national and international levels. The science of resilience teaches us that we actually do need each other.

Both of those first two core protective systems—individual capabilities and attachment and belonging—play directly into the third core protective system of community culture/spirituality. A healthy, supportive, **inclusive** community promotes resilience at all levels.

There have been some remarkable local examples of this in our region in the past few months. Kids Unlimited, a charter school in Medford, has been feeding up to 1,400 young people twice a day, no questions asked. The Boys & Girls Club in Grants Pass also have served hundreds of free meals. College Dreams and Worksource Rogue Valley are assisting Listo to provide food and essentials to 83 families. The Maslow Project has helped over two dozen families find temporary housing and is working to expand permanent supported housing in the Rogue Valley. The United Way of Jackson County is raising funds and giving direct assistance to nonprofits and individuals. There are many more examples, much we can be proud of in our community, but we need to vastly increase and scale up our efforts.

--Program Manager Peter Buckley

## ACES TRAININGS AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Southern Oregon ACEs Training Team is now offering its trainings online at no cost to groups, agencies, organizations and schools in Jackson and Josephine counties. The sessions provide an overview of how our brains and nervous systems develop, how we pass down traits from one generation to another, the breakthrough information contained in the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study (ACEs) and how resilience is developed in individuals, families and communities.

The team has done over 380 presentations of the training to just under 14,000 people in our region since 2016.

For more information, or to schedule a training session, email [peter\\_buckley@southernoregonsuccess.org](mailto:peter_buckley@southernoregonsuccess.org)

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# CHILD CARE RESOURCES FOR PARENTS & EMPLOYERS



Are you a parent who is going back to work and need to find child care? Are you an employer with employees coming back to work who are in need of child care?

Child care has been greatly impacted due to COVID-19. These transitions are stressful for everyone. As a community, it is important to be patient with one another and provide considerate accommodations for children returning to child care and parents returning to the workforce.

Here are some helpful things to know:

- Many child care facilities have not yet reopened.
- Those that have reopened have agreed to operate under emergency child care protocols including increased health and safety procedures and fewer children in groups. This means fewer children can be served in many programs.
- To find out which child care facilities are open in your area, contact 211info by:
  - Calling 211. Listen to the prompt for Child Care and press the specified number.
  - – Texting the keyword “children” or “niños” to 898211 (TXT211)
  - – Emailing [children@211info.org](mailto:children@211info.org)
  - – To search for child care online and to find information on selecting quality child care go to The Find Child Care Oregon website, <http://triwou.org/projects/fcco>
- 211 Child Care hours are Monday to Friday 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Be sure to take time to visit programs and make the best possible choice for your child – this is a very important decision.
- There may be help paying for child care through the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) subsidy. Visit [www.oregon.gov/DHS/ASSISTANCE/CHILD-CARE/](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ASSISTANCE/CHILD-CARE/) to see if your family qualifies.

## About Southern Oregon Early Learning Services Hub

The Southern Oregon Early Learning Services Hub (SOELS) brings together partners in the sectors of early learning, K-12 education, health, social and human services, and private sector business to improve outcomes for families with children under the age of six. With better coordination and alignment of resources and services, our families become more healthy, stable

and attached and our children arrive at kindergarten prepared and supported for success. SOESD generously provides the fiscal and administrative supports for SOELS.

### **About SOESD**

SOESD partners with local school districts to provide high-quality, cost-effective education services to the region. SOESD serves 13 school districts, over 100 buildings, 3,500 teachers and 52,000 students in Jackson, Josephine and Klamath Counties—a 10,600 square-mile geographic area.

As a responsible partner, SOESD provides services and leadership to optimize educational opportunities for the children, schools and communities they serve. Governed by a nine-member Board of Directors and staffed by approximately 275 employees, the agency brings the cooperative benefits of the regional advantage to every student, teacher, administrator and resident of their service area every day.

### **For more information, contact:**

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Child Care Resource Network Southern Oregon ESD [mary\\_wolf@soesd.k12.or.us](mailto:mary_wolf@soesd.k12.or.us) 541-776-8590 x 1110

## **UPDATE FROM GRADMAS2GO**

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From Linda Otto (Founder/CEO) & Joy Marshall (Executive Director)

In January, with financial support from local donors, grantors and foundations, Grandmas2Go (G2G) opened in Grants Pass to serve struggling new families in Josephine County. We are growing!

And after more than a year in the planning, we are thrilled to share the news about our merger with the Family Nurturing Center! This partnership will give us stability and the opportunity to grow our program with a long-established nonprofit. We had a big announcement planned, but when Covid-19 hit, those plans went on a back burner. But happily, our partnership is back on track and we are so excited to become part of this amazing team supporting families in our communities.

We would also love to share with you some of the wonderful memories of the past year.

A new family, anticipating the birth of their first child during COVID-19, was advised by the doctor to hire a midwife and have a home birth. This 39-year-old mama said:

*Seeing as this is my first baby, our Grandma2Go has helped relieve so many of my anxieties ... She has been a supportive, listening ear when I have been overwhelmed by big emotions. ... I honestly think she has made all the difference in the world. ... (This program) is a gift to the entire community.*

The couple with a 6-weeks-premature infant and a toddler, who wrote to tell us:

*When we started with Grandmas2Go, we were just out of 'rehab' and had literally no one but each other. ... this program has been such a huge blessing. ... I finally have someone to call in case of an emergency or even if I just want to cry. ... You do not know just how much this has mended our broken family. ... Thank you for all you do and for making this program a part of our lives.*

The father of twin boys who wrote a thank you letter on the twins' first birthday:

*From the moment we met Linda and Joy face to face, we knew that we had made one of the best decisions we could make as new parents. ... The volunteers and staff at Grandmas2Go care so deeply about the families they support.... It's as natural, as wonderful, and as priceless as anything we've experienced in our community. It's the closest thing to family we have, and we are grateful beyond words to have Grandmas2Go in our lives.*

The senior volunteer who shared:

*Being a part of Grandmas2Go has fulfilled my life in ways I never imagined! Thank you for giving me two precious 'surrogate' grandbabies. They will be in my life forever!*

During this time of *social distancing*, we have gotten creative with the different ways we are supporting and mentoring our families. Some of our 'grandmas' have been providing delivered home-cooked meals (with the recipes included!) once a week to their 'families'. They call ahead and arrange for the meal to be left on the doorstep ... doesn't replace the special hugs from the 'littles', but the moms and dads certainly appreciate not having to cook one night a week!

Your belief in our 'passion project', your financial support, and/or your encouragement over the years has helped us grow Grandmas2Go-Family Coaches and prove that this multi-generational program can and does change lives. More than ever, G2G, is relevant to the recovery, health and collaborative spirit of our community. We are definitely 'stronger together' and hope that you will continue to support G2G with your donations.

For more info: [www.grandmas2go.org](http://www.grandmas2go.org)

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## SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS & CAMPS

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for the month of **July 2020**

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## CAREER EXPLORATION

**Cool Careers Week, July 13-July 17**

**How It's Made Week, July 20-July 23**

**Future Week, July 27-July 30**



## GIVE ME MORE!



**SouthernOregonSTEM** [www.soesd.k12.or.us/distancelearning](http://www.soesd.k12.or.us/distancelearning)

These are just a few of the summer STEM activities that we support and are helping with. They aren't the only options!

**Follow our Facebook page.** We'll post updates, camps, and fun summer activities.

**Check out our website.** There is a pretty comprehensive list of resources for parents and educators.

## 211INFO IS HIRING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATORS

211info is hiring nine full-time Community Engagement Coordinators to build awareness and partnerships with health, social service and emergency management organizations and residents. Each Coordinator will represent one of these regions:

- North Coast
- Northeast Oregon
- Columbia River Gorge
- Central Oregon
- Southeast Oregon
- Southern Oregon
- South Coast
- Lane County
- Marion County

Candidates should live in their region, have existing knowledge of and relationships with community networks, public speaking skills and the ability to travel around their region. For a job description, [click here](#).

The positions involve presentations, ongoing contact with agencies to ensure database accuracy, ability to create partnerships with community service networks, and the ability to represent 211info at meetings. 211info invites candidates who are committed to working with under-represented populations, who speak languages in addition to English, and who reflect Oregon's diverse communities.

Applicants should have experience with outreach and demonstrate deep knowledge of their communities, including culture, geography, housing, health and social services networks. Strong public speaking and teamwork skills are necessary, and the Coordinator must have a reliable car and the ability to travel frequently.

These are benefited positions that pay \$18 an hour plus mileage, with a pay differential available for Spanish/English bilingual applicants.

These positions are open until filled. Questions may be sent to [applications@211info.org](mailto:applications@211info.org); no phone calls will be accepted. To apply, please send your resume and a cover letter that addresses the following questions to [applications@211info.org](mailto:applications@211info.org).

1. Describe your public speaking experience, including experience with PowerPoint or other presentation tools.

2. Describe your work with service providers in health care, Early Learning, emergency management, housing and public health agencies in your region.

3. How would you approach organizations to share information about 211info and encourage them to list their updated agency information in the 211info database?

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## JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

The Facebook page for Southern Oregon Success features almost daily postings of events taking place in our region and information shared from all over as part of our learning community efforts on what works and what doesn't in helping kids and families thrive.

If you do Facebook, check us out and Like us at [Southern Oregon Success](#).

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If you do not wish to receive future Updates from Southern Oregon Success, please email [peter\\_buckley@southernoregonsuccess.org](mailto:peter_buckley@southernoregonsuccess.org) with the subject line of "Unsubscribe"

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