

SOUTHERN OREGON SUCCESS UPDATE

January 2022

- Family Advisory Council Recommendations & Recruitment
- Child Success Delivery System Update
- Help That Helps Parent Guide
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- Social Emotional Learning Network for Southern Oregon
- Registrations Open at the Family Connection
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FAMILY ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS & RECRUITMENT

The Southern Oregon Family Advisory Council, made up of parents and caregivers in Jackson and Josephine counties, spent the last few months of 2021 exploring issues surrounding challenges families face in accessing needed resources in our region.

The council focused on personal experiences and on information provided by multiple agencies and organizations that work to either provide resources or help families navigate services.

After discussing various ideas for how to improve access for families locally, the council made the following recommendations to be presented to our local legislators, the Southern Oregon Success Design Team, the partner organizations in the Southern Oregon Success network and the general public:

Recommendations From The Southern Oregon Family Advisory Council

To the Southern Oregon Legislative Delegation

Senator Art Robinson (R-Cave Junction)

Senator Jeff Golden (D-Ashland)

Representative Lily Morgan (R-Grants Pass)

Representative Duane Stark (R-Central Point)

Representative Kim Wallan (R-Medford)

Representative Pam Marsh (D-Ashland)

& the Southern Oregon Success Innovation Network Design Team

William North, Rogue Community Health

Nancy McKinnis, Jackson Care Connect

Rene Brandon, Southern Oregon Early Learning Services
Todd Bloomquist, Grants Pass School District
John King, Southern Oregon University

We are a council of parents from Jackson and Josephine counties who have been recruited by the Southern Oregon Success Network to ensure that diverse family voices are included in the collaborative work taking place in education, health care, mental health care, human services, public safety and workforce development in our region.

From September to November of 2021, we focused on the challenges facing families in accessing needed resources locally along with the efforts being made in our communities to address those challenges.

Here are our findings and recommendations:

1. Many of the people who have been called “essential workers,” including child and senior care providers, preschool teachers, K12 classroom assistants, and case workers for human services and behavioral health agencies, do not earn enough from their full-time work to afford the bottom-line costs of living here. **A living wage for these essential workers, enough to pay for adequate housing, child care costs, transportation and basic necessities must be established and maintained if families in our region are to have the support and resources for their children to thrive.** At present, our estimate, based on our lived experience, is that such a living wage would need to be set at least \$24 per hour to meet this criteria. Please note that even at \$24, we wouldn’t be reaching the living wage for any workers with children at the level set out for our counties by MIT: <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/41029> and <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/41033>. **We strongly urge you to please check these links to understand the realities of the costs of living in Jackson and Josephine counties.** In addition, as we move through the COVID pandemic, we encourage you to support policies that emphasize safety for all and still help employees stay on their jobs and our schools to remain open.

2. Issues surrounding behavioral health have increased to the point of crisis for our families, schools and communities. We support all efforts to raise awareness and offer trainings to increase the ability of parents, caregivers, educators and behavioral health workers to address the behavioral health needs in our region. **It is our recommendation that priority be given to the expansion of the number of peer counselors at all levels.** In addition to recruiting and training certified peer counselors for recovery agencies and mental health agencies, we encourage an increase in parent peer counselors as

the most effective way to engage with families. In addition, we believe that increasing the number of student mentors—older students mentoring younger students—throughout our K12 districts, Rogue Community College and SOU, should be part of this overall effort for all of us to help each other to thrive.

3. We encourage the expansion of the Connect Oregon referral system to all schools, agencies and organizations who work with children and families. We believe that word of mouth is the most effective way to connect families with needed services. We believe that the more people know of the services included in the Connect Oregon system, as well as how to access those services through the system, the more families will be connected to resources when they need them. **As one example, we want to emphasize how important it is for parents, particularly new parents, to know how to access quality child care.**

4. We believe there is a need for family-friendly Family Resource Centers in both Jackson and Josephine counties, places where families can go to participate in recreational offerings, play and learn groups, socialize with each other and find access to resources through Connect Oregon in a trusted environment. Ideally, the Family Resource Centers would also be able to provide **drop-in child care** for parents who work inconsistent work shifts or have other needs beyond a five-day-a-week daytime child care provider.

We would like to request a response from you concerning these recommendations. We would welcome your participation at a future Southern Oregon Family Advisory Council meeting to discuss these issues if you should desire. To respond in writing, or to schedule a time to meet, please email peter_buckley@southernoregonsuccess.org.

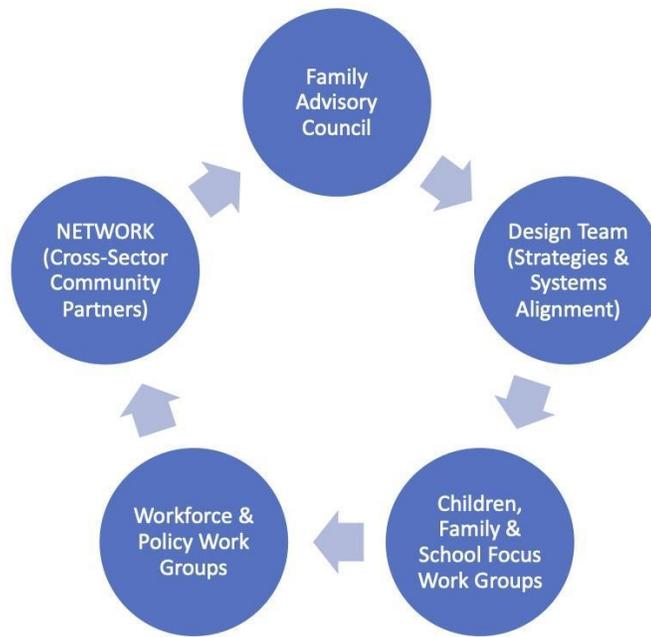
We greatly appreciate your time and consideration, and we look forward to working with you to increase access to effective and sustainable services for all families in our region.

Nony Bugarin, White City
Wade Calkins, Medford
Anne Fahey, Central Point
Bethanee Grace, Grants Pass
Christina Head, Williams
Jarita Irvin, Grants Pass
Kayla Jackson, Medford
Brendon Kinzel, Medford
Bob Lieberman, Grant Pass
Shanel Mahr, Wilderville

Sandra Maxwell, Grants Pass
Teasha Patterson, Phoenix
Jamey Owens, Grants Pass
Rowena Reeley, Medford
Neil Woolfe, Medford

RECRUITMENT NOTE:

Membership on the Family Advisory Council is open to parents or caregivers in Jackson or Josephine. Council members are offered \$50 per meeting for their participation, with meetings taking place on the first Tuesday of each month via Zoom from 6 pm to 8 pm. We are recruiting a few new members and are particularly in need of participants from the Cave Junction area. If interested, please email peter_buckley@southernoregonsuccess.org



<p>Early Childhood Workforce Group Early Childhood Policy & Advocacy Group Behavioral Health Workforce Group Southern Oregon Caucus</p>	<p>Family Capacity for Resilience --“Help That Helps” parent guide --CSDS blueprint development Early Childhood Services ---UpTogether Pilot ---Social/Emotional Learning Network ---Peer Support Group Network Preschool/K12 Alignment --Preschool/K12 Summits & Coordination Human-Centered Equitable Services ---School Based Health Center expansion Southern Oregon ACEs Training Team ---Ongoing ACEs trainings ---Self-Regulation & Resilience workshops ---“Help That Helps” workshops</p>
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CHILD SUCCESS DELIVERY SYSTEM UPDATE

Over 100 participants took part in the Southern Oregon Success Key Leaders/Network meeting last October. Former Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber gave a presentation on an idea being developed by a group of education and health care leaders in our state that aligns directly with the work of Southern Oregon Success.

The idea is the development of a comprehensive and equitable Child Success Delivery System, ensuring that all children have the opportunity to thrive. As Governor Kitzhaber asks, if anything was possible-

How do we ensure that all of our children:

- Have a calm and nurturing in-utero experience
- Are welcomed and wanted by a safe and emotionally stable adult
- Have at least one adult to attach to and who can be relied upon – someone who is predictable, constant, warm, and loving
- Have basic needs met and have access to basic resources that are predictable and constant
- Feel safe and loved throughout childhood
- Are protected from violence and racism, and are consoled when bad things happen

Discussions are underway as to how Southern Oregon might develop a pilot Child Success Delivery System, building off the work being done in our region at all levels of education, health care, mental health care, human services, public safety and workforce development.

The partner organizations that make up the Southern Oregon Success Network would all be needed in this effort, and even more importantly, the ideas and experiences of parents and families.

Stay tuned.

HELP THAT HELPS PARENTING GUIDE

A work group including ACE Interface, the Lieberman Group, Youth Era and our partner collaboration in Coos and Curry counties, South Coast Together, has developed a very family-friendly parenting guide called “Help That Helps.”

The booklet provides great information on how children develop and simple tips for parents and caregivers. ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) are explained as well as basic steps to help children learn self-regulation skills and healthy habits.

Southern Oregon Success has teamed up with the Family Connection for an initial printing of 1,000 copies of Help That Helps, which are being distributed through the Family Connection’s parenting classes and workshops and through the Southern Oregon Success Network. The response so far has been very enthusiastic. The booklet has information that every parent needs, and that those of us who have been parents a long time wish we knew from the start.

Thanks to funding from AllCare, another 1,000 copies (500 of them in Spanish) will be distributed this month. We’re working with Providence, Asante, Southern Oregon Pediatrics, La Clinica, Rogue Community Health, the Family Nurturing Center, the Oasis Center, the Child Care Resource Network and a number of other community partners to get the booklet out at no cost to as many parents and caregivers as possible.

If you work with parents and families—particularly new parents—and are interested in possibly providing “Help That Helps” booklets to them, please email peter_buckley@southernoregonsuccess.org

We’re committed to raise funds to continue to distribute the booklet at low cost or for free to interested partner organizations.

NEXT PRESCHOOL/K12 SUMMIT COMING UP ON JANUARY 20

Our 3rd Preschool/K12 Summit will be held via Zoom on Thursday, January 20, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The focus will be on effective outreach to families with children entering Kindergarten at the start of the next school year.

Dana Hepper from the Children's Institute and Susan Zottola from the Grants Pass School District will be presenters at the Summit, with ideas and data on making a successful transition into Kindergarten.

There will be time for breakout groups so educators can connect, share ideas and best practices. A \$50 gift card will be provided to each participant.

We plan to follow up with a Summit in April and a Summit in August to continue our efforts to increase social/emotional learning for children, support for families and educators, and better outcomes for all.

REGIONAL SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL LEARNING NETWORK IN DEVELOPMENT

Even before the pandemic, our schools were seeing significant increases in problem behavior in their classrooms. Now, after such a long period of social isolations, students have come back into the classroom with such challenging behavior that it is clear that we are close to the crisis point, both in early childhood and K12.

In response, the Southern Oregon Success Early Childhood Supports work group is focusing on the organization and development of a regional social/emotional learning network to raise awareness of trainings and workshops available for educators, parents and anyone who works with children.

If you are interested in learning more about social/emotional learning and what you can do to increase self-regulation skills and better behavior health outcomes for our kids, please email peter_buckley@southernoregonsuccess.org

As one work group member commented, it is going to take all of us to take care of all of us.

REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN AT THE FAMILY CONNECTION

The Family Connection has a remarkable variety of workshops and groups to access great information on parenting and make helpful social connections. If you've ever wondered if what they offer is right for you—it is! They offer different lengths of workshops, different kinds of events, online, in-person, every which way that works for people.

Check out their schedule at <https://thefamilyconnect.org/events-calendar/>

OPEN ACES TRAININGS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

For anyone interested in taking (or repeating) an ACEs training in the NEAR curriculum, we have open trainings coming up in January and February. ACEs stands for the Adverse Childhood Experiences study, which provides the scientific data showing the impact of trauma on health, behavioral health and social outcomes. There is no cost to participate.

ACE Interface's NEAR curriculum (NEAR stands for Neurobiology, Epigenetics, ACEs and Resilience) is the curriculum that the Southern Oregon ACEs Training Team has been presenting since 2016. It provides a straightforward understanding of how what we experience impacts our development and the health, education and social outcomes that result.

This understanding allows for a common vocabulary and common approach to the root causes of many of the challenges faced by our children, families and communities.

Tuesday, January 18
2:30 pm to 4:30 pm via Zoom
Please register [at this link](#)

Tuesday, February 15
2:30 pm to 4:30 pm via Zoom
Please register [at this link](#)

In addition, any school, agency, business, faith organization or community group interested in having a training session scheduled for their staff or members at no cost can do so by emailing peter_buckley@southernoregonsuccess.org.

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](#).

January 2022