

SOUTHERN OREGON SUCCESS UPDATE

September 2021

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--Call Out for Foster Parents for LGBTQ Youth

--Resolve is Hiring

--Community Baby Shower on September 20

WORK GROUPS, PILOTS & PARTNERSHIPS

It was just under two years ago that Southern Oregon Success shifted our collaborative work to the Innovation Network model, introduced by CoCreative, national specialists in collaboration.

To say that the work has accelerated is an understatement.

Here is where we're at today:

SOUTHERN OREGON SUCCESS INNOVATION NETWORK

Our regional goal: by 2025, all parents and caregivers in Jackson and Josephine counties will have the knowledge, skills, connections and support needed for all of their children to enter Kindergarten ready to thrive.

Strong families, thriving children.

--Preschool/K12 Alignment Work Group

--Family Capacity for Resilience Work Group

--Early Childhood Supports Work Group

--Human-Centered Equitable Services Work Group

--Southern Oregon Family Advisory Council

--Southern Oregon UpTogether Pilot

--Early Childhood Workforce Partnership

--Behavioral Health Workforce Partnership

--Youth Development Work Group

--Southern Oregon ACEs Training Team

--Southern Oregon Legislative Caucus
--Design Team
--Network

If you're wondering how all the pieces fit together, [check out this ongoing report](#).

HEALTH CARE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS, SENIOR CARE WORKERS & OTHER ESSENTIAL WORKERS

The American Rescue Plan Act has significantly increased subsidies for people on the Health Exchange, making it very affordable for lower income workers. We are working to make sure all early childhood workers and all essential workers in our region have affordable health care.

For employers and individuals, there are 3 steps for linking early childhood workers and other essential workers with health care via the exchange at healthcare.gov.

1. There are [a number of local insurance brokers](#) who can help navigate employees onto the health care exchange **at no cost** to employers or employees. Open enrollment will begin again on November 1. There is no denial of coverage for pre-existing conditions—everyone is welcome and encouraged to access coverage.
2. Schedule time with your local insurance representative for an overview of health care plans that are available on the exchange and register for the plan that works best. This can be done via Zoom if needed.
3. If employers are able to, it would be good to provide financial incentives to pay employees a stipend for taking time to register on the exchange, and perhaps help with or reimburse a certain level of out-of-pocket costs they might incur over the year.

Please note: the local insurance representatives can provide low-cost options for covering all family members.

- Families who have had a member receive even 1 week of unemployment over the past year can qualify for free health care coverage through the end of 2021.
- Children in all families who are below 300% of the federal poverty level qualify for the Oregon Health Plan—**all employers should make sure their employees are aware of this**. Here's information on the [Federal Poverty Level](#).
- For all families, there is a cap of 8.5% of their annual income for costs for health care coverage through the exchange.

Please make sure you and your employees know of the opportunities for health coverage.

If you have any questions at all, please know that our local insurance representatives can go into detail on all available options and will do so at no cost. If we can assist in this effort in any way, please email peter_buckley@southernoregonsuccess.org

**“CHILD SUCCESS DELIVERY SYSTEM” & PUBLIC OPTION
PROPOSAL AT OCTOBER KEY LEADERS/NETWORK EVENT**

Southern Oregon Success is teaming up with the Jefferson Regional Health Alliance to bring together Key Leaders in education, health care, mental health care, human services, public safety and workforce development, along with the work group members of our Innovation Network, for a Zoom meeting on October 12 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

There is an unprecedented alignment underway of cross-sector priorities in regard to early childhood and family stability, and our region is well-positioned to take full advantage of new opportunities, resources and ideas.

We’ve asked former Governor John Kitzhaber to present two of those potentially game-changing ideas--the development of an equitable Child Success Delivery System and the proposal for a child/family/community-centered Public Option on the Oregon Health Exchange.

We’ll also focus on new metrics from the Oregon Health Authority on early childhood social/emotional learning and Kindergarten readiness, as well as the current work happening with the Southern Oregon Success Innovation Network and the JRHA-led Community Health Improvement Plan.

For more information, please email peter_buckley@southernoregonsuccess.org

2nd PRESCHOOL/K12 ALIGNMENT SUMMIT HELD

Over 130 parents, early childhood educators, Kindergarten teachers and K12 administrators took part in our second Preschool/K12 Alignment Summit on August 11 and 12.

As with our first Summit last April, the focus was on social/emotional learning and on ways we can work together to make the transition into Kindergarten successful for all concerned.

Colt Gill, the director of the Oregon Department of Education, and Alyssa Chatterjee, the director of the newly formed Oregon Department of Early Learning & Care, delivered keynote speeches to provide an overview of the inclusive, collaborative work being done on the state level to align early education with K12.

Break out groups included the introduction of a parent-friendly information booklet, “Help That Helps,” developed by our partner collaboration in Coos and Curry counties, South Coast Together. Work also continued on a regional strength-based Student Information form for children entering Kindergarten.

In addition, Todd Bloomquist of the Grants Pass School District (and the Southern Oregon ACEs Training Team) led a break-out session on the brain science involved with the pandemic and natural disasters, and what educators can expect from their students and each other as kids return to classrooms.

Planning is now underway for a third Summit to take place next spring. For more information, or to join in the planning effort for future Summits, please email peter_buckley@southernoregonsuccess.org.

**SOU MICRO-CREDENTIAL PROGRAM IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
LAUNCHED**

The need for behavioral health services is huge in Southern Oregon and all across the country, particularly for children and youth.

In response, Southern Oregon University, Southern Oregon Education Service District (SOESD) and a number of community partners have come together to develop a micro-credential program, [Foundations of School Mental & Behavioral Health](#).

This ground-breaking approach to increasing the behavioral health workforce has been recognized with a \$50,000 grant from Cambia Health. The grant funds will go towards scholarships for participants in the micro-credential program.

The program prioritizes people currently working in our local school districts, with the goal of helping classified staff and others to “skill up” in the behavioral health field, increasing their effectiveness with the students they work with.

In addition to the courses offered by SOU, a number of free or low-cost online courses are available through the SOESD’s webPD program that qualify for college credit towards the micro-credential. In addition, community offerings such as Jackson County Mental Health’s workshops in Mental Health First Aid and Youth Mental Health First Aid, will also be available for college credit.

For more information, please email Kayla Rappet of SOU at rapetk1@sou.edu.

And here’s some more good news on the behavioral health workforce front...

ONTRACK AWARDED FOUR-YEAR, \$2.2 MILLION FEDERAL GRANT

HHS Behavioral Health Workforce grant will be used to create training program

MEDFORD - OnTrack Rogue Valley announced today it has received a four-year, \$2.2 million U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) award to create a training and certification program to help address a dire shortage in the addiction treatment and behavioral health workforce in Southern Oregon.

The program will begin teaching its first cohort of enrollees this fall. The inaugural class will be comprised of current OnTrack staff studying for CADC (Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor) and/or QMHA (Qualified Mental Health Associate) certifications, as well as outside applicants seeking similar training.

“Our plan for this program is to have a major impact on the growth of our local behavioral health workforce and significantly broaden access to treatment for those who desperately need it,” said OnTrack executive director Sommer Wolcott. “Oregon consistently ranks near the bottom of national rankings for access to addiction services and mental health care. That needs to change.”

Program participants will receive experiential training in OnTrack’s residential and outpatient treatment programs, as well as community partner facilities such as La Clinica’s Birch Grove Health Center. Students will also receive classroom instruction in areas such as person-centered individual and group counseling, ASAM (American Society of Addiction Medicine) assessment, cultural competency, ethics and boundaries, trauma awareness and universal trauma precautions, dual diagnosis and co-occurring treatment, and pharmacology.

When fully operational, the program will open trainings to community partners for in-person or hybrid learning, enabling staff in rural areas to gain access to high quality CEUs (Continuing Education Units). The program will serve approximately 30 students annually who will complete the full curriculum to become certified as one or more of the following: QMHA, CADC and PSS (Peer Support Specialists).

Currently, OnTrack offers placement for approximately five CADC trainees per year. The new program will increase OnTrack’s capacity as a training institution by annually placing 18+ trainees and 14+ apprentices across all nine of OnTrack’s treatment sites—three outpatient, three residential, and three transitional housing facilities—plus at a tenth partner site, La Clinica’s Birch Grove, a primary health provider. At each of these sites, trainees can work with an integrated, interdisciplinary team-based treatment model.

“The integrated care team at Birch Grove is a natural fit to support the work in this new training program,” said Hazel Clements, Birch Grove Collaboration Director. “We’re looking forward to working with the trainees who are seeking to grow and learn and continue to impact our community in a positive way.”

The federal award, to be dispersed over a four-year period, comes from the HHS’s Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). According to the HRSA website, “The BHWET (Behavioral Workforce Education and Training) Program for Professionals aims to increase the supply of behavioral health professionals while also improving distribution of a quality behavioral health workforce and thereby increasing access to behavioral health services.”

Those interested in more information about the OnTrack training and certification program are encouraged to check the OnTrack website at www.ontrackroguevalley.org after September 15 or call (541) 200-2402.

OPEN ACES TRAININGS COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

For anyone interested in taking (or repeating) an ACEs training in the NEAR curriculum, we have open trainings coming up in September and October. 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.

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, September 21
2:30 pm to 4:30 pm via Zoom
Please register [at this link](#).

Tuesday, October 19
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 can do so by emailing peter_buckley@southernoregonsuccess.org.

There is no cost for participants or host organizations, thanks to funding from our local K12 school districts, SOESD, AllCare, Jackson Care Connect, Options for Southern Oregon, SOELS and Rogue Workforce Partnership.

Resources from our partners:



BECOME A MENTOR!

MENTORING ESSENTIALS TRAINING

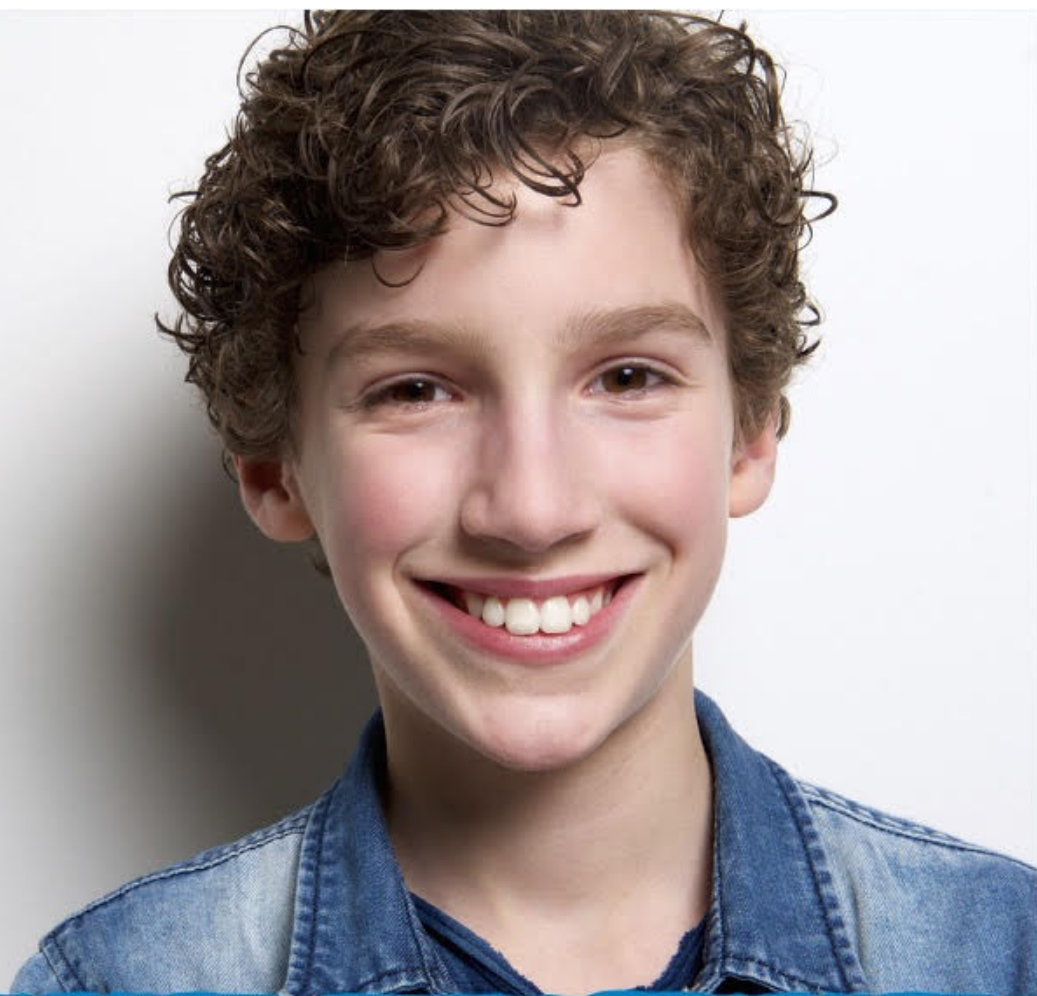
**FRIDAY, 9/17, FROM 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM &
SATURDAY, 9/18, FROM 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

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PRIZES!

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HELPFUL
INFORMATION!

Mon. 9/20

Wed. 9/22

Infant Hygiene

Parent Education

Tues. 9/21

Thurs. 9/23

Infant/ Parent Mental
Health

Breastfeeding

WHEN

Sept. 20-24th
9 AM-1 PM

WHERE

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OF SOUTHERN OREGON

Join us!

Virtual! Free!
With Spanish
Interpretation



September 18
9am - 1pm

OFF TO A
GREAT START!

Register Today

Early childhood is an exciting time with a lot going on! You might feel excited, or a little anxious, about what the next few years could look like. Off to a Great Start will help families get off to a great start by focusing on strengths, having high expectations, and tips for building whole, full, sometimes messy lives, for our littles. Learn about early learning and care, including Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education Services.

Join us and get Off to a Great Start



With Support
From  Metro

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](#).

September 2021