



## **BLUE MOUNTAIN EARLY LEARNING HUB**

**January 30, 2017, 10:00 a.m.**

**IMESD Offices**

**Present:** Maureen McGrath, *Executive Director, UMCHS, Inc.*; Dawn Kennison-Kerrigan, *Blue Mountain Community College*; Jan Goodrich, *Executive Director, Eastern Oregon Head Start*; George Mendoza, *Assistant Superintendent/Special Education Director, Morrow County School District* & Dr. Mark Mulvihill, *Superintendent, InterMountain Education Service District*

**Present by video or telephone conference:** Linda Watson, *Children's Health & Communication Coordinator, GOBHI*; Amber Ruiz-Burleson, *Parent*; Carrie Brogoitti, *Public Health Administrator, Center for Human Development, Inc.*; Lisa Hachquet, *P-3 Coordinator, InterMountain Education Service District* & Cindy Hamilton, *Registered Nurse, Case Manager, Grande Ronde Hospital Women's and Children's Clinic*

### **Administrator, Coordinators and Administrative Support Staff Attending:**

Cade Burnette, *Director of Education and Disabilities, UMCHS, Inc.*; Amy Hoffert, *InterMountain Education Service District*; Jon Peterson, *InterMountain Education Service District*; Lidwinner Machado, *DHS* & Kerry Tassie, *Executive Assistant, UMCHS, Inc.*

### **Guests:**

Dianna Ilaoa, *DHS*

### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Maureen McGrath welcomed everyone to the meeting today, either in person, via video conference or conference phone.

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m.

### **Public Comment:**

Maureen McGrath indicated that there was not any Public Comment at this time.

### **Presentations:**

Tribal Member, *Jon Peterson, BMELH Director*

Jon Peterson informed the members that he is still working with the CTUIR to secure a Tribal Member on our Governing Board. He was hoping to have someone here to today as a guest. Jon has been speaking with the CTUIR Education Director and they would like to have Tribal

Representation on our BMELH. Currently, there are nine (9) tribes across the State of Oregon and they have been meeting amongst themselves and feeling as if they are being left out of the Early Learning Hubs. We are looking for ways in which CTUIR can be active in the Hub and bring new ideas to the table. The Tribes perception is that they have been excluded from the Hubs and that perception is not correct. Cay-Uma-Wa Tribe (Cayuse – Umatilla – Walla Walla) has recently had a multiple turn-over in employment, so securing a contact person out there has been difficult. Jon is in communications with the current contact at Cay-Uma-Wa and is looking forward to meeting with everyone. He has asked Cade Burnette to forward a Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub Governance Board Application that he can send to CTUIR, specifically Eugena Stickcoma, as she would be a consistent member, to ask for Tribal Representation. Currently, there are 598 federally recognized Tribes that are doing their own thing, when this is not essential if they were to join their local Hubs. As a member of the IMESD Governing Board, the Tribal representative will be unable to make assurances/commitments on behalf of the Tribe, but will be able to bring all information, suggestions, comments and recommendations back to the IMESD members.

George Mendoza, Morrow County School District, made a motion to add an additional voting member from CTUIR as tribal representation to the Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub governing board. Jan Goodrick, Eastern Oregon Head Start, seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion or objections, all members approved the motion.

### **Reports:**

#### *ECPT reports*

Jan Goodrick presented the members with a Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub Governance Board Application for Cindy Hamilton. Cindy is a Registered Nurse and Case Manager for Grande Ronde Hospital Women's and Children's Clinic in Grande Ronde, Oregon, Union County. Robert Kleng is the ECPT Chairperson submitting the application on behalf of Cindy.

Jan Goodrick, Eastern Oregon Head Start, made a motion to accept Cindy Hamilton, union county health sector, to the Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub governing board. George Mendoza, Morrow County School District, seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion or objections, all members approved the motion.

There is a new counselor working at the Grande Ronde Hospital Women's and Children's Clinic providing services to Union and Elgin Clinics.

#### **Addition to the Report:**

- The La Grande Library is creating a "Coding Club" – developing codes/computers. They are asking for new Sponsors for the Ready-to-Learn Program,

- The Summer Reading Programs have begun their planning for this years' picnics,
- Head Start received Duration Funds to extend the small centers in Elgin and Union,
- There are currently 62 children on the waiting list in La Grande. They are currently working with the community for grants for the 4-year-olds,
- GOBHI donated \$100,000 for the new clinic in Elgin,
- The DHS Poverty Summit is coming together,
- There will be an Equity Training on Friday, March 03, 2017 at the Eastern Oregon University Campus. They will have two trainers, Lisa Ladendorff, LCSW, presenting Equity and Inclusion and Cecil Cross, presenting Trauma and Aggression. This training is available at no cost – sending of flyers and registration will begin soon.
- The Conscious Parenting Classes are very well received. There are currently 20-30 people involved.

Dawn Kennison-Kerrigan presented the following:

- Kriss Dammeyer from Made-to-Thrive and Family Promise program is actively searching to empower children through sports, art, music, adventure activities, etc. There are also mentors in many of the communities that help with transportation and attend the events with the children. There are over 300 children in the program.
- There is an Every Child by Two (ECBT) event being held at Blue Mountain Community College on April 07 & 08, 2017.
- CCR&R Spring Conference “Children Bring Communities Together” is scheduled for April 07 & 08, 2017.
- There is a Mathematics and the Young Child \$250 Scholarship being offered at BMCC – register now for Winter Term.

George Mendoza informed the members that he handed out two Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub Governance Board Applications in Morrow County, but only received one back from Veronica Lezama, Business Representative for Morrow County with employment at Banner Bank.

George Mendoza, Morrow County School District, made a motion to accept Veronica Lezama, business representative – Banner Bank personal banker, to the Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub governing board. Jan Goodrick, Eastern Oregon Head Start, seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion or objections, all members approved the motion.

- Rosy Delgato is still going to be working four days a week,
- The Car Seat Clinic went well,
- CCR&R is underway in their planning for the Conference in April 2017,
- The Morrow County School District is working with UMCHS on expanding their preschool from two (2) days a week, two (2) hours a day to four (4) days a week, three (3) hours per day. This will give us 40 children in Irrigon and 40 children in Boardman,

- There is a grant for English Language Learners (ELL) for students and new-comers to the area. Currently, there are 20 newcomers that have arrived from another country, state, city, school, etc. and we are looking at different approaches to get them into our program.

### *Data Reports*

Cade Burnette is in the process of gathering data from all the areas, however, he is still awaiting one more place. He will have a full report at the next BMELH Meeting.

### *Coordinators report*

#### **Kindergarten Support Team:**

Amy Hoffert, InterMountain Education Service District:

- Amy has provided services and supports in six (6) classrooms within five (5) schools in four (4) districts. Services are active within four (4) classrooms while one (1) classroom case has been resolved. Currently, there are 123 students being served, five schools and four districts.
- They just wrote up a re-evaluation for student assessment in Union.
- There are several new students in Umatilla. With this, there is a big need for emotional teacher support. Some of the challenges are with the Veteran teachers, who are not ready for this.
- There has been a Choice Board created for those classrooms who may not have Child Development resources and a calming technique for children when there is not a Child Development in the classroom.

#### **Family Friendly Business:**

Cade Burnette indicated that there are 38 Family-Friendly Business at this time and he anticipates this number to go up soon with Amy and Jon working together on this. Jon indicated that all school districts are set up under this program, as a whole, therefore, they do not need to set them up individually. Several of the Family-Friendly Business are from the private industry structure, but are getting into more of a traditional business sector.

#### **No Wrong Door:**

Cade Burnette indicated that there is an increase in No Wrong Door providers, approximately 40+ at this time. He and his associates have given out thousands of cards and flyers throughout the State. There is a lot of new interest in this program. When Cade was in Albany, he was approached regarding how someone would go about setting up a No Wrong Door in their community. Cade has received six (6) applications last week and he wants to continue to make

sure we can market it. This program was developed for families who are not sure where they can go to receive services or even how to start the process. With all our other programs in place, the No Wrong Door providers will not increase much, meaning that the information regarding the other programs are getting out to the public.

#### **PLT**

Lisa Hachquet informed the members that there are about 80 child care providers, preschool teachers and K-3 teachers participating in Professional Learning Teams with approximately 2,000 children. They were able to use grant funds to distribute about 2,000 Kindergarten Readiness Pamphlets across the three counties and about 800 room Parent Tip card sets for 2016. There will be a training coming up with 13 early childhood schools and eight (8) agencies participating.

#### **Kindergarten Transition Team:**

Jon Peterson indicated that Cade Burnette has done an amazing job dedicating his time to the Kindergarten Transition Team.

Mark Mulvihill wanted to know if, during Cade's visit to Albany, was the BMELH or Hubs in general brought up as a widely-discussed topic? Cade indicated that there was representation from other Hubs throughout the State. All Hubs were asked to share an activity. BMELH discussed our interest in having a CTUIR Tribal member join our Governing Board and walked through the process on how we were making this happen. The State looks at all the individual Hubs to see who is thriving and who is surviving. In order to continue with funding, we need to make sure that BMELH jumps out at the State level. Show them all the progress that we have made and that our children are kindergarten-ready because of the impact that the Hubs have.

Mark Mulvihill and George Mendoza recently attended a conference on the West side of Oregon and they did not hear positive news in regards to our upcoming budget. They received word that we are looking at a \$1.8 billion deficit – similar to the recession days. Every dollar we receive will have to be fought for. BMELH will need to be seen by everyone over the K-12 Statewide sector. We need to let people know that we ARE making an impact. A simple newsletter is good, but not enough. We need to find creative ways to get the word out using parents, teachers, and superintendents; adding in videos, emotional music and testimonies from families/teachers, praising the Hubs. How do we start to get more funds/grants to increase, how do we support preschools? How do we get this to be a high topic of conversation for our request for grants/funds? Are disadvantage at this time, is that there are no "heavy hitters" in Salem to support our Early Learning programs.

Mark and Maureen McGrath co-wrote a Joint Ways & Means letter to the co-chairs Devlin and Nathanson. They wanted to provide input regarding the 2017-2019 State Budget and funding for early learning and education. Together, they offered the following perspectives:

- Continue to support the educational continuum – our most important investment in Oregon is quality education at every level,
- Sustain investment in the burgeoning but fragile early learning infrastructure – these investments have led to increased quality, increased access, and better engagement of young families throughout the early years of their children’s lives.
- Recognize the significant additional support and investment needed for poor families with children in the early years across our communities – more of our families are struggling with poverty, more of our families are new to the community and they often need more diverse approaches to engage their needs,
- Turn to us for parent and provider voices from throughout our communities and from across our state – our Early Learning Hubs have developed deep relationships with parents and community leaders – hubs are the table in which these voices are influencing the systems we are developing.

Cade Burnette is working on getting the Kindergarten assessment completed by districts and communities focusing on health data points and the numbers served. He will be able to give a presentation on how great and health, safety and education is for each community. Cade indicated that he is setting up, with assistance, a “What Works” campaign with the primary initiative to make sure that all Early Learning through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade works.

#### *Workplan Updates*

Cade Burnette informed the members that activities are going very well on our various places in which we have funding.

- I’m Healthy! / ¡Soy Sano! Program. UMCHS, Inc. has submitted a proposal for Safety Net Capacity Grant Program Outreach and Education (SNGCP) in the amount of \$115,593. This proposal is in partnership with Mirasol Family Health Center and Columbia River Community Health Services. This is a dental program which provides dental services for children between the ages of 0-18 who reside in Oregon and are not covered under any dental plan. Services include preventative, diagnostic, relief of pain, and basic restorative services. The Children’s Program covers up to \$800 for each child.

Dawn Kennison-Kerrigan informed the members that Vroom has received a \$3,000 grant for materials.

#### *Conscious Discipline Updates*

Lisa Hachquet informed the members that Annette Chastain will be conducting a Conscious Discipline Seminar on February 03, 2017 at the SAGE Center, Boardman, OR. Currently, there are 55 people registered for this seminar. There will be another seminar on March 10, 2017 at the Pendleton High School. Currently there are 15 registered for this seminar. Lisa explained

that currently, Annette and/or her colleagues will go to the individual schools/centers and do specific training to just meet the needs of that one specific area. Conscious Discipline will soon be a universal payment structure that will be the same cost across the nation. They are meeting with Annette on February 07, 2017 to see about setting up Webinars with activities focused on one skill or strategy. Also, Lisa is looking into Conscious Parenting vs. Conscious Discipline. You can still achieve a positive outcome with Conscious Parenting and the skills of trainer, without the expenses of hiring Chastain and Assoc. We can look at building capacity through our trainer's. If we seek out people interested, good trainers and are knowledgeable based, we would be able to include this information as another accomplishment of BMELH.

### **Discussion Items:**

#### *Legislative Visit*

Cade Burnette informed the members that a Legislative Visit is not going to be possible at this time. No legislators are interested, willing or just simply do not have time for this. Our way in is through our Ways & Means. There will be a Town Hall Meeting on Friday, February 17, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Hermiston High School; Senator Hansell will be there.

#### *Monitoring Site Visit*

Cade Burnette informed the members that each ELH has a monitoring site visit done. We need to show that we are meeting our metrics and how we are going about doing this. Lisa will be sending out a survey and she is requesting that all members of the Governing Board complete and return this survey. In addition, this survey will be sent to all school districts, IMESD and all other partners.

#### *Governing Board Needs in Union and Umatilla County*

Cade Burnette, Lisa Hachquet and Amy Hoffert are working to complete the Site Monitoring Visit requirements which is done by the state. Government structure is one of our metrics. Until the Governing Board vote in a member with safety capacity, we are out of compliance. The members are aware that Linda Watson is only on through March 2017, so we are in need of a liaison from March – October 2017. The members have suggested that Lidwinner Machado, DHS complete a Governance Application Form and have her voted in at the March 2017 meeting.

#### *Marketing*

Maureen McGrath suggested that we focus on *A Nurturing Father* and Storytime Express. We can remove the reading program, as that is done through the Library District.

### *Systems Navigation – Next Steps*

Maureen McGrath and Cade Burnette presented the members with the Bridges to Opportunities Welcome – [bridgestoopportunity.com](http://bridgestoopportunity.com) – This is a toolkit filled with issue guides, resources guides and a directory of learning tools, and, it's free. Currently we have Umatilla and Morrow County but will be adding Union County very soon. There are 105 system navigators. Cade gave examples of the search tool, i.e. Crisis and High Risk Issues; Abuse/Neglect: This quick guide is for individuals and/or families who are suffering from harm inflicted by another person. You can then navigate to the nine (9) Types of Violence and Abuses. The goal of this particular quick guide is to assist individuals with understanding the different types of abuse as they affect unique populations. There is a section on what to watch for and how to take action on the prevention, intervention and treatment of abuse. Other examples are:

- Behavioral and Communication Issues
- Family Issues,
- Child Care Challenges
- Parenting and Disciplines
- Taking on new tasks
- Finding services, days and hours of operation.
- Children in the Middle

Cade is going to monitor this site and gather information re: what topics are our biggest hits on this website. This will be addressed again at the April 2017 meeting.

### **Action Items:**

#### *Morrow County Representatives' Applications*

Maureen McGrath informed the members that the two applicants presented for vote today were approved previously in this meeting; Veronica Lezama, Business Representative for Morrow County with employment at Banner Bank and Cindy Hamilton, Registered Nurse and Case Manager for Grande Ronde Hospital Women's and Children's Clinic.

#### *Diversification of Governing Board*

Jon Peterson informed the members that we will need to revise the Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub Bylaws to include an additional member of the board and to revise the criteria for selection of Board members to include one CTUIR Tribal member. A draft of the revision will be presented for approval at the March 13, 2017 BMELH Meeting.



*Approval of Minutes*

Maureen McGrath presented the member with the BMELH Meeting Minutes from November 14, 2016. There was a suggestion to replace behavior health and focus on early learning. The members have asked for further clarification at the March 13, 2017 meeting regarding this.

Linda Watson, GOBHI, made a motion to accept the BMELH meeting minutes from November 14, 2016 with further clarification regarding behavior health being addressed at the March 13, 2017 meeting. George Mendoza, Morrow County School District, seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion or objections, all members approved the motion.

**Announcements:**

None at this time

Next Meeting is Monday, March 13th, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., with lunch following.

The meeting adjourned at 12:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kerry Tassie

Executive Assistant, UMCHS, Inc.