



**Staff Report**

For City Council Meeting - 1/4/2023

***Subject - Visitors - Clatsop Child Care Retention & Expansion Program - Dan Gaffney***

***Synopsis*** - The City was contacted by Success For Kids LLC representative Dan Gaffney, who has provided the attached description of the history, impact, and next steps of the Clatsop Child Care Retention & Expansion Program. He has also prepared a PowerPoint presentation for the Council.

***Recommendation:*** N/A

***Legal Analysis:*** N/A

***Financial Analysis:*** N/A

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name "Chad", written in a cursive style.

Chad

## History, Impact and Next Steps

of

### Clatsop Child Care Retention and Expansion Program

Written 11/21/22

Dan Gaffney, Program Manager

Spring 2021 –

Dorothy Spence (Director of NW Regional Early Learning Hub- EL Hub), Eva Manderson (Director of NW Regional Child Care Resource and Referral- CCRR), Mark Kujala (Chair of Clatsop County Commissioners), Courtney Bangs (Clatsop County Commissioner), Joanna Lyons-Antley (Clatsop County Counsel), Dan Gaffney (Clatsop County child advocate) and Heidi East McGowan (Consultant/Facilitator) met numerous times to determine how to address child care crisis in Clatsop County. County government had determined that child care was a critical part of economic development. Economic development was previously determined to be one of the top three priorities for the county by Clatsop County's Board of Commissioners. A budget for the county's use of American Rescue Plan Act funds included \$500,000 for child care support. The group discussed work being done across Oregon and the rest of the country to address the extreme need for child care.

July 2021 –

The group identified approximately 60 Clatsop County leaders who they thought would have a strong interest and valuable perspective regarding child care needs and improvement. A virtual meeting was set up to present an overview of some options that Clatsop County may pursue and to gauge the level of interest in working on sustaining and improving child care availability, dependability, and quality. With 2 weeks' notice over 40 people attended the meeting. After presenting some of the options, approximately 30 people offered to be a part of an Advisory Committee that would craft a plan.

August 2021-

An Advisory Committee of 15 was created that represented a cross section of participants. The EL Hub and CCRR committed to be active participants and provide funding for the involvement of the consultant/facilitator. Everyone who was invited was included in a list that would receive periodic updates. The committee worked through monthly meetings to gain in depth understanding of Shared Services (a proven way to reduce costs and administrative time for providers), Michigan's pilot program (1/3 state, 1/3 business, 1/3 family paying child care costs), a local business model for funds from various sources be pooled and then awarded to local providers to help increase available slots and pay for providers.

January 2022-

Astoria City Council announced that they would no longer provide child care/preschool. They would close Sprouts Learning Academy on June 30 if a partnership did not develop. They reached out to current providers and the community to see if there was interest in partnering. An influential community group headed by Trudy Van Dusen Citovic looked into it but determined that it was not fiscally reasonable to start a non-profit from scratch.

March 2022-

Ms. Tammy's Daycare and Preschool, long time provider in Seaside, closes.

April 2022-

The City of Astoria received two offers to partner. They selected Bumble Preschool Art Studio. Letter from Columbia Memorial Hospital (CMH) and Providence Seaside Hospital submitted to Clatsop Child Care Task Force offering funds to support child care.

May 2022-

Child Care Task Force held a ½ day work session. The work session produced a plan to present to the County Commissioners at a future work session.

June 2022-

A plan was presented to the County Commissioners at a Work Session. They appreciated the details and referred the plan to the next Board meeting. At the Board meeting the commissioners committed \$500,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funds, over 3 years, to be used to implement the Clatsop Child Care Retention and Expansion Program. Our 2 hospitals committed a total of \$120,000 for 2022-23 and indicated that more was likely in the future. While Bumble Preschool was shifting and expanding to take over Astoria's child care program, CMH and Astoria School District made agreements with Bumble that would benefit their employees, the community they serve and Bumble.

July 2022-

Dan Gaffney agreed to serve as Program Manager for 6 months so the program could start immediately with the goal of increasing child care slots by early fall. (Columbia Pacific Economic Development District (ColPac), a 501c-3 organization serving Columbia, Clatsop, Tillamook and part of Washington counties, agreed to be the fiscal agent for the program.

August 2022-

In late July grant details and applications were distributed through ColPac, CCRR, Dan Gaffney, and various media within Clatsop County. Applications were due in late August. \$380,000 was requested. \$275,000 was available.

September 2022-

By late September decisions were made to award \$226,500 to 12 of 15 applicants (One applicant withdrew as they elected to take another job. The other 2 did not meet the criteria. They were referred to a new state grant opportunity. A bit later an opportunity came to apply for a grant from Oregon Community Foundation on their behalf.)

The 12 grantees indicated plans to be licensed if they are not already, increase wages, provide scholarships, accept ERDC funds, attend Strengthening Business sessions as a new cohort, use Child Care Management System software (that will be provided if they don't have one), sign up to be on Oregon Child Care Find and share data with us.

The 12 grantees indicated they could increase the number of slots they offer by 36% as a result of the grant.

### **Additional Highlights**

- With the Providence Seaside Hospital grant came support from a data team, CORE (Center for Outcomes and Education). During the monthly meetings work is done to determine how to collect data, how to measure desired outcomes, clarify what data is needed to measure the outcomes. The monthly sessions involve 2 CORE team members and our Program Manager.
- Baseline and quarterly data... To be collected by Program Manager, collated, and shared with Advisory Committee. Analysis will be done and used to plan next steps. There has been some discussion about distributing future funds to address the extreme lack of infant & toddler care. (At one time Sprouts was the only provider accepting infants & toddlers.
- The Program Manager attended the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) Leadership Gathering in October. Conversations about Clatsop's Child Care Program (CCCP) took place with the following: The Chair of Oregon's Early Learning Council, Executive Director of Wild River Coast Alliance (leads the south coast child care program funded in part of Oregon's ELD, OCF, Ford Family Foundation), Program Director of Oregon's Child Care Alliance (engaged in 3 communities with plans to expand into 3 more), and OCF's Early Childhood Program Officer. The Program Manager of Oregon's Child Care Alliance reached out to Eva Manderson to make sure that NW Regional CCRR, which serves Clatsop County, is applying for one of expansion positions.

- Kevin Leahy, Jessica Newhall, and Dan Gaffney have presented introductions and updates to Clatsop Economic Development Resources, Seaside Downtown Development Association, Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce, Astoria Downtown Development Association and Cannon Beach business leaders.
- NW Natural's regional office expressed interest in learning more about how they can support the program. They are now processing a donation for 2022, plan to make another donation in 2023 and will advocate for a donation from their Portland office in 2023.
- The Program Manager participated in a "round table" discussion with Governor Elect Tina Kotek and Washington's Governor Inslee along with 2 providers and 4 parents. Both Governor Elect Kotek and Governor Inslee were given copies of the slide deck presented to CEDR members and the Program's email address [ClatsopChildCareGrants@gmail.com](mailto:ClatsopChildCareGrants@gmail.com). The table discussion included a short description of Michigan's Tri-share model for funding child care.
- There has been significant support from local media. Three pieces were published in October. An Associated Press reporter significantly addressed issues in Clatsop County while writing about child care challenges in rural communities. A reporter from The Astoria wrote an updated story about child care. And Kevin Leahy had a guest editorial about the progress in Clatsop County and how it has developed.
- Legislative connections continue to be pursued. Conversations have occurred with Representative Suzanne Weber (now Senator Weber), Interim Senator Armatig, U.S. Representative Suzanne Bonamici (Eva Manderson is on her advisory committee), Dana Hepper (Children's Institute, leads legislative advocacy) and Dorothy Spence (legislative staff member before becoming our EL Hub director)
- Clatsop Community College involvement. Advisory Committee members include Kevin Leahy (Executive Director of CEDR/SBDC), Jessica Newhall (Associate Director SBDC) and Nicole Williams (CCC Board of Directors). President Chris Breitmeyer has expressed support and willingness to be actively involved in Clatsop's child care program. The Early Childhood Education program was dropped 6 years ago when the primary instructor moved away. The instructor, Pat Eterno, is back and working for Head Start. Head Start has offered to include in her job description that she teaches classes at CCC. At CCC this coming winter, 2 classes are being offered. More classes are expected if enrollment shows the interest. The Strengthening Business cohort is taught by Jessica Newhall and Eva Manderson as a partnership between SBDC and CCRR

### **Next Steps**

- Review baseline and quarterly data collected from grantees. Determine conclusions, questions, and next steps. Assess progress toward desired outcomes.
- Provide quarterly report to contributors, partners, and supporters
- Consider when the next round of grant applications may be offered based on needs, fund raising, marketing, timing, process, who to approach and how to seek contributions