

Attendance

Chelsea Hamilton, Denise Glascock, Adam Freer, Rodney Cook, Merry Persichetti, Mary Rumbaugh, Sophie Butler, Amy Corbett, Donalda Dodson, Dani Stamm Thomas, Lennie Bjornson, Pat Duke, Brett Walker, Kim La Croix

Discussion

Merry's general concern is that at the last meeting, it's been tough for people to explain to others what the Hub is. And if we're now asking a lobbyist to discuss with legislators and there's not continuity, there will be confusion. It's important to have a voice but if we confuse people, we shoot ourselves in the foot. So she's wondering, how do we show who we are as a Hub, rather than tell? She's not sure if there would be a conflict of interest but if there was a stamp or a seal that partners were willing to show that services were being coordinated but could really visibly show the work being done and partnerships that are happening.

Dani responded with thinking that a symbol-graphic or tag line for agencies that work with the Hub, and communicating togetherness is good. As far as confusion, that's definitely what we're trying to avoid.

Adam noted that part of the challenge is that the conversations are all over the place and the idea is that we work behind the scenes. The lobbyist consulting was considered because they're polished and they're helping us facilitate to develop those message points and then deliver in a clear and consistent way. It's exactly because there's this confusion that we want the sixteen Hubs to inform what the decisions are and will be.

Mary Rumbaugh added that CC works with a third party on the [legislature] floor because they're keying into things that none of us are really prepared to do. Her experience with lobbyists is that they will smooth the waters but they need us [partners] to testify and give them data. Her only question about Eames is that they're lobbyists for many groups and, she's assuming that there's no conflict of interest.

Dani said that when the decision was being made about lobbyists, they double checked who they're currently working with to make sure there are no conflicts of interest.

Adam said that Eames has been contracting with the United Way in Washington County and so the main reason they were selected is because they've been grounded in the Hubs and have that history of representing the Hubs and communicating with legislators. He said the other great value is that they know legislators personally which helps ease the tension and open doors.

Lennie reflected on the visualization of the Hubs that when he completed the ELD survey, the beginning of the survey spells out the three or four objectives for the Hubs and he remembered when the Hubs were a dream of a Venn-diagram with childcare, pediatrics and parenting- that might be one way to show the functionality of the Hub. Later in Kitzhaber years, the Hub spoke to the direct services that were being done contrary to the understanding of the commissions.

Brett shared that we need to prioritize that the messages that the lobbyists are carrying forward are in alignment that legislators are going to hear from ELD leadership about the Hubs. There's now less interest from current ELD leadership about having the Hubs play this connector role and really there's more focus right now on supporting the early education sector and maybe letting go of some of the early goals of the Hubs- for better or worse. There's some risk in doing more harm than good if the

lobbyist is carrying forward a message from the Hubs and the ELD and governors are going to end up more confusing which would lead to some unintended consequences.

Dani mentioned that Lennie had asked that this be considered and worked into the steps, and language, to address that issue and that this message has been passed along to those drafting the final scope of work with Eames.

Adam clarified that the goal is that we are in conversation with them, and in lock-step, as much as we can be but there may be some instances where we respectfully disagree. As long as we are in agreement with the other Hubs, he's not sure what the conversation will look like but the goal is to develop a clear vision. This may need to be one of the things we need to advocate for. One of the challenges since Adam has started is that there needs to be some clarity on roles because there's tension when there are different assumptions about what the roles are. The Hubs and ELD are operating under very different perspectives and we need to find common ground to the extent that we can.

Rod said most of the organizations that are part of the Clackamas Hub, are part of an association that has a lobbyist and they're going to lobby for what's in their best interest. This Hub needs to understand that to an extent, we are lobbying to be a systems organization. We want to be more than funding now. We've learned that we don't want to go against the commission system because then the Hub will blow up, and we don't want that. But we can be kind, and be wise and work with but we have to believe in our voice. In a board hearing the other day, Commissioner Schrader asked what the Hubs were, and what they represent. In our county, whether it be Hub or county, we want to build system. Anything that this Hubs signs on to, all of us will have had to approve so we have control of the message that goes forward but people need to really think with wisdom about having our voices heard- if we believe in systems work.

Donalda said that this collective impact was initially the goal to sure up those who were unable to do so independently and in this way, this will benefit all the Hubs.

Denise shared that the Relief Nursery is always being asked [by ELD] about whether or not they're part of the Hub and what role it has. Since the Hub has existed, the Relief Nursery really does have a voice in a collective group and so since then it's been expected that that voice be used.

Peg said that we have to really do the systems work and she sees right now that more of that could be happening than it is right now.

Brett agreed and said the legislature doesn't care about paying for systems work, they just want to go back to the constituents with the raw data- not the systems work that was done. Following up on Denise's comment, he said that one value a lobbyist could have is to organize and marshal voices of people who are in direct service roles and have those people speak to the value of working with the Hub and how that has benefited children and families.

Adam noted that he's personally been advocating for a clearer sense of working with the ELD about what systems change looks like, what staffing resources are necessary and how we can do this well. To prepare, we've been coming up with clear examples of the systems change works that's being done like Preschool for All in MultCo. Their investment over the years has demonstrated a massive systems change in that county. Raise Up Oregon is another great way to massively enhance the infrastructure to make the services stable and sustainable. Lennie responded to Rod by stating that most legislators are

singularly minded and it's difficult for them to hold space for both systems work and direct services. He remembered that when addressing systems, we also add programming and track the components and practices and therefore have more stakeholders.

Vote

The ask is for the blessing to keep moving along with Eames consulting. We wouldn't be entering the contract because we can't financially support it but they still want to use our logo and they laid out their approach- so are we comfortable with that? There will be back and forth going forward to get more specific but right now we need to know yes the Hub is on board, that they can use the logo and the approach.

Amy made the motion, Pat Duke seconded. There were no abstains, further discussions or questions.

All in favor: Chelsea Hamilton, Denise Glascock, Rodney Cook, Merry Persichetti, Mary Rumbaugh, Sophie Butler, Amy Corbett, Donalda Dodson, Lennie Bjornson, Pat Duke, Brett Walker, Kim La Croix

All opposed: none

Ask granted.