



# THE WEEKLY MEMO

2022-2023, Issue #25 - April 11, 2022- Editors: Angie Salazar & Ashley Clayton

## Mission Statement

Southern Oregon Head Start prepares all children and their families for success in school and throughout life.



# WHO'S AWESOME?

You're awesome!

## Weekly Memo Submission

Please send your PDF's, jpecs, and text to

Angie Salazar-

asalazar@socfc.org

By Wednesday @ 12 p.m.

## INSIDE

- 1) Good Thymes in the garden
- 3-10) Departments in the Spotlight

## Meetings and Trainings

### April 11 —Monday

- 9:00-10:00 PFCE Weekly Team Meetings, VIRTUAL
- 10:00-11:30 ED Department Meeting, TEAMS

### April 12—Tuesday

- 9:00-11:00 Directors Meeting, Blue Conf. Rm.
- 1:00-3:00 Dept. Managers Meeting, TEAMS

### April 13 —Wednesday

- 1:00-2:00 Onboarding Updates, TEAMS

### April 14 —Thursday

- 8:30-10:00 HSAC, VIRTUAL
- 9:00-10:00 PFCE Dept. Meeting, TEAMS
- 1:00-2:30 Dare to Lead Meeting, HS & EHS SMS, TEAMS

### April 15 —Friday

- 8:00-12:00 Education Planning
- 8:00-12:00 Union Negotiations, Blue Building Conf. Rm./ Library
- 10:00-11:30 Center Meeting, TEAMS
- 1:00-2:30 Safety Committee, TEAMS
- 1:15-3:00 Jackson County Safety Committee Meeting, Blue Building Conf. Rm.

### April 18 —Monday

- 9:00-10:00 PFCE Weekly Team Meeting, Virtual
- 9:00-12:00 Education Support Check In Meeting, Blue Building Conf. Rm.

- 10:00-11:30 Ed Department Meeting, TEAMS

- 1:00-3:00 0-5 Site Managers Meeting, TEAMS

### April 19—Tuesday

- Policy Council Meeting— Time TBD, TEAMS

- 9:00-11:00 Directors' Meeting, Blue Building Conf. Rm.

- 9:00-10:30 Cohort 1-ED, Virtual

- 1:30-3:00 Policy Council, TEAMS

### April 20 —Wednesday

- 9:00-10:30 Cohort 2— SM, Virtual

- 9:00-10:30 Department Directors Meeting, MO Blue Conf. Rm.

- 1:00-2:00 Onboarding Updates, TEAMS

- 3:00-7:00 LISTO Prep, Blue Building Conf. Rm.

### April 21 —Thursday

- 9:00-10:30 RS SM Cohort 3— SM, Virtual

- 9:00-10:00 MO Safety Mtg, TEAMS

- 9:00-10:00 PFCE Department Mtg, TEAMS

- 2:30-3:30 Health & PFCE Mtg, PFCE OFFICE

- 5:45-7:45 Board Meeting, TBD

### April 22—Friday

- 8:00-10:00 Education Planning

- 10:00-12:00 Cohort 4— HT, VIRTUAL

- 10:00-11:30 Education TLC

- 11:00-12:00 The Family Connection Finance Committee, Blue Building Conf. Rm.

- 1:00-2:30 CPR— Hands on Training, Blue Building Conf. Rm.

GOOD THYME S IN THE GARDEN



The children at Ashland were pulling weeds along the fence and then planting them in the sandbox and watering them :)

It was their "garden"

SUBMITTED BY ERYNN HOFF

# DEPARTMENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

*Take a look at who is in the following departments!*



Disability / Mental Health



Education



# Disability / Mental Health



Jodi Droesch- Disability & Mental Health Manager

Good day to you all! I have been with SOCFC since October of 2012, where I continue to be amazed at the perseverance and strength our staff have shown, especially over these last couple of years. Before becoming the Dis/MH Manager in July of 2017 I also served as an Area/Education Manager, the Dis/MH supervisor and a teacher at Eagle Point and South Medford. One thing I love most about my position in the Dis/MH department is that I get to know and work with so many wonderful staff across various positions. My first job ever was serving frozen yogurt, so quite a change from what I am doing today! Outside of work, my favorite activities to do with family and friends fall in the summer months, rafting, camping, hiking, and crawdad fishing with bare hands! I have had a blast coaching basketball for 6 years and volleyball for 3 years with Junior Comet Sports and 4 years of softball with Gold Valley Little League. I collect rocks, shells and sticks and love indoor plants. Music is awesome and essential when cleaning house, hosting guests and playing foosball.



# Disability/Mental Health



Joyce Borden- Disability/ Mental Health SAA

Hi, I'm Joyce - Most of you probably don't know me very well and probably most of you only by my emails! I am behind the scenes for Disability and Mental Health as the Service Area Assistant. I have worked in this department since 2017. I enjoy working with Jodi and assisting the Teachers and Family Advocates of special needs children.

Before coming to Head Start, I put in a couple years' time at both Providence and Asante, transitioning from an intense job at Wells Fargo Brokerage as their Branch Manager for Central and Southern Oregon.

My plan for SOFC is to stick around awhile, though my retirement is on the Horizon ... at which point we plan to travel (first stop Texas to visit family). For now, I am learning to read and write the Hebrew language, I study Biblical archeology and I always make room for crafting!



# Education



## Cecilia Hurt- Early Childhood Education Director

My name is Cecilia Hurt, and I am the Education Director. I have had the privilege of serving the community for nearly 10 years as an SOCFC employee. I find joy in supporting teachers to build connections with children, and support their resiliency through life. Nothing is better than seeing joy and curiosity in the eyes of children. I have three beautiful boys that keep me hopping when I am no working. I am honored to support all of you, and the amazing work that you do for children and families.

## Emilee Leeper- Education Manager

My name is Emilee Leeper. I started 10 years ago at the White City center as a teacher, I taught for several years at the Eagle Point center and then Head Teacher at Sams Valley center. Since then, I have been an Education Supervisor and Site Manager. For the last couple of years, I have been the Education Manager for Head Start. Some of my hobbies include gardening and being outdoors, going hiking with the dogs and spending time on my paddle board on the lake. I was born and raised here in the valley and love being in a position with an agency that provides support for families here and offers educational opportunities for those who need it most.





# Education

## Sarah Emerson- Early Head Start Education Manager



Hi. My name is Sarah Emerson and I'm the Early Head Start Education Manager. I've been a part of the EHS family since 2019 when I came on as an Education Supervisor. Prior to working at SOHS, I spent 5 years working for Nike's Child Development Program as a 0-3 teacher and before that, I was a first-grade teacher at Jackson Elementary school here in Medford. Littles are where it's at for me and I just love the 0-3 age group and community it attracts. Outside of work, I enjoy traveling, hiking, camping and exploring National Parks, Zion and Glacier are my favorites so far. I have a preschooler that keeps me on my toes and just welcomed a second little boy to our family in January. I love spending time with them, my husband and my shaggy dog.

## Karen Lowrey- Education Service Area Assistant

Hi. My name is Karen Lowrey, and I am the Education Service Area Assistant. I have been with Southern Oregon Head Start since 2015. I am passionate about the Head Start mission and making a difference in our community. Above all I am a mother and grandmother, my family means everything to me.





# Education

## *Amber Fernandez- Early Childhood Behavior Specialist*

My name is Amber Fernandes, and I am the Early Childhood Behavior Specialist. I have a BS in Psychology and recently received my Masters in Educational Leadership. I have a diverse experience working with children. Before entering the classroom as a teacher, I worked in a mental health crisis unit for children and as an adoption specialist for children in DHS care. My experience in the classroom as a Special Education teacher increased my passion that all children should feel accepted and safe in the classroom community. In my current position, I truly enjoy partnering with the teaching staff to support their classroom and individual student needs. We have such a caring staff and it shows with the determination everyone shows to ensure each child is welcome and supported.



## *Amanda Ward- Early Head Start Education Coach*

My name is Amanda Ward. I am the EHS Education Coach. I have an amazing family with two wonderful boys, 6 years old and 9 months old. They definitely keep me on my toes. I have worked for Early Head Start for 7 years now. I started my journey with EHS as a center assistant at the ABC-C center and moved up to a TA then a teacher. For the past two years I have worked as an Education Coach and have loved getting to know our wonderful EHS family!







# Education

## Casey Wiltermood- Head Start Education Coach

Hello, my name is Casey Wiltermood, I am an Education Coach for Head Start. I enjoy the position of education coach because it allows me to support teachers in their classrooms. I have worked for Head Start for 8 years. I have my bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. I started my journey at Head Start as a teacher assistant and was in that position for 2 years. Then I moved into the role of teacher for 1 year and then I was also a Head Teacher for 2 years. I was also an education supervisor for 2 years as well. I am a wife and mother of 1 daughter and soon to be 2 daughters. I am expecting another baby in May! When I am not at work I enjoy being with my family and my 2 dogs and 2 cats.



## Wendy Anderson- Head Start Education Coach

Hi. I'm Wendy Anderson! I have been with Southern Oregon Head Start for a total of 25 years. I have been a Center Assistant, a Teacher Assistant, a Teacher, a Head Teacher, an Education Supervisor, an Education Manager and now I am an Education Coach. In 2018 I received my BA in Early Childhood Education. I love to work out and play flag football. Summer time is my favorite and I enjoy hiking, going to concerts and spending time outdoors. I have two grown sons and an (almost) two-year-old grandson! They are absolutely amazing and the very best part of my life!





# Education



## Lori Steele- Education Coach

Hi my name is Lori Steele. I am a new Ed Coach with Head Start and began my position in December 2021. A little background on me, I have been working with children for 41 years in different capacities, starting out in privately owned pre-schools to elementary school, Head Start, and Child Welfare. I started out as a Family Advocate with Head Start, then as a supervisor then Lead Teacher. I moved onto DHS work in 2005 in California before moving to Oregon in 2013, continuing with my DHS work. I decided to leave DHS to join the Head Start program as, one, the dynamics are different and the interaction with people are more positive in nature. I love children, as they bring joy to my life and I love helping and supporting others, so my Ed Coaching position is a perfect fit! I have two grown children, love the beach, the outdoors, crafts and being with my family.

## Josefina Martinez Samano- HS & EHS DLL Supervisor

Hola! I am Josefina Martinez Samano or Josie for many of my co-workers. I have been in the Agency for a little more than 23 years now. I began as a Head Start Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver. In 2001 I moved to Early Head Start where I soon became a Bilingual Toddler Specialist. I loved it so much that I stayed in the position for almost 16 years. In 2016, I applied to be an EHS Home Visitor which I loved too and gained so much experience working directly with families. In 2018 I joined the Ed department as an EHS-Education Supervisor. I am now the DLL Supervisor for both HS and EHS. I truly have loved all my different jobs in the agency and this last one, is giving me the opportunity to not just be involved with our Spanish speaking children and their families, but also the pleasure to support our bilingual education staff. When I am not at work, I really enjoy my now often road trips to Portland to visit my beautiful children and furry-grandkids. I love music, Zumba dance and summer time!!!

