

SOUTHERN OREGON CHILD AND FAMILY COUNCIL, INC.

POLICY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 2026 5:30-7:46

Carwrights Taprock Northwest Grill, Grants Pass OR

PRESENT:

(PC) Alicia Cane, Alicia Albarran, Ariel Huffman
Cheyenne Borra, Elena Foukes, Jennifer miller- Anderson
Kami Sorrenta, Kelsey Averyt, Melanie Mcgrath
Nancy Fitzgerald, Nicholas Miller, Samantha Hill

(BOARD) Angela Evans, Jessica Durrant, Jamie Green, Kathy Stassi, Kris Woodburn

(STAFF)

Katherine Clayton- Executive Director
Chalesea Duewall- Health Manager
Angelica Salazar- Executive Administrative Assistant
Christine Russo- Family Services Manager
Brently Wingler- Family Services Supervisor
Bethanee Grace- TFC Program Supervisor
Shandi Phelps- Family Services Supervisor
Shanice Stringer- Family Services Supervisor
Yoana Martinez- Family Services Admin Assistant

Policy Council Leadership Team 2025-2026

Chair- Ebony	Board Liaison- Lynessa
Vice Chair- Samantha	Alternate Board Liaison-Ariel
Secretary- Nicholas	State Representatives- Nancy and Jamey
Alternate Secretary- Brandy	Alternate State Representative- Alicia
Treasurer-Ariel	
Alternate Treasurer- Nancy	

Activity:

Meeting was called to order at 6:04pm by our board chair Angela, roll call was taken, quorum was meet

Group reviewed ground rules

No Public Comment

Took a few minutes to complete table prompts from board members.

Governance Training Katherine Clayton

reviewed the agenda, SO Head Start Values (est. 2019), the SOHS mission, the SOHS Vision, Head Start history timeline, SOHS programs, the director group, the management structure, and our funders. She then reviewed program goal updates: In March 2nd SOHS will receive a full review, including its goals (2023-2028). Goals below:

Turnover: SOHS will reduce vacancies and employee turnover to 15% or less by the end of the grant period. This includes safe interviews for staff who are considering leaving to possibly get them to stay. We also do exit interviews to improve for future staff. 0 Safe interviews, 2 exit interviews, 15 promotions the first quarter of this year.

SOCFC will increase EHS classes from 29% - 35% by the end of the grant cycle (Already completed).

SOCFC will reach and maintain a minimum of 97% enrollment, which is current in 2025-2026.

SOCFC public relations and recruitment: Bi-monthly meetings with community partners. Currently on track to meet recruitment events and community visits for this year.

Jamie: Selection Committee report: Attended selection committee on Monday, reviewed 2026-2027 proposed selection criteria changes. 1st one: increasing points for ISP and children in mental health services. No longer counting military benefits as income. Propose 50 points. Working points for duration classes for part day and duration offers being considered for EHS, families that need duration to go back to work and school. (Additional details about points in the packet).

Motion to accept: Jamie (board) to approve. 2nd from Nancy Fitzgerald (PC). Motion passes.

Health Department: Chalesea:

Introduced health team and health team role to help with family advocates. Health team is health screener coordinator, 3 health supervisors, health manager. Well Child dental exams: Support all children in up to date well child, dental exams, and mental health needs. Supports families overcoming barriers, such as financial (navigating OHP), finding providers, transportation vouchers. Also partner with Capital Dental to provide free screenings in class 2x per year. Each child receives a dental screening and can provide fluoride (with parental permission). Dental exams can be scary for children, but early dental care is the key to lifelong oral health, which follows child through their life – baby teeth help children chew, speak, smile, and hold space for permanent later. Infection and disease can spread to permanent teeth, leaning on the importance of this care. Requirement is one exam per child per year after age 1.

Current enrollment: 186 children in EHS, 688 in HS, 1 prenatal, 17 preschool promise. EHS: medical 85%, dental, 31%. HS: Medical 57%, dental 39%. Preschool Promise: 59% medical 54% dental. In order to be enrolled, releases of information (ROI) must be signed and appointments must be scheduled, and then documented as well child/dental exams. Currently the team is working on getting ROIs signed by families. In addition to well child and dental, hearing and vision screenings are offered. Work is done with families to support scheduling when children are referred based on these screenings. The actual exam is not completed in schools.

Mental health: Children are up to date on age appropriate mental health screenings and services. SOHS takes on this requirement with multidisciplinary care.

Immunizations: Oregon state law requires children not up to date on vaccinations to be excluded or have valid exemption, until they are brought up to date or have exemption on file. Exclusion day is the 4th Wednesday of February, the list of children in the county who are not up to date has been provided. 71 Children are subject to exclusion currently, but the team is working on reducing this number and hopes

to reduce it to 0. Take this back to centers: completing vaccines or exemptions early is recommended. At the 4th Wednesday (2/25), children will be excluded.

EHS GP Alina: A reminder that the exemption process is easy and takes about an hour,

Chalesea: All info is available on the SOHS website, this can also be reviewed with the child's doctor. If the child is on a delayed schedule, the exemption is recommended so the vaccinations can be delivered according to the schedule recommended by the doctor without having to miss school. Letters will be sent out early next week if they have not been sent yet.

Bethanee Family Connection:

Grateful for the reminder of how many people care about the success of the program. The family connection is a program within HS that has shared goals, though its funding is separate. Every county in Oregon and California is represented. Family connection can now serve families all over the country.

Brain Smart Start: Conscious discipline is a curriculum that attends well in parent Ed. Brain start smart is one of the concepts, a routine that starts school, home life, etc., that prepares a brain to learn. *Practiced the activity with the group.*

Something for Everyone: Parenting education in the community, sometimes through contractors, sometimes community partners, training staff so they can provide parent ed to the families they serve. There is a curriculum for every age (0-5, 6-12, 13-17). The goal is to have a full year of programs. This helps case managers find when parents are able to attend a program. Family Connections commits to have education opportunities for every program every quarter, so even if a family misses an event, they can pick up where they left off. *The group reviewed community partners to acknowledge the good work they're doing.*

Better together: Sitting with head start makes sense, allows access to many family advocates and hundreds of families to connect them with these educational resources. Parent workshops are offered regularly and achieve regularly strong attendance.

Funding: Funding comes from grants, such as through Oregon State University. Primary funding: DHS, Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care, and OHA.

Members were provided with folders containing worksheets, information about the program, recipes, etc. This includes workshop flyers; members were encouraged to attend or share the flyer with someone who might attend.

Bethanee's contact info: Bgrace@socfc.org 541-734-5150 ext 1042

OHSA:

Nancy: OHSA conference: November 2025. 3 days of information delivered at the conference. Keynote speaker Jesse Mogle – Fuel the wheel: growth, mindset, and courage: “Do not be the first person to reject yourself.” Encouraged personal accountability, avoiding excuses, and action through accountability: embrace the unknown. Jesse also taught an empathy lab, ways to connect with people aside from trying to force it: lead follow and support. Give others grace, and acknowledge the difference between empathy and sympathy.

Another speaker taught how play art can help children (and adults) learn and understand emotion, empathy, and even reduce risk of mental disorder development.

Preventing parent and caregiver burnout – handouts to read through and offer different responses to identify stress responses (passed handouts to members).

Dollar per child: fundraiser for Head Start's main lobbyist. The goal is one dollar for every child in head start (*he does not collect a paycheck*).

Nicholas Miller, Phoenix: When are the fundraising dollars due?

Yoana: They should be turned in before the conference at the end of April. If they can be delivered by April 17th, they can be counted before being brought up to the conference. These can be brought to the site managers, main office, etc.

Samantha, Orchard: Is there a way to donate a dollar digitally?

Yoana: There is a website where you can donate, we will provide that. This is given directly to the lobbyist. However it is not tracked by the originating HS program.

Nancy: Final day had a lot of information. Scholarships are available for high school students. HR1 passes, which focused on significant spending, tax changes, etc. The capital will be open for the conference in February.

NHSA could not be joined today.

-BREAK-

Collected \$50 in the meeting for per dollar per child

Director's Report:

Trainings:

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: None

Approval Of Minutes

Samantha asked for a motion to approve the December Minutes. Ariel made a motion to approve the December Minutes. Nancy second in the motion to approve November Minutes. No one opposed; no abstentions the motion was carried.

Consent

Agenda:

Stephanie presented the consent agenda, which included:

- o Meal Counts
- o Enrollment Report
- o Program Information Summary
- o Financial Statements

For November, the council reviewed meal counts, financial statements (we are slightly under our projected budget remaining, adjustments are projected)

Samantha, Orchard Hill: We only have 10% of our USDA budget remaining?

Christine: Correct. I will reach out so that I can have a better answer for you.

Enrollment report: Currently at 96%, we have a few centers that are not fully enrolled but we have accepted 18 kids between the centers; we are still actively enrolling.

Director's report: we reviewed the January Director's report. Some highlights (not comprehensive): Several leaders are presenting at the Oregon Farm to School Conference about the cross-departmental approach to nutrition, gardening, and nutrition. Leaders are also preparing for an anticipated review in the spring. Teachers are working hard to reestablish routines following the winter break. PC Chair Ebony, and Christine Russo were able to attend the Family Engagement Conference in Orlando. New playgrounds were installed in White City, Eagle Pint, and Rogue River ELC, while Oak will be installed by the end of February. The nutrition department currently has two openings for a cook and a cook float position; there are promising interviews.

Nancy, Illinois Valley: We had our hours reduced at our center as we've had a lot of subs. They used to have a center assistant, we don't have that anymore and it used to help. Can we get that back? It seemed like we didn't have any problems last year.

Christine: That position still exists and the opening is posted on our website.

Nancy: I couldn't find it.

Yoana: Send us an email and we will look into it.

Samantha asked for a motion to accept the consent of agenda items. Nicholas made a motion to accept the consent of the agenda. Nancy second in the motion to accept the consent agenda. No one opposed; no abstentions the motion was carried.

Treasurer's

Report:

Ariel, Treasurer: 1851.62, spent 7.34, new balance 1844.28.

PC out of state travel: 3,575.20. Spent 346.95 on NHSA lodging, 36.70 on NHSA baggage fees. New balance 3189.55

Announcements:

Announcements, Yoana:

- We have an open position for Alternate State Rep, our next conferences are in February and April. Is anyone interested? (*none volunteered*). If we need an alternate, for now we will go down the list of leadership.
- Next PC meeting in February will be virtual, February and March will both be virtual meetings. Links will be sent out ahead of time.
- No school Monday.

Three things to take Back:

- Samantha: Immunizations/exemptions, get them in by 2/25
- Nancy: Family connections, bring flyers back to your centers
- Dollar per child by April 17

Name Tag Game:

Winners: Jennifer , Alicia C.,Alicia A, Kami

Adjournment:

Our Chair Samantha asked for a motion to adjourn the January meeting. Nancy made a motion to adjourn the January meeting, Jennifer seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting, No one opposed, no abstentions a motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 7:46pm