



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Early Learning Division



MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Healthy Families Oregon State Advisory Committee

From: Healthy Families Oregon Central Administration, Oregon Early Learning Division

Date: December 22, 2020

Re: Healthy Families Oregon State Program Updates

Purpose: To update the Committee on a priority area of work, and introduce an area of work for review in upcoming meetings.

HFO Database Work Group Progress

The Healthy Families Oregon (HFO) Database Workgroup, which includes four current and former HFO Program Managers, met together with the Early Learning Division's (ELD) Project Team five times this fall to assist with exploring an option for an off-the-shelf data system that would replace the current interim data system. The option is one of several that could be considered in the selection process for a system that meets Healthy Families America requirements. ELD staff have been working on supporting documents needed to receive budget approval for a new system with the goal of completion by January 2021. The timeline for adopting a new system is based on when budget approval is received.

Family Connects Coordination Efforts

Oregon Health Authority (OHA), with guidance from Family Connects International, is working to implement Family Connects Oregon, a universal nurse home visiting program for families with newborns in eight "Early Adopter" regions of Oregon in 2021. OHA has been working together with ELD's HFO program to create a coordinated approach to engaging, screening and referring families with newborns. While Family Connects and other Oregon home visiting programs like HFO, Early Head Start, Parents as Teachers, or Babies First offer longer-term supports and resources to families, Family Connects offers one to three home visits from a nurse to all Oregon families with a newborn, regardless of income or other eligibility factors. The Family Connects model refers families who need and want more services to other home visiting programs.

Because both the HFO and Family Connects models require that the programs reach out to engage families immediately after birth, it is critical to build referral and coordination systems that optimize families' access to Family Connects and other home visiting programs like HFO with clear shared messaging, while respecting family choice. HFO currently completes 75% of eligibility screenings while parents are still at the hospital, during the same timeframe when Family Connects visits are also scheduled. The OHA Family Connects team, along with Family Connects International and ELD staff, have been working to identify ways other communities have "braided" the engagement and screening processes between these two programs, to provide technical support to Oregon's Early Adopter communities as they work through the individual variations and



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collaborations that exist in their communities. Several Early Adopter sites are scheduled to begin a gradual rollout of services in early 2021.