

ECSEPP update
Oct. 28, 2024
Marshall Hooker

Over the past month several community engagement activities have taken place to include, Marshall presenting the ECSEPP to C2C's in each County, HVSCN in Baker and Malheur County as well as a session during the Health Equity Conference Sept. 26. Sessions with providers in each county have been planned in Baker, Malheur and Wallowa but have so far been unattended by providers. We are working with CCR to formulate a different approach to engagement with programs. Regional Service Providers (Malheur ESD Early Learning) Community of Practice meetings are scheduled Nov. 7 on line as well as in person during the NW Early Learning and Pyramid Summit in Portland Nov. 14-15. Rod, Theresa and Marshall plan to attend this meeting together, as teaming and facilitated work time is a part of the plan. Dr. Andres Lopez, Research Director with the Coalition of Communities of Color came for an in person visit of our Region Oct. 23. His day started in Ontario attending our Early Learning Cabinet Meeting. In addition to the cabinet members, several representatives of Lifeways were in attendance. Dr. Lopez engaged with us collecting input on a qualitative study his organization has been tasked to conduct in Oregon that will ultimately inform a report with recommendations for practices or strategies that will support the reduction of the use of exclusionary practices, suspension and expulsion in early learning and care. During his visit, he traveled to Baker City to attend the HVSCN meeting where he presented his work, connected with home visitors and engaged in a rich conversation about ECSEPP and related topics including the workforce issue. Many great ideas were shared. One idea of note was to tap local HS students and especially seniors who often times have discretionary time left in their day that could be used for CCR trainings, or to earn their CDA or other or other coursework in partnership with community college. A cohort model was suggested as well as the idea of practical hours spent in early learning classrooms as a part of the model. Along with Regional Service Providers or RSP's (the Malheur ESD), ORIMHA shared their plan to create Regional Service Networks or RSN's that would include CCR, HUB other community partners/programs to support coordination, triage and resource allocation or "warm line" response. The first introductory meeting for this initiative is in early November and Marshall plans to attend to learn more.