



RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS (RS)

Weekly Report

June 19, 2019

Below are some highlights from the Governor's [Regional Solutions Coordinators](#), on behalf of the eleven interagency teams across Oregon.

North Coast Region – Jennifer Purcell

- **Regional Preschool Planning Project:** RS met with Amy Lovelace, Regional Preschool Planning Lead with NW Regional ESD and the NW Early Learning Hub, to learn about efforts to assess preschool supply in Tillamook, Clatsop, and Columbia counties. A Meyer Memorial Trust grant has funded a one-year project to develop a roadmap to increasing preschool supply in the region. Community meetings were held in each of the three counties to better understand early learning needs, identify barriers, as well as opportunities to increasing supply. A community survey is currently available through June. Next steps include establishing a taskforce in each county that will inform a strategic plan. RS will participate as a stakeholder.
- **Coastal Healthcare Sector Workforce Development:** RS attended the NW Oregon Works Healthcare Sector Partnership meeting. Working collaboratively to better understand the workforce needs of the coastal healthcare industry, partners discussed opportunities to work collectively to address talent acquisition and retention. Limited access to training, scholarships, and clinical placement opportunities were identified as barriers. Recruitment strategies include the expansion of student loan forgiveness programs and retention incentives. The growth of telemedicine presents an opportunity, with access to adequate broadband infrastructure as a primary consideration, particularly in rural areas. RS will continue to participate as a stakeholder as next steps are identified.

Mid-Valley Region – Jody Christensen

- **City of Donald/GK Machines Workforce Housing Pilot:** *Background* – In Donald, the local agricultural equipment manufacturer GK Machine and the City of Donald have partnered to expand housing opportunities in the community. This project was one of five awarded for the Housing Pilot. The first phase of the project includes upgrading the City's wastewater and water treatment plants to support 20-25 new homes, with an eventual planned total of 440+ new homes. This housing development is being designed as an agrihood featuring a range of housing options built around a farmscape that covers about 77 acres. The project partners include the GK Machines, City of Donald, Kim Travis with Oregon Housing and Community Service (OHCS),

Michelle Bilberry with Business Oregon, Mary Camarata, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Nick Harville, Strategic Economic Development Corp (SEDCOR), several potential businesses, and service providers. And, a special thank you to Angela Carnahan of the Department of Lands and Conservation Development (DLCD) for with her previous work helping the City review its planning ordinances which helped to set the stage for this pilot.



- OHCS is working with GK Machine on the housing portion of the project. As a pilot, OHSC is developing new capacity for its agency by laying the groundwork for the next similar project. Business Oregon and the DEQ are engaged on the infrastructure portion. Business Oregon provided a \$20,000 grant to prepare a Wastewater Facilities Plan, as well as \$20,000 for a water master plan and both have been completed. Currently, the DEQ senior wastewater engineer is working with the City of Donald’s public works department on the facility plan. Business Oregon has committed Special Public Works Funds of \$330,000 for sewer improvements necessary for pilot project. In the future, the DEQ may be providing a state revolving loan for the upgrades.
 - Update – This week, the City of Donald and OHCS have completed the final grant negotiations for this project. The pilot is a huge step for implementing the new Housing Accelerator tool over the next two years. RS Team will continue to be active as the project matures.

South Valley/Mid Coast Region – Sarah Means

- **Springfield Indoor Track:** Springfield Mayor Christine Lundberg leads a team of local and regional economic and community development professionals focused on the development of an indoor running track facility in the Glenwood Riverfront Redevelopment District of Springfield. The RS Team previously provided to the Mayor’s team an analysis on land use, environmental, and transportation systems pertinent to three potential sites for the prospective track facility. The Mayor’s team has selected a site and is moving forward on property acquisition negotiations.
 - Update – RS met with the Mayor’s team again earlier this week to discuss an update of the project and develop a better understanding of how the RS Team can provide assistance. At a high level, it is possible there are opportunities for collaboration/coordination with OPRD, the DEQ, Business Oregon, the DLCD and ODOT. Furthermore, the Mayor’s team discussed the idea of developing this facility in such a way that would provide critical emergency preparedness infrastructure for the region. The Springfield City Council has elevated this project as a top priority with a goal to have the facility under development by the IAAF World Games in 2021. Details of the project are still in development. RS has requested additional information from the Mayor’s team in order to be more helpful in the ongoing work. The RS Team will remain engaged as the Mayor’s team requests.

Southern & South Coast Regions – Alex Campbell

- **Opportunity Zones:** Greater Portland Inc. has been working with a consultant to collect a catalog of projects in Opportunity Zones that are seeking equity investment from Qualified Opportunity Funds. Philanthropic funding has been secured to re-orient/expand the pilot to rural areas. RS is helping partners in Southern/SW Oregon coordinate efforts to put this opportunity in front of potential projects.

Central & South Central Regions – Annette Liebe

- **Childcare Availability:**
 - Participated in Early Childhood Education Strategy Session hosted by the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation with funding from the Pritzker Children’s Initiative. It was a great meeting that brought together Chamber leaders (Katy Brooks, Bend Chamber ED) and early childhood education advocates (Regan Gray, Family Forward) to identify common interests and explore these interests can work together to increase the supply of high quality childcare. Key takeaways included: 1) the lack of accessible, affordable, quality early childhood education is a big issue across the country; 2) it is a priority for supporting workforce participation today and training the next generation of workers, and, 3) there is interesting work being done elsewhere that we can learn from.
 - *Follow up* – U.S. Chamber Foundation is interested in convening similar meeting(s) in Oregon to facilitate a collaborative approach to increasing supply/quality. Katy Brooks and RS will be following up on such a session in Central Oregon and will work with the Early Learning Division to explore opportunities for other regions.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- Central: July 12th 9:00 am – noon; Redmond
- South Central: July 18th 10:00 am – noon; Lakeview

Greater Eastern & Northeast Regions – Courtney Warner Crowell

- **Malheur County Child Care Project:** RS is working with an employer in Nyssa that is interested in opening up a child care facility for both their employee needs, as well as the greater community. RS has helped facilitate conversations between the Early Learning Hub and we are continuing to help with some technical assistance around zoning issues on a piece of property that the company owns and would like to turn into a child care facility. This is a new project for RS team, but one that builds off of the child care workgroup that RS is convening statewide.
- **City of Umatilla Infrastructure Projects:** RS is working to help coordinate communication between the City of Umatilla, the DEQ, and a company on an industrial wastewater project. The group had a good first conversation with all parties this week to talk through timelines, expectations from the company, communication plans to make sure everyone is getting the correct information in a timely manner and technical information. It was decided to have ongoing monthly meetings between all the parties involved and that RS will coordinate to make sure that the positive communication keeps flowing.