



The Upstream Initiative /Child Success

EOCCO Summit
September 18, 2025

Overview/Road Map

1. Introductions
 - a. Meet the team
2. Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub
 - a. Who we are, what we do and why it matters
3. The First 1000 Days
 - a. Why early childhood is critical—and how we support it
4. The Collaborative
 - a. Partnerships, initiatives, and impact



Why is the first 1000 days of life important?!

Statistics about babies growing brains...

- ☐ A baby's brain is a quarter of the size of an adult brain, but it doubles in size in the 1st year of life.
- ☐ A child's brain produces more than a million neural connections each second.
- ☐ 60% of a baby's energy goes to its developing brain.
- ☐ After birth, the brain grows 1% per day for the first three months of life.
- ☐ A 2-year-old's brain is much smaller than an adult's brain but has 50% more synapses.



The Collaborative's Goals & Objectives



The Collaborative is a statewide social impact organization that brings together education and healthcare partners to build and sustain transformative cross-sector initiatives that improve the well-being of Oregon's youth from conception through grade 12.

The Collaborative works to fulfill Oregon's promise of an equitable opportunity for every child, family, and community to succeed by:

- Addressing the conditions of poverty, injustice and systemic racism that undermine success
- Co-creating whole-person, community-based, culturally-specific integrated supports and services for children, families, communities, and our workforce
- Creating partnerships between health, education and social service sectors, in collaboration with local community leadership
- Building and testing scalable, trauma-informed model health and social service systems



If anything were possible:

What would it take to ensure that every child, family and community has an equitable opportunity to succeed?



Blue Mountain EL Hub - Factors and considerations

Articulate and develop a **Child Service Model** that better reflects the values, needs and desires of the Blue Mountain Region.

Considerations:

- Current data
- Trends in utilization of services & resources
- Values of communities & families in the region
- Services & resources that families want & need
- Eligibility requirements & barriers that exist

Potential Outcome:

A responsive, equitable, and sustainable service model that empowers families, strengthens local health systems, and improves outcomes across the Blue Mountain Region.

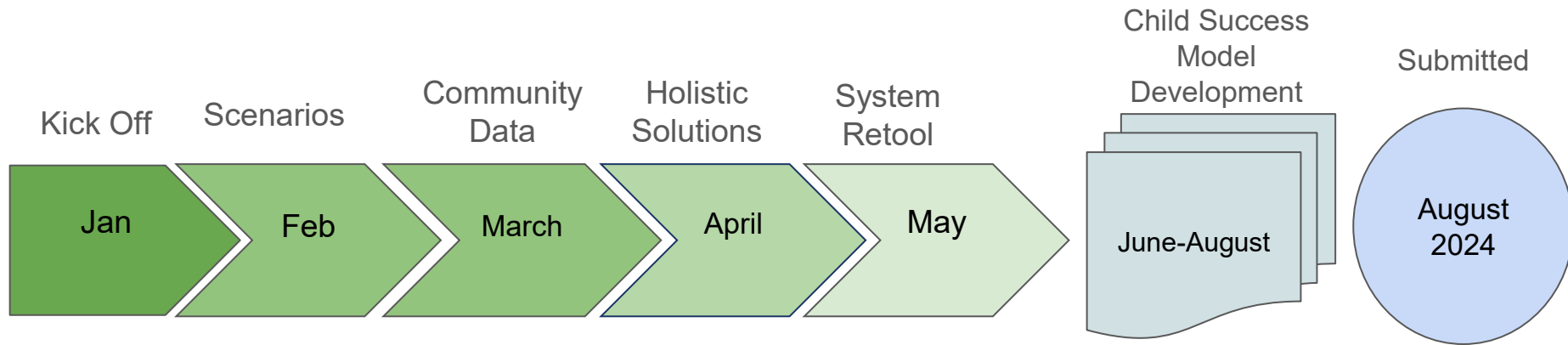


Design Team:

Organizations planning for & serving children and families

- Early Learning Programs
- Home Visiting Programs
 - Social Service Focus
 - Health Care & Education Focus
 - Early Intervention Focus
- Health Department services
 - Morrow, Umatilla & Union counties
- Culturally Specific organizations
- Tribal Family Service Programs
- K-12 systems
- Higher Education
- Hospitals and Clinics
- Local Government
 - City Manager
 - County Commissioners
- Behavioral Health
- Community Care Organization (EOCCO)
- ODHS District 12 & 13
 - Self Sufficiency
 - Child Welfare
- Wraparound programs





Upstream Design Team Process (January - August 2024)

Blue Mountain Child Success Model Strategies

1. Navigation: Formalizing Upstream Navigation

**Whole-population, Universal ($\geq 4,000$)*

2. Rural Health Access: Taking prenatal and pediatric care proactively outside regional population centers (Pendleton, Hermiston & La Grande)

**Targeted, All EOCCO Members, prenatal or caring for child under two in geographic areas (≥ 785)*

3. Expanding Childcare: Streamlining childcare programs for continuity of care, flexible childcare options, and extending Oregon Paid Leave for up to 1 year

**Whole-population, Universal & Targeted ($\leq 300\%$ of FPL)*

4. Family Stability: Maintaining housing, benefits, and access to basic needs during pregnancy & for children under 2

**Targeted ($\leq 300\%$ of FPL)*



Prioritizing Strategies: *Blue Mountain Child Success Pilot*

Collaborate with community partners to take ideas to action:

Co-designing strategies to implement, developing partnership agreements, creating shared performance indicators, & securing resources.

Formalize a System of Navigators to connect families that are pregnant & with children under 2 to essential services

- Increase in accessing prenatal/postnatal services
- Improve sense of belonging and support for families
- Providers report feeling more prepared and able to support families

Set foundation for Rural Health Access Pilot for prenatal, post-partum, well-child, and pediatric dental services (accelerated by Momnibus)

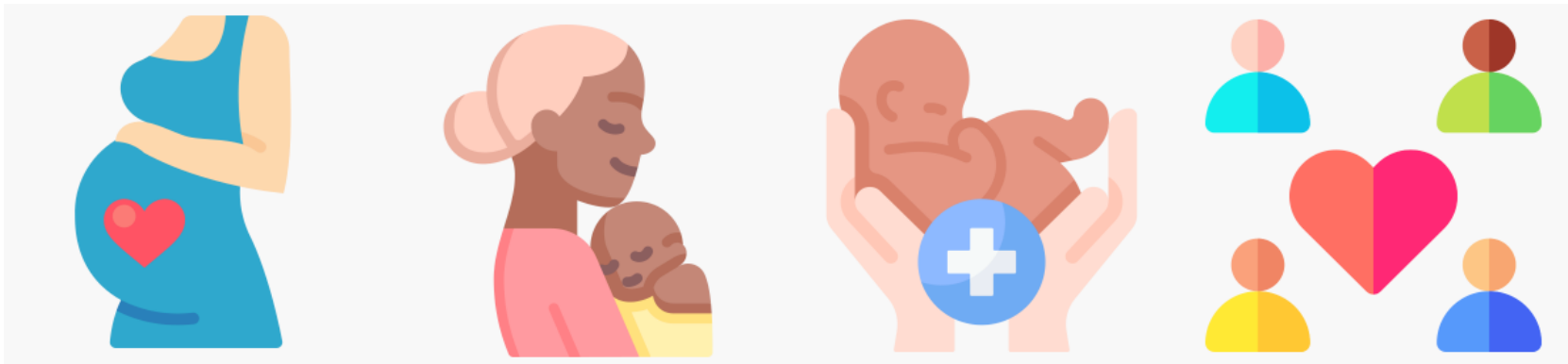
- Improve timeliness of prenatal/postnatal
- Increase well child care and dental visits
- Lower mortality rates and length of stay in hospital





Population-Level Outcomes

Defines the benefits & wellbeing families should experience as a result of accessing a coordinated, equitable, and relationship-centered early childhood system



Supported Pregnancy

- Timeliness of Prenatal & Postpartum Care
- Behavioral Health Screening & Follow up

Healthy Birth

- Birth Weight
- Maternal Mortality

Strong Start to Life

- Primary & Preventive Care
- Early Relational Health
- Basic Needs (housing, food, utility, etc.)
- Childcare Access & Affordability
- Child Welfare Involvement

Community-Rooted Care

- Perinatal Paraprofessional Support
- Belonging & Support



Call to Action - Join Us

Direct Service Providers: Form part of a community of upstream navigators supporting families in the first 1000 days (program updates, eligibility, and access tips)

Program & System Leaders: Partner with other organizations to improve referral, communication, and collaboration as a region to improve outcomes in the first 1000 days

Health System Providers & Leaders: Join us in creating a blueprint to improve rural health access in the first 1000 days in partnership with EOCCO (e.g. pilot ideas, low-cost interventions, & run continuous improvement cycles)

