January Spark Webinar

Spark Redesign

January 26, 2023

Welcome and Introductions

- Ash Mickels (they/them), Spark Specialist ELD
- Lauren Peterson (she/her/hers), Spark Program Director, TRI
- Spark Operations Team
- Spark Observation and Assessment Team

Agenda

- Spark Redesign Process and Timeline
- Spark Help Desk

Spark Redesign Overview

"Raise Up Oregon" Connection

Objective: Families have access to high-quality (*culturally responsive, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate*) affordable early care and education.

Strategy: Improve the essential infrastructure for high-quality early care and education.

- **House Bill 2059** – Spark Program Reorganization (passed in 2021)
- "Expand resources for Spark to support additional ECE providers, including *family, friend, and neighbor caregivers*…" (RUO)

Used **data** to assess the current version of Spark, and **research** to inform the decision to:

Redesign Spark

Our Redesign Approach

Objective: Redesign Spark to become a more equitable, inclusive, and accessible system that:

- Supports adults caring for young children to continuously improve their practices
- Assists families in finding early care and education services that are the “best fit” for their child

Strategy: Utilize a collaborative redesign process, with the intentional engagement of historically underserved and underrepresented populations, driven by the leadership of families and the early care and education workforce.

Spark Redesign Stages

Statewide Engagement	Redesign Spark	Implement Redesign	Assess Redesign
• Hire Participatory Action Research **Listening & Design Teams** (made up of families, and adults who care for children) • Surveys, interviews, & focus groups • **Synthesis Report**	• Using data they collected, L&D teams will create and present Spark redesign recommendations • L&D Teams will co-develop (with TRI & ELD) a formal **Redesign Plan**	• Spark Team @ TRI will create a plan and schedule for implementing the Redesign Plan in phases • **Implementation Plan**	• "**Accountability Team**" (made up of interested L&D Team members) will co-develop an ongoing process for assessing & improving Spark • **Improvement Plan**
March - June	**July - September**	**October - December**	**Nov - December**

What Has Occurred

- **September** – TRI signed the contract with ELD to lead Spark Redesign with the requirement to partner with an organization that would facilitate the engagement efforts
- **October/November** – Interviewed partner organizations and received proposals
- **December** – selected Community Wealth Partners (CWP)
    - Firmwide values align with our equity values
    - Empowers (and compensates) families and early learning and care workforce to lead engagement and redesign efforts
    - Uses a Participatory Action Research approach
- **January –** CWP signed their contract with TRI

Questions?



Community Wealth Partners

Community Wealth Partners

Spark

We bring experience creating and leading community-driven planning processes, leading processes that center community voices, shift power to those who have been excluded, and help organizations connect more deeply with their communities.

(https://communitywealth.com)

CWP Approach

We think of inclusion as the degree to which individuals—particularly those who have been pushed to the margins, excluded from access to resources and power, and/or are closest to the issues the organization seeks to address—participate in decision-making processes that affect them. CWP will facilitate a Participatory Action Research (PAR) process with families and early educators who have are most impacted by Spark decisions.

Participatory Action Research

We partner with and pay early educators and family members on the team to listen to their communities and co-create findings and recommendations – centering those most impacted from the beginning of the design.

Those on the PAR design and listening teams define research methods and do the research. When the data has been collected, members of the team review the insights and partner with us in developing the findings.

The PAR teams have power to work with WOU on deciding and implementing changes recommended – mutual accountability to action and change is critical to success.

The Role of the PAR groups

- Through an application process, up to 30 PAR team members will be selected.
- Two PAR listening and design teams will be formed - one with families and educators in English* and one with families and educators in Spanish.
- Each PAR member will attend weekly meetings for four months and will lead research (e.g., interviews, focus groups, and/or surveys) with their peer groups and other key partners (e.g., Child Care Resource and Referral staff, Early Learning Hub staff, and other community partners) and develop recommendations.

Next Steps

What to Expect Next

- **January -** Community Wealth Partners will develop their Engagement Plan with TRI
- **February –** Advertise Listening & Design Team positions
- **March –** Two Listening & Design Teams formed with families and early care and education workforce.
- **Late March through June –** PAR Teams meet weekly with Community Wealth Partners, and one meeting per month brings both PAR teams together
- **May & June –** Engagement with statewide actors in focus groups with questions from PAR teams

We need you!

Help spread the word!

- Post information about the Spark redesign and the PAR application process on your websites and social media
- Talk to the early educators in your networks and trainings
- Fliers and other materials are in development
- https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5751c590746fb9c9be542bb3/t/5af9f4982b6a28fcfa01849b/1526330520677/Participatory+Action+Research+Hand-out+for+Web.pdf

Questions?



Help Desk