**Early Childhood Hub of Lane County**

**Early Learning Stakeholders Meeting**

**Thursday, February 22, 2024**

**3:00 – 4:30 pm**

**Early Childhood Hub Updates-**

Program Updates/Announcements

* Emily Reiter has taken a new position as a full-time stay-at-home parent.
  + [United Way and the Hub is currently hiring](https://www.unitedwaylane.org/job-opps). We will also be filling the open position in Parenting Education this spring.
    - Preschool Promise
      * Interest form for PSP for 2024.-2025 https://www.earlychildhoodlane.org/preschool-promise
    - Black Early Learning
      * Ayanna shared information about Black Cultural Initiative’s Black History Celebration on 2.24.2024. You can [read more about it here](https://www.klcc.org/2024-02-24/black-culture-in-lane-county-the-history-celebration-thats-also-building-community), from KLCC.
    - Parenting Now’s Gala honoring Holly Mar-Conte is on March 1: https://parentingnow.org/nightofhopegala-2024/
    - [OPEC Parenting Education Conference](https://health.oregonstate.edu/opec/conference)
      * April 29-30 in person, May 7-9 virtual

[**Raise Up Oregon 2.0**](https://www.oregon.gov/delc/about-us/pages/raise-up-oregon.aspx#FinalPlan)

* Language has changed. Less focus on Kindergarten-readiness alone and more focus on perinatal – 5
* Printed Raise Up Oregon booklets are available in the UW office
* Review [Resource Asset Map](file:///\\uwres3\data\COMMUNITY\EDUCATION\Governance%20and%20Committees\Stakeholders\Meeting%20Materials\2024\2.%20February\asset%20map.xlsx): What is missing? Please send [Kris](mailto:kcoomes@unitedwaylane.org) or [Lisa](mailto:lmilton@unitedwaylane.org) your feedback, and we will add it to the map.

***Today’s focus: Is our early childhood workforce diverse, culturally responsive, high-quality and well compensated?***

***How does your organization support this objective? Where can we improve?***

Request: Utilize a Google Form to collect this information, in addition to our discussions.

* Joanna Schlegelmilch, Triple P
  + Triple P is an international program and adaptable to other cultures. Locally, resources are in Spanish. It is an evidence-based program.
* Krystal Sanchez, Migrant Education Program
* Program focuses on families from Latin America; we all speak Spanish and could use help speaking Indigenous languages. We read all the books in advance first to make sure they are culturally responsive and representative. We do a lot of trainings to be high quality. Compensation can be difficult. Seeking to hire Spanish speaking teachers for summer.

Question: How are we defining ‘well-compensated’?

* The Governance Consortium is examining the cost of living in Lane County and how we can compensate the early childhood workforce better.
* <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/41039>
* South Lane, Heather Murphy
  + Changes before and after the pandemic. Families were looking to school districts for guidance. We invested in FRCs, funding infant/early childcare. Staff is benefitted and represented by a union.
* Kris spoke to the varied public and private childcare throughout Lane County and their needs.

***How does your organization support play, and allow kids to be kids?***

* Parenting Now
  + While parents attend parenting education classes, children have playful activities. The children listen to different kinds of music and the kids love to “shimmy” for hours. We also host Squishtivities where caregivers and kids can make a messy activity on the porch. Very popular.
* Triple P
  + Strategies to redirect while children are playing.
* Head Start
  + [ReadyRosie](https://healthyathome.readyrosie.com/), research-based curriculum at home. One parent said it helped their family get through the ice storm. Charlene will find out if there is a cost for families.
* Early Black Learning
  + Brings games that don’t have winners; models playing & learning through playgroups.
* Parent Café
  + Playing and getting ideas from parenting peers. If adults learn to play as an adult, they play with their children more often.
* Migrant Education Program
  + Deliver toys and model playing with toys. Narrate why play is important and get family involved. Unlearning adult trauma from not being able to play, dealing with mixed messages about academic achievement.
* LCPH
  + uses PIPE in nurse home visiting program

Something to consider: Is our desire to protect children from risk impacting play?

***Parenting Education: do we need a new model? Are classes filling up? What things work, and what things don’t work?***

* Parenting Now: Evenings are hard. Mixed feedback about in-person vs. virtual classes. Seeking 1:1 parenting education, more drop-in sessions or a hotline they could call.
  + 10-12 sessions are hard for most families.
  + Fall tends to fill up. Things have changed since the pandemic
* Mariela: Hears daily that there are not enough Spanish speaking Parenting education classes. Childcare is very important. Facilitators that are culturally appropriate too (bicultural) and providing snacks and/or meals.
* Ayanna: Culturally specific parenting education for Black families and children is wanted in Lane County. Some things that are represented in dominant culture apply but not all.
* Krystal: Krystal: Telenovela parenting education group. Trying to get a big enough group going to sustain it.
* Jo: Cultural competency and trauma-informed training in her organization to support traumatized families.
* Adriana: Intentional efforts to hire bilingual and bicultural folks with pay that equitably responds to these skills.
  + Lack of compensation for being bicultural. Job compensation needs to reflect the intricacies of being bicultural vs. having a degree in a language.

Organizational Share-outs:

* MEP is hiring for their 4-week [long summer school program](https://www.applitrack.com/lesdk12or/onlineapp/default.aspx?Category=Migrant+Education+Programs)
* Head Start is seeking a board member with fiscal experience.
* The Parenting Now Gala is March 1.
* Summer EBT program will provide $40 a month, $120 per child. (Summer EBT provides grocery-buying benefits to low-income families with school-aged children when schools are closed for the summer.)