

Lane Early Learning Alliance

3171 Gateway Loop
Springfield, OR 97477
tel 541.741.6000
fax 541.726.4150

earlylearningalliance.org



Lane Early Learning Alliance Governance Consortium August 12, 2016 3:30-5:30

Lane ESD (1200 OR-99, Eugene, OR 97402)

NOTES

Present

Gustavo Balderas, Eugene 4J School District
Marian Blankenship, Pacific Source Health Plans
Noreen Dunnells, United Way of Lane County
Debi Farr, Trillium Health Plan
Karen Gaffney, Lane County Government
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District
Liz Jaqua, Parent Representative
Todd Hamilton, Creswell School District
Alicia Hays, Lane County
John Lively, State Representative
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES
Darcy Phillips, Cornerstone Community Housing
John Radich, Department of Human Services
Sue Rieke-Smith, Springfield School District
Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture

Absent:

Leslie Finlay, Early Learning Stakeholder/ Relief Nursery
Kathy Moxley-South, Early Learning Stakeholders/ University of Oregon
Sue Norton, Lane Community College
Chris Parra, Bethel School District
George Russell, George Russell & Associates, LLC
Larry Sullivan, Lane ESD
Jennifer Wilks, Parent Representative

Staff:

Anetra Brown, United Way of Lane County
Lindsey Hayward, United Way of Lane County
Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, United Way of Lane County
Taylor Ludtke, United Way of Lane County

Public:

No members of the public present

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:38 PM

II. Welcome and Introductions

Lindsey Hayward welcomed the group and everyone introduced themselves. The group welcomed our newest members, Darcy Phillips, Executive Director of Cornerstone Community Housing and Liz Jaqua, our newest parent representative. Also, the Early Learning Stakeholders voted for Leslie Finlay, Program Director of Relief Nursery for a two year term and she will attend our next meeting.

III. Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

IV. Consent Agenda

- June Meeting Minutes

Action requested: Motion to approve, accept or ratify items listed on consent agenda as submitted.

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Motion: Karen Gaffney motioned to approve the consent agenda.

Support: Noreen Dunnells seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

Ayes: Gustavo Balderas, Marian Blankenship, Debi Farr, Karen Gaffney, Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Todd Hamilton, Alicia Hays, Liz Jaqua, John Lively, Judy Newman, Darcy Phillips, John Radich, Sue Rieke-Smith, Annie Soto, John Stapleton,

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

V. Updates

• Work Groups/Innovation Teams

○ Early Learning Stakeholders

The June Meeting was a focus group discussing the current barriers and future opportunities for professional development for early learning professionals in our community facilitated by our hub facilitator, Tab Dansby. Out of this discussion, the group made recommendations for opportunities that the Early Learning Division will advocate for on behalf of the early learning hubs. Some of the barriers mentioned were:

- access to local high quality trainings
- costs associated with hosting/sending staff to trainings
- opportunities to pursue higher education
- loan forgiveness for early childhood professions
- consistency from the state around ORO and the acknowledging the value of the step process

During their July Meeting, the EL Stakeholders had a conversation about parent engagement and what it could look like in the Early Learning Alliance's work. Similarly to the Governance Consortium, they gave great feedback. Some key takeaways were that there needs to be several ways for families to get plugged into the work. Also that if we are asking parents for their time, the experience should be meaningful and affect a change in the system.

○ Home Visiting Innovation Team (HVIT)

The HVIT is continuing to work on the coordination of home visiting efforts within the MIECHV programs and the broader home visiting network. Each agency in the group will now submit a program capacity check in at each meeting with the intentions that as program volumes fluctuate, the agencies can work together to get families served in other places rather than sitting on a waiting list. Also the Trauma Informed Training has been temporarily cancelled. Summer/fall scheduling made it difficult to find a time that would work for each agency. Instead, each agency will devote staff meeting time to practice some of the skills gathered in the past trauma informed trainings.

○ P3/P8 Work Group

The P3/P8 Work Group met jointly with Connected Lane County to discuss the purpose and structure of the group. The group's most recent focus has been on the kindergarten transition with

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efforts like the Kindergarten Survey and the Getting School Ready booklet. In the future, the P-3/P-8 work group will continue to have this focus but will meet quarterly with early elementary leaders to discuss the needs for students at and beyond kindergarten. Anetra and Judy are working closely with Heidi Larwick to redevelop the structure of this group and will share more as it develops.

- **Business Initiatives**

The Financial Stability Partnership is hosting a business social solutions forum in mid-October. The initial conversations around this opportunity came from the ALICE report which noted that 23% of the costs of the family survival budget typically go towards childcare. This will be a great opportunity to engage the business community around the issues that families face related to care. John Stapleton is also working with a group of businesses to develop an innovation hub that will support local startups. In this business space, will be a child care facility for the staff working in the building. They are working with and learning from EWEB to develop a childcare model for this site.

- **Connected Lane County (CLC)**

There was a regional collaborative convening for Early Learning Hubs, STEM Hubs, and Regional Achievement Collaboratives. It was a great opportunity to connect with all of the regional collaborative work happening in the state. It raised a great opportunity for the Lane County efforts to continue to regularly coordinate, as many of the efforts support each other.

- **Preschool Promise**

- All of our start up and operating costs were approved by the state. We received letters of intent from the state and the partners have been able to begin hiring staff. We ordered the majority of the new classroom's furniture as a group to expedite the process.
- We are still waiting to set final contracts from the state and once we receive them will be able to write subcontracts for each of the preschool sites.
- The enrollment committee meets next week and will begin placing families. So far we have received contact information from over 200 families who are interested in the program. Enrollment committee developed criteria based on:
 - Age eligibility—3 years old on or before September 1st; does not turn 5 years old before September 1st
 - Income eligibility—200% or below the FPL
 - If a family is 100% or below the FPL, we ask if they have applied to Head Start and encourage them to do so. Families may choose not to for varies reasons.
 - Race other than white—2 points
 - English Language Learners—2 points
 - Child has a disability—1 point
 - 4 years old w/ no previous exposure to preschool—1 point
 - Homeless—1 point
 - In foster care—1 point

- **Social Innovation Fund (SIF)**

- There was a KITS training in June for all of the staff who are implementing the program. There were over 100 district staff members who attended the training focused on the broader overview

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of the program. The kindergarten readiness group training had 62 staff participate, and 25 staff participated in the parent group training.

- PSU is collecting data from the families enrolled in the program. There has been about an 80% participation rate.
- United Way is working on a funders collaborative to work together to make asks to foundations. At this point, the priority is to raise funds for year 2 to support United Way's match as well as the education foundations.
- There was a site visit from CNCS last week to share about compliance of the program and to get feedback about how the program is being implemented.
- There will be a learning collaborative on Monday which is an opportunity for districts to come together to problem-solve about program issues and to begin initial conversations about next year's program.

VI. Celebration of 2015-16 Successes and Accomplishments

Lindsey Hayward shared with the group about 2015-2016 key accomplishments and reasons to celebrate. The document outlines accomplishments by outcomes, as related they relate to our strategic plan. *(Please see attached pdf)*

Some major highlights from the group were:

- An acknowledgement of how quickly the work has grown
- The opportunity to leverage resources to bring funds into the community (SIF, Preschool Promise, etc.)
- Strong partnerships have been developed or solidified over the last year
- Influx of new programs and resources to offer all families (Vroom, Triple P, GSR booklet, etc.)
- Increase in capacity to do the work with more staff focused on particular projects
- Overall commitment from the Governance Consortium to being dedicated and providing thoughtful leadership to this work

VII. Work Plan Presentation *(Please see attached pdf)*

Equity Engagement Strategies

- The equity strategies are a byproduct of the racial equity self-assessment process. The intention of them was to take the information gathered during that process and operationalize how we use equity to inform our work. The strategies are related to:
 - creating policies and practices that encourage racial equity in our funded programming and everyday operations
 - working with community partners to promote professional development opportunities focused on equity
 - understanding and addressing the individual needs of the families that we are serving
 - using multiple data sources to tell our county's story and ultimately use that data to inform our decision making

Rural Engagement Strategies

- Partnership with Trillium's Rural Advisory Council and 90x30's Regional Leadership Teams provide major opportunities for rural outreach and engagement.
- Family Resource Centers will be another way to connect with families living in rural communities.

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Parent Engagement Strategies

- After receiving feedback from the Governance Consortium and Early Learning Stakeholders, we have decided to focus parent engagement strategies through our existing channels. We will be piloting a parent group model with our cohort of Preschool Promise families with the hopes that what we learn through them could be used in the broader network of families.

Other Comments from the Group:

- One of the challenges that the group posed was related to increase in QRIS programs and the effects it has on the costs of care. How can we avoid the ripple effects of high quality and high costs because they will continue to marginalize those families who cannot afford it.
- Some of the barriers to the well child visit metric are:
 - If a family moves out of the county and completes their visits elsewhere there is no way to track it
 - Only scheduled well child visits count towards the metric, not unplanned visits to address illness and such

VIII. Governance Consortium Meeting Feedback,

Lindsey led a discussion about Governance Consortium meetings and where there are opportunities for improvement in the future. Some future meeting topics that were mentioned by the group were:

- Trauma informed care—and how it related to ACES work
- Social/emotional supports for families and the role that the early learning hub can play in supporting the system
- What does the current research say about early learning? Is there anything that we should be doing differently or at least considering?
- P-20 efforts and how to better connect with the other regional collaborative work in the county
- CHIP update and presentation
- Updated research on how to best reach families, particularly families who are harder to reach through the traditional channels
- Common understanding about what equity means
- Discussion around implications of the Affordable Care Act 1557 as it relates to the increased need for interpreters and language lines
- Professional development for early learning work force
- Upcoming presidential election and the impact it will have on the families we serve and the early learning system with a focus on: how are we a part of the conversation, how can we provide some leadership and specific language around supporting families who feel even more marginalized, and how can we support positivity.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 PM