

Lane Early Learning Alliance

3171 Gateway Loop
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earlylearningalliance.org



Lane Early Learning Alliance Governance Consortium

June 9, 2017

3:30-5:30pm

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

NOTES

Present:

Marian Blankenship, Pacific Source Health Plans
Noreen Dunnells, United Way of Lane County
Leslie Finlay, Early Learning Stakeholder/ Relief Nursery
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District
Todd Hamilton, Creswell School District
Alicia Hays, Lane County Government
John Lively, State Representative
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES
Sue Norton, Lane Community College
Chris Parra, Bethel School District
John Radich, Department of Human Services
Liz Schneider, Parent Representative

Absent:

Gustavo Balderas, Eugene 4J School District
Debi Farr, Trillium Health Plan

Karen Gaffney, Lane County Government
Darcy Phillips, Cornerstone Community Housing
George Russell, Community Leader
Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture
Larry Sullivan, Lane Education Service District

Staff:

Holly Mar-Conte, United Way of Lane County
Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, United Way of Lane County
Anetra Brown, United Way of Lane County

Guests:

Alma Hesus, United Way of Lane County
Katherine Pears, Oregon Social Learning Center

Public:

No members of the public present

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 PM

II. Welcome and Introductions

Holly Mar Conte welcomed the group and everyone introduced themselves.

III. Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

IV. Consent Agenda

April Meeting Minutes
Written Reports

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

Motion: John Lively motioned to approve the consent agenda.

Support: Chris Parra seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

Ayes: Marian Blankenship, Noreen Dunnells, Leslie Finlay, Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Todd Hamilton, Alicia Hays, Judy Newman, Sue Norton, John Radich, Sue Rieke-Smith, Liz Schneider

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Nays: None

Abstentions: None

The ELA Equity Stance document was removed from the consent agenda because the Equity Advisory Committee has not met since the last Governance Consortium meeting. It will be reviewed at their next meeting on July 5th and brought back for approval in August.

V. Kindergarten Parent Questionnaire Data & Grant Opportunity

Katherine Pears, of the Oregon Social Learning Center, shared about Kindergarten Survey project that they did from 2014-2016 in partnership with South Lane School District and United Way. The survey focused on asking parents about their child's early childhood experiences before kindergarten and if those experiences reported on the survey were predictors kindergarten readiness.

Some findings from the survey:

- 75% had some early childhood experiences before kindergarten and pretty good exposure (about 3-5 times per week)
- Parents who had concerns about their children's social/emotional readiness was a high predictor of KA score outcomes
 - This prediction is a variable as early as the April before school starts
- Only data from South Lane is connected with KA data
- There were predictive factors but it wasn't clear what exactly parents were looking at

The P-3 Work Group used this survey to inform the current Kindergarten Parent Survey that is currently being administered through the school districts. OSLC is interested in partnering with the ELA on a grant opportunity to expand the Kindergarten Parent Survey efforts in all of the school districts.

Group Discussion:

- How could this be more helpful to districts already collecting the data? —Districts should have input on how this will be implemented since it will be on a larger scale
- If the data from the surveys were available earlier, then there could possibly be an intervention before school starts in the fall (targeted recruitment for KITS, partnership with EC CARES, etc.)
- There may not be enough summer programming to meet the needs
- How do you find the kids that are not already connected with early learning opportunities?
 - This opportunity could provide some funding to try to answer this question
 - Need to do more outreach with community partners
- Focus on a few pilot districts—districts would have some buy in and input to the methodology of the program
- The data could be used to inform an intervention
- Working with families, as they are merit predictors, could be exciting and a strong opportunity.

Action requested: Motion to partner with Oregon Social Learning Center on a 4 year grant opportunity from the Institute of Education Sciences and write a letter of support on behalf of the Early Learning Alliance.

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Motion: Noreen Dunnells motioned to partner with Oregon Social Learning Center on a 4 year grant opportunity from the Institute of Education Sciences and write a letter of support on behalf of the Early Learning Alliance.

Support: Judy Newman seconded the motion to partner with Oregon Social Learning Center on a 4 year grant opportunity from the Institute of Education Sciences and write a letter of support on behalf of the Early Learning Alliance.

Ayes: Marian Blankenship, Leslie Finlay, Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Todd Hamilton, Alicia Hays, John Lively, Sue Norton, Chris Parra, John Radich, Sue Rieke-Smith, Liz Schneider

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Holly Mar Conte will look at previous notes to see what the agreed upon process is for writing Letters of Support on behalf of the Early Learning Alliance.

VI. Early Learning Alliance Funding Planning/Forecasting

Background:

2013-15 Kindergarten Partnership & Innovation Funds (KPI) funding was allocated based on grant applications to the Early Learning Division.

- Supporting Early Engagement and Development in STEM (SEEDS)
- Kids In Transition to School (KITS) in Creswell and Fern Ridge

2015-17 KPI, Great Start and School Readiness funding was allocated directly to early learning hubs through the contracting process with the Early Learning Division.

- The Early Learning Alliance Governance Consortium voted to allocate these funds to meet our newly awarded Social Innovation Fund match in support of KITS expansion via training districts to implement the program.

The group had a discussion about how they would like to strategically allocate Great Start, Kindergarten Partnership & Innovation Funds (KPI), and School Readiness funding streams moving forward. The current contract period ends in September 2017 and new contracts would need to be in place by October 1, 2017. The group discussed three possible funding scenarios:

Option A:

- Continue allocating KPI, Great Start and School Readiness funds directly to support the expansion of KITS.
 - Equity Advisors Work Group (EAWG) and the Governance Consortium (GC) use the Leadership Decision Making Tool.

Option B:

- Open a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process this summer, with new contracts beginning on October 1, 2017.
 - Proposals screened through the EAWG and assessed by GC committee, final decision by the GC.

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Option C:

- Hybrid of A and B. Allocate funding from 1 or 2 funding streams to support KITS AND RFP for 1 or 2 funding streams.

Group Discussion

- We currently do not know how much money will be awarded to the hub in each of these funding streams and will not know exact dollar amounts until the legislative session is over.
- The biennium might not be enough time for a new program to gain momentum
- Switching funding methods might not be sustainable
- Can we allocate parts of ELA funds to support specific funding options?
 - Now that there are not federal requirements in year 3, what can we do differently?
- The story of the community maintaining commitment to the program, even after federal programming.
- Will there be community concern from pulling support of the program?
- Best practice, it takes 3 years to see results in implementation
- Thoughts about how we will communicate with our partners

Conclusion: There was general support for Option A, with the understanding that we will have continued conversations once we know actual dollar amounts. There was no official vote made.

**See attached PowerPoint*

VII. Equity Considerations

VIII. UWLC Strategic Planning: SOAR Discussion

There have been several conversations about the effectiveness of United Way of Lane County's current Community Investment Process. Over the last year an at-hawk task force, made up so several key stakeholders, has been focused on what would be the opportunities and consequences of changing the funding model to focus on a single strategic focus. Knowing that the three main initiatives that UWLC has been focused on are all is interconnected, shifting to a single strategic focus would align and strengthen investments out into the community. The main strategic focus has now been shifted to: *Ensuring that children are successful in school and life*. A group of stakeholders are now developing new goals for this strategic focus.

This new focus and process for investments will feed into a new funding process in 2018 with funds starting in 2019.

IX. Updates

Meeting in July—Holly will check in with the group to see if people will be in town for a July meeting. If not, the group will reconvene in August.

United Way Director of Education Hiring—Fifteen applicants, got narrowed to 8 phone interviews, and 5 in person interviews. Part of the process is narrow down to 2 candidates for an in person presentation. If it's a broad enough topic, the candidates will play to their strengths.

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Alicia Hays Retirement/Last Meeting—THANK YOU ALICIA HAYS!!! YOU ARE A ROCKSTAR AND TRULY A CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN!!!

Please refer to written updates document to see updates about our various initiatives, work groups and innovation teams.

X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:29 PM