

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 11, 2017

3:30-5:30pm

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

NOTES

Present:

Gustavo Balderas, Eugene 4J School District
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District
Todd Hamilton, Creswell School District
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES
Chris Parra, Bethel School District
Darcy Phillips, Cornerstone Community Housing
John Radich, Department of Human Services
Sue Rieke-Smith, Springfield Public Schools
Lise Schellman, Pearl Buck Center
Liz Schneider, Parent Representative
Tony Scurto, Lane Education Service District
Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture

Absent:

Marian Blankenship, Pacific Source Health Plans
Noreen J. Dunnells, United Way of Lane County
Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan
Leslie Finlay, Relief Nursery
Karen Gaffney, Lane County
John Lively, Oregon State Representative
Sue Norton, Lane Community College
George Russell, George Russell and Associates

Staff:

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

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 our newest members of the group; Lise Schellman, Director of Pearl Buck Preschool and Tony Scurto, Superintendent of Lane ESD.

III. Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

IV. Consent Agenda

June Meeting Minutes
Written Report

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

Motion: John Radich motioned to approve the consent agenda.

Support: Gustavo Balderas seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

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Ayes: Gustavo Balderas, Eugene 4J School District; Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District; Todd Hamilton, Creswell School District; Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES; Darcy Phillips, Cornerstone Community Housing; John Radich, Department of Human Services; Sue Rieke-Smith, Springfield Public Schools; Lise Schellman, Pearl Buck Center; Liz Schneider, Parent Representative; Tony Scurto, Lane Education Service District; Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County; John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

V. Early Learning Alliance/ United Way Staff Report

We currently have two open positions in the Early Learning Alliance; the Director of Education and an Education Program Manager position. Both positions are in the final stages of the interview process with the goal of having both positions on board by the end of September.

United Way of Lane County's board recently approve a strategic focus on "breaking generational poverty" as it relates to children and youth being successful in school and life. Over the course of the next several months, United Way will be engaging key partners and stakeholders to develop out metrics and goals related to the new strategic focus.

VI. Legislative Session Debrief

Despite the challenging budgetary environment, the legislature maintained its commitment to protecting investments in early learning. The Governor's budget called for maintaining all early learning programs, as well as a new \$8 million investment in early learning professional development. While the legislature maintained funding for most of the early learning programs at current service levels (CSL), there was an overall General Fund cut to ELD administered programs of \$2.5 million (1.0 %). The legislature was unable to make new investments in early learning professional development. While the legislature did not make a new investment in early learning professional development, it did recognize for the first time in statute the importance of this workforce.

The legislature also passed a number of policy bills that will support the work of the Early Learning Division. These bills represent either adjustments to current policy initiatives (such as Preschool Promise or Early Learning Hubs) or technical fixes to existing statutes, rather than creating new policy directions or initiatives.

**See document for more details*

VII. Early Learning Alliance Budget Projections and Allocation Discussion

In this biennium funding, program dollars will be the most impacted by the 11% Early Learning Hub budget cut acknowledging that hubs across the state are operating with limited hub coordination funds. Program dollar amounts have historically been influenced by the amount of children who are eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits through DHS. Typically, about 22% of people in Lane County qualify for SNAP benefits, the majority are children. The Early Learning Council agreed to adjust the base/floor number of children/ per hub of 5,000 and will use the SNAP data to determine additional funding.

Hub Coordination—Hub Coordination is the main administrative and operational budget and has the most flexibility in terms of how it supports the hub.

- Sustainability should be something to consider
- Demonstrate that adding additional staff will have a positive impact on programming

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- Who was served more efficiently, effectively, etc.
- One-page analysis with additional information about how increasing staff impacts effectiveness of programming
- Turnover should also be acknowledged in relation to staff wage, position descriptions, professional development opportunities, etc.
- Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative (OPEC) funding is in its 8th and final year of funding and that is being considered into the hub budget as well. Currently, it funds most of the Education Program Manager and Education Program Specialist position.

Staff will bring back a narrative of the hub coordination budget at the next meeting

Family Stability/Family Support Services—In the last contracting period, each of the 12 Family Resource Centers received a little under 16,000 for programming and staff.

- Effectiveness may be influenced by how FRCs are able to leverage additional funds to add to what the hub gives them.
- We need to have a clear, yet fair idea of what success looks like for FRCs and then measure effectiveness from there
- Community evaluation should also be considered in how well FRCs are working in communities
- Reaching out to the additional 4 school districts to see if they are interested in starting FRCs
- Can we use additional hub funds to support an expansion of new FRCs or to fund each one in a way that will allow them to be successful
- The analysis should be very specific to each FRC and what the fiscal impact of each one to determine what it actually costs to do programming
- Examples for the group of the vast variety of FRCs and what they look like

Staff will bring back a summary of each FRC including; a snapshot of each budget, program reach/ kids served, and ideas on how to evaluate FRC effectiveness for future conversations.

School Readiness/Great Start—In the last contracting period, these funds were allocated to the Kids in Transition to School Program. In a previous Governance Consortium meeting, the group decided that they are still willing invest these funds in the program, especially acknowledging the impact of the reduced federal funding of the program.

- Knowing how much the KITS program actually costs is important to decide how much of these funds should be allocated
- The Pay for Success model might be an opportunity to leverage additional funding (this will be a deeper discussion at a future meeting)
- Who is making these decisions and for whom?
- Parent engagement should also be evaluated
- Using shared data will be important to measure the effectiveness of our programming (KITS and Preschool Promise)
 - How can we utilize local data systems such as CLC's database to look at shared metrics (chronic absenteeism, KA data, third grade reading benchmark, etc.)?

Staff will bring back real numbers of the KITS program budget at the next meeting.

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VIII. Equity Considerations

Are there any other thoughts that we haven't considered?

- There should be an emphasis on making funding decisions that are fair and equitable for all of our programs, acknowledging that they each have unique needs
 - In order to do this, we need to have more detailed information about each program

IX. Updates

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

X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM