

Lane Early Learning Alliance

3171 Gateway Loop
Springfield, OR 97477
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earlylearningalliance.org



Lane Early Learning Alliance Governance Consortium September 8, 2017

3:30-5:30pm

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

NOTES

Present:

Gustavo Balderas, Eugene 4J School District
Marian Blankenship, Pacific Source Health Plans
Noreen J. Dunnells, United Way of Lane County
Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan
Leslie Finlay, Relief Nursery
Todd Hamilton, Creswell School District
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES
Chris Parra, Bethel School District
John Radich, Department of Human Services
George Russell, George Russell and Associates
Lise Schellman, Pearl Buck Center
Liz Schneider, Parent Representative
Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture

Absent:

Karen Gaffney, Lane County
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District
John Lively, Oregon State Representative
Sue Norton, Lane Community College
Darcy Phillips, Cornerstone Community Housing
Sue Rieke-Smith, Springfield Public Schools
Tony Scurto, 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

Public:

No members of the public present

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 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

August Meeting Minutes

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

Motion: John Stapleton motioned to approve the consent agenda.

Support: John Radich seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

Ayes: Gustavo Balderas, Eugene 4J School District; Marian Blankenship, Pacific Source Health Plans; Noreen J. Dunnells, United Way of Lane County; Leslie Finlay, Relief Nursery; Todd Hamilton, Creswell School District; Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES; Chris Parra, Bethel School District; George Russell, George Russell and Associates; Lise Schellman, Pearl Buck Center; Liz Schneider, Parent Representative; Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

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V. Early Learning Alliance/ United Way Staff Report

Both the Director of Education and Education Program Manager positions have been filled and will officially start on Monday, September 18th.

Bess Day accepted the Director of Education position and comes to us from ORCAS, Inc, a health innovation and technology company that creates mobile self-management interventions designed to improve physical and emotional well-being, where she has worked in all aspects of the company. She has extensive experience administering federal grants, managing data, and marketing. She's also a founder of a local nonprofit, Doulas Supporting Teens.

Claire Hambly, our new Education Program Coordinator, joins us from Trillium Health Plans. Claire has been involved in many aspects of our early learning hub work through the Early Learning Stakeholders and the Family Resource Navigation Innovation Team. Claire started her career at Willamette Family Treatment Center helping to manage a federal grant and then was a Community Health Worker with the LUCC (Lane United Care Connect) project in South Lane. She then transitioned to Trillium to manage their Community Health Worker program and most recently has worked in Trillium's marketing department.

VI. Early Learning Alliance Hub Coordination Budget Overview

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

Things to note about the coordination funds:

- 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.

Points from Group Discussion:

- What is the stability of the Title IV federal funds? (Holly will check in with the state)
- How does the UW staff's time get tracked in relation to how much the hub uses them? (HR, finance, marketing, facilities/ equipment, etc.)
- More support for program staff (such as preschool teachers) should be considered when there are additional funds available (i.e. in classroom support for big behaviors)
- Using carryover funds to cover salaries could create a potential barrier when those funds are no longer available
- OPEC grant will be ending in 2018 so there needs to be some plans for that as well
- This additional FTE may be an opportunity to cultivate new partners and opportunities beyond the scope and capacity that the current FTE allows
- Looking closely at the UW FTE and giving real numbers will be helpful in the budget
- Be mindful of potential cuts in the 2nd year of the biennium or over estimating in the 1st biennium

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- The funds allocated to the working with a consultant for funding opportunities for the sustainability of KITS is crucial because staff currently do not have the capacity to do it alone
- 17/19 budget was created with the framework that there is flexibility to make adjustments if needed, it is not a tight budget.

Equity Considerations

- Having extra funds for travel allows for staff to have access to more high quality professional development that may not be offered locally
- Using funds to support the new equity position makes sense and is an acknowledgement of

VII. Family Resource Centers Program Overview and Funding Recommendations

Anetra Brown gave a presentation that highlighted the 11 Family Resource Centers (FRCs) that are currently in operation across the county.

Over the last year, the FRCs' have worked with us to make sure that all FRCs are high functioning and supported in the community through a multi-step self-assessment process. In our work with the FRCs during that process, we focused on

- reaching families furthest from opportunity
- offering professional development for FRC coordinators
- creating a universal marketing strategy and materials for the FRC network
- systematizing data collection processes

Current FRC Activities:

- family engagement (focused on early learners or within the school district community)
- early literacy
- STEM activities
- Parenting education (mainly LaneKids funded series)
- Kindergarten readiness and transition activities
- ELA program recruitment (KITS and Preschool Promise)

Funding History:

2014-15 Funding Decision: Flat funding based on previous county allocations.

Marcola - \$14,188

Bethel - \$14,359

Junction City - \$14,359

Oakridge - \$14,359

Pleasant Hill - \$14,359

McKenzie - \$14,622

South Lane - \$14,701

Springfield - \$16,321

Eugene 4J - \$19,422

Planning Grant

Creswell - \$1,000

Crow Apple Lorane - \$1,000

Fern Ridge - \$1,000

Lowell - \$1,000

2016 Funding Decision: Allocated an equal amount of funding to 12 eligible school districts. Each district received \$15,975 for January 1 - December 31, 2016.

2017 Continued Funding Decision: Allocated an equal amount of funding to 11 eligible school districts (excluding Junction City). The amount available per FRC for the grant period January 1- September 30, 2017 would be \$12,650.

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Funding Recommendation

Noncompetitive application process for the 11 active Family Resource Centers submit a programming plan and budget requesting up to \$13,500 each year for the (October 2017-June 2019) grant period with a matching requirement.

In addition to these funds, there may be an opportunity to apply for additional funds in a competitive process tied to ELA hub metrics. A group will revisit this to identify potential metrics.

Action requested: Motion to approve the 2017/2019 Family Resource Center funding recommendation.

Motion: Todd Hamilton motioned to approve the 2017/2019 Family Resource Center funding recommendation.

Support: Noreen J. Dunnells seconded the motion to approve the 2017/2019 Family Resource Center funding recommendation.

Ayes: Gustavo Balderas, Eugene 4J School District; Marian Blankenship, Pacific Source Health Plans; Leslie Finlay, Relief Nursery; Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES; Chris Parra, Bethel School District; John Radich, Department of Human Services; George Russell, George Russell and Associates; Lise Schellman, Pearl Buck Center; Liz Schneider, Parent Representative; Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County; John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture

Nays: None

Equity Considerations

- We should be defining success in a way that equitable and appropriate for each site, not simply based on numbers of children who attend programs the physical space.
- Whichever metrics get tied to incentive or extra funds should be fair and achievable for everyone, without infrastructure being a barrier.
- We need to standardize data collection to make sure that we are serving our intended population
- Technical assistance to support FRCs towards success is a necessity

Next Steps: Staff will work with FRCs to get contracts in place and develop the application process.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM