

Lane Early Learning Alliance

3171 Gateway Loop
Springfield, OR 97477
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earlylearningalliance.org



Lane Early Learning Alliance Governance Consortium

December 8, 2017

3:30-5:30pm

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

NOTES

Present:

Gustavo Balderas, Eugene 4J School District
Noreen J. Dunnells, United Way of Lane County
Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan
Leslie Finlay, Relief Nursery
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
George Russell, Community Leader
Lise Schellman, Pearl Buck Center
Tony Scurto, Lane Education Service District
Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County

Absent:

Marian Blankenship, Pacific Source Health Plans
Karen Gaffney, Lane County

John Lively, Oregon State Representative
Sue Rieke-Smith, Springfield Public Schools
Sue Norton, Lane Community College
John Radich, Department of Human Services
Liz Schneider, Parent Representative
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture

Staff:

Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, United Way of Lane County
Bess Day, United Way of Lane County
Ann Salminen, United Way of Lane County
Holly Mar-Conte, United Way of Lane County
Anetra Brown, United Way of Lane County
Claire Hambly, United Way of Lane County

Public:

No members of the public present

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM

II. Welcome and Introductions

Bess Day welcomed the group, everyone introduced themselves and mentioned two positive highlights of 2017.

III. Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

IV. Consent Agenda

October Meeting Minutes
November Written Reports

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

Motion: Chris Parra motioned to approve the consent agenda.

Support: Tony Scurto seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

Ayes: Gustavo Balderas, Noreen J. Dunnells, Debi Farr, Leslie Finlay, Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Todd Hamilton, Judy Newman, Darcy Phillips, George Russell, Lise Schellman, Annie Soto

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

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V. 2017: A Year in Review

Bess Day shared some highlights of the Early Learning Alliance's work over the last year. They are categorized by each of the hub's three goals:

Goal 1: Coordinated Services

- Convened & facilitated ~75 regular meetings with ELA stakeholders, partners, and work groups
- Co-sponsored structural racism training with ELD partners (over 100 attendees)
- Facilitated a financial literacy workshop, in partnership with NEDCO, for Preschool Promise Providers
- Created Parenting Now! online resource poster

Goal 2: Kindergarten Readiness

KITS:

- Served 435 families county wide and provided training to 110 educators.
- Expanded to Oakridge
- Developing strategy for long-term sustainability

Preschool Promise:

- Received 7% increase in provider services funds, allowing us to add 11-13 more slots for children.
- Strong partnership with Head Start on enrollment & placement allows us to reach and serve more children.
- 68 children were able to stay on for the 2nd year of Preschool Promise. The stories of how they welcomed and helped the new kids was heartwarming.
- High rate of retention of PP staff
- Dedicated and effective PP team

Goal 3: Stable & Attached Families

FRCs:

- 13 FRCs across 11 districts are staffed, running programming, and engaging in regular networking, resource sharing & training
- Significant progress made in developing data collection app

LaneKids/Triple P:

- 248 families have signed up for TPOL to date
- Funded 22 parenting education series throughout the county
- Expanded Triple P into a variety of settings, incl: affordable housing, school districts, and PP classrooms
- (Unexpectedly) Renewed funding available through 2020

VI. 2018: ELA Work Plan

The group reviewed and gave feedback to the proposed 2018 work plan (see attached pdf for work plan details).

Goal 1: Coordinated Services—Group Feedback:

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- Yoncalla/ Early Learning Works is a great model to explore for parent engagement strategies
- The Governance Consortium (as a voice for the ELA system) can play a role in convening partners to discuss systemic issues locally or at the state level such as;
 - Building capacity/finding resources
 - Eliminating barriers
 - Accessibility of social/emotional services
 - Supports for children with big behaviors
 - Bussing preschool children (or other P-3 systems alignment challenges)
 - Coordinating early learning supports
- How can we embed equity and cultural responsiveness into our work will still being explicit about our commitment to it? (it sometimes appears as a standalone activity rather than being a part of the overall work)
- How can cultural responsiveness be tied to a metric to measure progress?
- Some of the social/emotional support needs boils down to a lack of resources

Goal 2: Kindergarten Readiness—Group Feedback:

- How does the work of the P-3/P-8 workgroup tie into the overall kindergarten readiness plan?
- Working with child care providers to build up skills and expertise
- Expanding KITS (maintaining KITS) is a priority
- County wide literacy based programs should be a focus
- Access to quality preschool is still a concern in our county
 - How can we build capacity with child care providers who are also offering preschool?

Goal 3: Stable & Attached Families—Group Feedback:

- Should be a focus on expanding parenting education options to reach more families
- The additional OPEC funds are promising and show the growing commitment to parenting education
- Health partners pay a role in this conversation as well

VII. Early Learning Council Update

The ELC had its retreat in September, where new Oregon Early Learning Systems Director, Miriam Calderon, shared her vision for aligning state systems around the three primary early learning goals (children are ready for kindergarten; families are stable and attached; services are coordinated). The ELC is conducting a strategic planning process around this vision, which will include sessions with K-12, Health and Human Services in 2018. This is a direct reflection of what hubs are asked to do at the local level and an opportunity to leverage resources and efforts towards common goals.

VIII. Retired Senior Volunteer Project (RSVP) Grant

RSVP, a federally funded program designed to coordinate volunteer projects for retired senior volunteers has been supported by United Way for the last several years. Historically, United Way's RSVP program hosted projects primarily focused on health and wellbeing. The RSVP program is being restructured to focus on education related projects to better align with United Way's new strategic focus on children and families being successful in school and life. As the program is being restructure, United Way is seeking ideas for new projects. Some initial ideas are to focus on expanding literacy programs in schools such as SMART or Creswell's IRC program. Volunteers could

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also be used to support the new book bank initiative. If you have any ideas of potential sites, please let staff know. The redesign process will take place throughout the spring.

IX. OPEC Partner Challenge Grant Opportunity

LELA is looking for partners to join in applying for up to \$15,000 in funding from Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative (OPEC). This funding will be used to support and strengthen parenting education in Lane County, with a specific focus on underserved populations. Partners who wish to join in on this collaboration will be required to match the funding received dollar-for-dollar in cash or in-kind. Agencies from the following sectors are invited to participate: early learning, health care, community corrections, or Dept. of Human Services.

X. Updates/ Announcements

- Ballot Measure 101—Many organizations, including the Children's Institute's board, are taking a stance on ballot Measure 101 and its potential impact on children and families.
- 2018 Meeting dates/times—Staff will be reaching out in the next few weeks to float around potential meeting dates and time for 2018. The Governance Consortium will still have a regular meeting each month but could change the date and time if that is of interest to members of the group.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM

