

Lane Early Learning Alliance

3171 Gateway Loop
Springfield, OR 97477
tel 541.741.6000
fax 541.726.4150

earlylearningalliance.org

Mission: Working together to prepare children for success in school and life.

Vision: A community in which all Lane County families, organizations, and neighborhoods are unified in an effort to ensure that all children are safe, healthy, cherished and are ready to succeed in school.



Lane Early Learning Alliance Governance Consortium

September 14, 2018

3:00-5:00pm

Early Childhood CARES (1500 W. 12th Ave, Eugene, OR 97402)

NOTES

Present:

Gustavo Balderas, Eugene 4J School District
Todd Hamilton, Creswell School District
Sue Norton, Lane Community College
John Radich, Department of Human Services
Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County
George Russell, Community Leader
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District
Chris Parra, Bethel School District
Darcy Phillips, Cornerstone Community Housing
Tony Scurto, Lane Education Service District
Lise Schellman, Pearl Buck Center
Liz Schneider, Parent Representative
Noreen J. Dunnells, United Way of Lane County

Absent:

Marian Blankenship, Pacific Source Health Plans
Leslie Finlay, Relief Nursery
John Lively, Oregon State Representative
Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan
Holly Mar-Conte, United Way of Lane County
Karen Gaffney, Lane County

Staff:

Bess Day, United Way of Lane County
Ann Salminen, United Way of Lane County
Ramón Concepcion, United Way of Lane County
Clarissa Parker, United Way of Lane County
Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, United Way of Lane County

Public: No members of the public present

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:09 PM.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Bess Day welcomed the group and everyone introduced themselves. The group welcomed new UWLC Equity and Engagement Manager, Ramon Concepcion.

III. Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

IV. Consent Agenda

- Approval of August 10, 2018 meeting notes (**action required**)
- Acknowledge receipt of written reports from Advisory Groups and Innovation Teams, Preschool Promise, KITS, and LaneKids

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

Motion: Tony Scurto motioned to approve the consent agenda.

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

Ayes: Todd Hamilton, Sue Norton, John Radich, Annie Soto, George Russell, Judy Newman, John Stapleton, Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Chris Parra, Darcy Phillips, Tony Scurto, Lise Schellman, Liz Schneider, and Noreen J. Dunnells

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

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V. One Mission, one Story

Reconnect to our mission by relating one or two stories that illustrate how the ELA is making a difference to children and families in our community.

- Claire Hambly shared a story from Cornerstone Community Housing. A family was at risk of being evicted. Instead of being evicted, Cornerstone used the Positive Parenting Program with them as a source of primary prevention. So far, the family is still housed.
- Ann Salminen shared a story about Preschool Promise. A child was coming to orientation and had not spoken yet at all. The teacher asked a second year student to play and interact with the child, and then the child started talking.
- Annie Soto shared a story of child who was excited to meet her new friends in the class.
- Lise Schellman shared a story of a toddler who is in a wheelchair and has no feeling in his legs and had other developmental concerns. So far he has had a great start with his friends in the classroom. Other children were helping him and integrating with him. Seeing him interact with kids other than his sister was inspiring.

VI. Annual Review of Governance Consortium MOU and Membership, 30 min

Review current membership roster, discuss potential new member nominations, ELA Stakeholder meeting representation, and the Memorandum of Understanding which outlines the shared goals, responsibilities, and functions of the Governance Consortium and the Early Learning Alliance.

Equity considerations: *what else should we be considering? Who is missing from this conversation?*

Group Discussion Items and Considerations

- Noreen Dunnells provided limited historical background for the formation of the Governance Consortium. Previously, it had health, business sector and philanthropy representation, but equity representation was not required by state.
- The county held two seats and there was also a seat for the CCO.
- Bruce Smolinsky, Interim Superintendent for Springfield Schools, will be invited to participate.
 - o Discussion of others that may be invited to participate.
- What has been the nomination process in the past? – The past process is not very formal. The Governance Consortium determined needs to fill and invited people who filled those gaps to attend.
- How should we go about getting them?
 - o Members of the Governance Consortium will bring a list of recommendations to the next meeting, narrow it down, and decide with whom we want to move forward.
- Improve results for priority populations, including identifying strategies

No changes were made to the Memorandum of Understanding. Those present signed the MOU. The group will let Bess Day know if there are any questions or suggestions regarding the MOU. The group decided to bring a list of their recommendations to the next meeting to discuss potential new members of the Governance Consortium.

VII. ELA Work Plan Update, 15 min

Review current ELA work plan, submitted to the Early Learning Division in Dec. 2017. Note key accomplishments and suggest revisions to the plan as we head into the second year of the biennium. The work plan is included with the meeting materials.

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Equity considerations: what else should we be considering? Who is missing from this conversation?

Group Discussion Items and Considerations

- Governor Brown released her Child Welfare Agenda and the Children's Agenda and the initiatives strongly align with the work of the Early Learning Alliance.
 - o Where does the Early Learning Alliance align with this? – The ELA partners with other entities to have wraparound services and mutually reinforcing activities
 - o The ELA can't do this alone – there needs to be a team for prevention
 - o The group discussed how alleviate some of the work load of the services the school systems shoulder and still offer services to families
- Tina Gutierrez-Schmich is coordinating a K-12 Social Justice Teach-In and wants to involve Preschool and Early Education.

VIII. Family Resource Centers, 15 min

Update on Subcommittee activity and recommendations for upcoming program year. The subcommittee was comprised of Bess Day, Claire Hambly, Tony Scurto, Judy Newman, Emily Reiter, and Sue Wickizer. No changes were made to funding structure this year, but United Way of Lane County is implementing a 12-month contract for each of the Family Resource Centers as opposed to the previous 9-month contract.

Group Discussion Items and Considerations

- Instead of altering funding for 2018-19, the committee decided to include more guidelines for the FRCs. These guidelines are described as follows:
 - o Discussion of the work plan prior to contracting
 - o Ask what they are doing differently this year to make sure their budget is spent down
 - o Mid-year check-in to offer guidance and be proactive about spending down funds or sustaining them throughout the rest of the year
 - o Contracts have more clear and explicit language regarding reporting, invoicing, hard-and-fast deadlines, and request the business office and coordinators to read the contract, too
 - o Completion of program self-evaluation(s)
- The new guidelines were generally well-received by coordinators
 - o The coordinators understood the reasoning for implementing these updated guidelines
 - o They are excited to get on board and complete the self-evaluation of programs
 - o They are also excited for the soft launch of the new application so they can obtain a "real count" of families they are serving this year
- What does the 12-month plan look like?
 - o The Early Learning Alliance already has bridge funds from the state to cover July 1 – September 20, 2019 to support the summer/early fall work in FRCs.
 - o Most programs go until June and start again in August so they would need funding for those months in between, and have to request an extended budget for those months
 - o Some FRCs would have to ask for extension or loan from district to implement programs over the summer or when starting back up in August
 - o A 12-month plan makes the process more streamlined – it takes less administration and is a lot less messy to organize and fund
- For the first time evaluating them at all, look at quantity and quality of the program
- Who from their networks attend their events? Who shows up?

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- Are district folks attending the FRC events?
 - Some are keeping an eye on them and supporting them
 - Some have mixed feelings – some FRCs feel supported and embedded in their community, some feel more isolated
 - How does the ELA incorporate this in a more substantial way?
- Pivot Architecture visits with superintendents and principals at various schools. If there's an FRC at a school, they ask the school representative if they know about the FRCs, and the answers vary widely
 - Offer more knowledge resources to the FRCs and go help them with how to better engage with community. It's also important to share this information with those at their school so the staff knows what they do (social services, superintendent, school boards, police department, etc.)
 - How can the ELA intervene to help them grow their network?
 - Ask them if they feel supported by their principal, staff, families they serve, etc.
 - It is also hard to know their impact because there has never been a systematic way to show impact with family data from those who have attended programs or sought out FRC services
 - Are their programs relevant? It is important for them to be relevant and connected, and to have measureable impact and results.
- Many of the rural FRCs are hubs in their communities.
- It would be beneficial to share success stories/highlights at FRC meetings to build a sense of community and show how important the programs are to the group
- Isolated centers have a harder time – they are not necessarily located in high-traffic, popular areas, which is a barrier for serving families and for families to access them
- There could be a mentorship opportunity for more experienced FRCs to meet with and offer guidance to ones who are newer. However, tread lightly with approaching this – often times, there is just one person at the FRC doing the work.
- The FRCs are highly interested in training opportunities, and the ELA can provide those to them
- Important to keep in mind that the ELA's vision with funding and programming could be very different from the FRCs vision and what they feel works well for their community
 - The ELA has listened to the requests for a change in structure or programming and is willing to be flexible as far as what works best for each FRC. For example, Creswell moved from a center-based FRC to a staff person who goes out into community – so far, this has had more success than the past model

IX. Imagination Library

Final discussion and vote on opportunity to provide 2,000 children in Lane County with free books monthly through ELA funding match with United Way and a prospective corporate partner.

Vote to fund Imagination Library, in partnership with UWLC and other corporate partner (**action required**)

Group Discussion Items and Considerations

- Noreen and Bess provided history of the Imagination Library and our goals within United Way.
- The Imagination Library provides free books to families with children ages 0 – 5. We have the opportunity to expand access to this program across Lane County.
- Over 1,000,000 books are mailed out each month
- Lane Electric is supporting 18 children in Lowell

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- Books cost \$25 per child per year, which comes to ~\$2.58 per month. The books are also developmentally appropriate for children and they are given two bilingual books per year per age.
- There are longitudinal studies about this program that have started in Minnesota, but now the Imagination Library and Dollywood Foundation have begun these efforts to track the data.
- The United Way of Lane County Board of Directors approved to fund \$12,500 for the next 2 years to support this initiative
- Corporate interest is being cultivated to fund \$25,000 per year
- The Early Learning Alliance would target rural communities with highest priority to school catchment areas with lowest 3rd grade reading proficiency
- What are the strategies for protecting the investment for highly mobile families?
 - Books that can't be delivered are collected and redistributed, which is an opportunity for the Early Learning Alliance to engage volunteers and bring them to organizations where families will be
- This is also an opportunity to have group reading programs where parents come help read to kids, which in turn can also help with parental illiteracy, too
- First Books Program in Lane County had a similar initiative several years ago
 - Head Start of Lane County coordinated this program, and it was highly significant for families – it helped create routine, engagement, and excitement about reading

Action requested: Motion to fund Imagination Library, in partnership with UWLC and other corporate partner

Motion: Chris Parra motioned to approve the consent agenda.

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

Ayes: Gustavo Balderas, Todd Hamilton, Sue Norton, John Radich, Annie Soto, George Russell, Judy Newman, John Stapleton, Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Darcy Phillips, Tony Scurto, Lise Schellman, and Liz Schneider

Nays: None

Abstentions: Noreen J. Dunnells

X. Other Updates/Announcements

- UWLC Campaign Kick-off
- KITS site visits this fall, dates will be sent out
- RFP for Social/Emotional Behavior Consultant for Preschool Promise beginning in October 2018
- DHS's 2Gen Program
- Trillium's Innovation Fund proposals for 2018 due Oct. 31

XI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:03pm.