

Lane Early Learning Alliance

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earlylearningalliance.org



**Lane Early Learning Alliance
Early Learning Stakeholders
Thursday, January 24, 2019
3:00-5:00pm
United Way of Lane County
(3171 Gateway Loop, Springfield)**

GOVERNANCE CONSORTIUM

GUSTAVO BALDERAS
Eugene 4J School District

MARIAN BLANKENSHIP
PacificSource Health Plans

EILEEN CHANTI
Early Learning Stakeholders
First Place Family Center

NOREEN J. DUNNELLS
United Way of Lane County

DEBI FARR
Trillium Community Health Plan

KAREN GAFFNEY
Lane County

TINA GUTIEREZ-SCHMICH
Bethel School District

TODD HAMILTON
Creswell School District

JOHN LIVELY
Oregon State Representative

JUDY NEWMAN
Early Childhood CARES

SUE NORTON
Lane Community College

CHRIS PARRA
Bethel School District

DARCY PHILLIPS
Cornerstone Community Housing

JOHN RADICH
Department of Human Services

GEORGE RUSSELL
Community Leader

LISE SCHELLMAN
Early Learning Stakeholders
Pearl Buck Center

LIZ SCHNEIDER
Parent Representative

TONY SCURTO
Lane Education Service District

BRUCE SMOLNISKY
Springfield Public Schools

ANNIE SOTO
Head Start of Lane County

JOHN STAPLETON
Pivot Architecture

NOTES

1. Welcome and Introductions- (5 minutes)

- In attendance: Claire Hambly, UWLC; Emily Reiter, UWLC; Doug Sannes, DHS; Sara Loveless, 90by30; Natalia Piar, Migrant Ed.; Gabrielle Morales, Migrant Ed.; Theya Harvey, QCC; Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, UWLC; Gretta Sagolla, Eugene 4J; Jenny Mendoza, UofO; Jeanine Taylor, EC CARES; Tracy Stafford, OCP; LuCinda Gustavson, Springfield Public Library; Julia Morrill, SLSD; Ilana Jakubowski, First Place Family; Lenora Johnson, Trillium; Leslie Finley, Relief Nursery; Lise Schellman, Pearl Buck; Bess Day, UWLC; Rachael Perry, Eugene Public Library

2. Identifying Parents with Cognitive Limitations- Lise Schellman, Pearl Buck Ctr

- Continuously seeking referrals: 3% of general population lives with cognitive limitation; many parents need to be identified
- PBC serves people with various abilities – preschool parents don't need to have a diagnosed disability
- Preschool serves children whose parents have a cognitive limitation; sometimes children also have a limitation
- Myths about parents: believe children will have limitations; parents will fail to provide adequate care/supervision
- This population is highly over-represented in the welfare system
- All parents can use help!
- Mon-Fri half-day preschool program
 - i. Accept children at 2 (toddlers 2-3 in 1 classroom)
 - ii. 3-5-year-olds in 2 classrooms
 - iii. 10 children/classroom – 30 children/year
 - iv. Automatically includes a second sibling
- Serve all of Lane County
- Transportation covered 100%
- Families also eligible for family support services: parent mentorship; PBIS used in classroom and home visits
 - i. Home visits – goals are set by the family
- PBC does not receive federal funding – not tied to rules and regulations; can visit as often as necessary, meet outside of the home, provide transportation
- 2 home visitors; 45 families
- Support services are available outside of preschool; also offering kindergarten transition support
- Services available in Spanish
- Call office for electronic version of intake form
- Have conversation with the parent prior to making the referral
- DHS contracts: if working with DHS family, let family know about services or let child case worker know
- February 14th: benefit breakfast

- Services for parents coming from other school districts/with older kids?
 - i. Can provide services for families with children up to age 6
 - ii. Older kids: try Oregon Family Support Network
- How to identify families:
 - i. Had an IEP in school, were placed in specialized classrooms
 - ii. Acquired brain injury
 - iii. Something seems off; not able to move forward in a typical way
 - iv. Overwhelmed by routine (ex: no plan in the morning); excessive difficulty managing children (more than usual, repetitive); inability to manage personal assets (difficulty finding housing, bad credit); sometimes lots previous supports through relationship; non-physical barriers to using public transportation (“I never take the bus”); difficulty reading/writing; needs consistent support; difficulty keeping appointments
- How to talk to families about referral
 - i. “I’ve noticed you have trouble with…” also mention free preschool; talk more about them and less about PBC
 - ii. If kids have been removed: “supportive group of people who know how to speak your language and help you do your best”; showing DHS you are reaching out for support
- No agency to help older parents
- 3.1% of parents nationally have cognitive disability (8% have disability overall)

3. Team Duckling- Jenny Mendoza

- UofO Learning Lab
- Studying children and how they grow (language, attention, executive function, theory of mind, attachment); labs have banded together to better communicate who they are, what they are learning, opportunities for families
- Rely on family participants
 - i. Birth – 18 years
 - ii. Incentives vary
 - iii. Free parking; sometimes provide transportation
 - iv. Childcare for other siblings
- Teamduckling.uoregon.edu
- Feb 23 11-3 @ Eugene Science Center: living lab day – interactive family-friendly activities that highlight developmental psychology

4. CAFA- Angela Albin, AngelaA@cafaweb.com

- National program to offer resources to families in crisis instead of entering foster system
- Volunteer families take in kids during a crisis
 - i. Crisis: one that can be overcome within 6 months; makes it difficult to parent well but they are a good enough parent to not involve DHS
 - ii. Parent gets kids back as soon as the crisis is resolved or they want them back
 - iii. 1-2 nights up to 8 months (but aim for 3 months for long-term)
 - iv. Newborn – age 12 (most kids are pre-k age)
- How to reach the families who may not be connected to community resources
- Family coach available to help parents navigate
- Transportation provided to school if the child is placed outside of school district
- Volunteer families: most come from churches; 15 hours of online training; in-person training; background check; home visit
- Can take children with medical issues and “some light behavioral issues” but the child cannot be the reason for the crisis or the program is not a good option
- Parents need to be the one to ask for help; can call number and meet informally to discuss situation
- One family is bilingual
- Communicating to parents: “Making an unselfish decision” – best for the kids
- Meeting families and parent-child visits happen at the office
- When the issue is needing psychiatric care/treatment (not early to relation to, talk to)
 - i. Will keep children no matter what; Angela will make report to DHS if giving kids back will make them unsafe; staff are mandatory reporters; volunteers not necessarily
 - ii. Encourage multiple placements with same family (relationship-building btw. Host and biological family)
- DV situation? If dad wanted kids, would involve DHS at that point
- CAFA staff could come to agency to meet with parent

5. Cornerstone Community Housing

- Been in the community for 27 years
- 10 properties in Eugene/Springfield
- Intentional building structures: high quality, efficient, community centers, gardens, playgrounds
- Provide services on site
 - i. FFLC, Active Kids, teen activities, adult education (ex: yoga, mindfulness)

- ii. Also more in-depth support by family resource navigators
- Current housing crisis; waitlists are long – each property is managed by a manager on site
- Eligibility based on income; also different at each site (OHP members eligible)
- Studios to 3 bedrooms available (a couple months to a year wait)
- Free to get on the waitlist; don't have to have all ducks in a row!
- Residents don't get kicked out if their income increases
- Take section 8 subsidy but no internal programs
- Number of bedrooms up to the family
- Advocacy 101
- Citizenship status? Iris will get back to the group on this

6. Early Learning Alliance Updates

- Governance Consortium
 - i. Planning for KITS funding
 - ii. Parent engagement
 - iii. Important for ELS to communicate issues to GC through representatives or attend the meetings

7. Agency Updates

- **DHS:** as of Jan 28, child abuse hotline is moving out of Eugene to Portland office; will become 24-hr hotline on April 8th
 - i. Seeking 10 new social service positions (9 in Eugene, 1 in Florence); go to state website for application
- **EC CARES:** Brattain Early Learning Center is closing and ECC cannot use classrooms after June – seeking space in Springfield to house preschool
 - i. Free developmental screenings for ages 0-5
 - ii. Children's Health Fair on Sat, Feb 2nd: free hearing, dental, vision screenings
 - iii. Hiring teaching assistants
- **QCC:** hiring part-time entry-level administrative position with potential to build over time
 - i. Conference on March 16th – email or call Theya if your agency would like to table
- **Pearl Buck Center:** Benefit breakfast on Feb 14th (there will be bacon!)
- **First Place Family:** Bringing enrichment programs into the preschool (story time from Eugene library, Daisy Chain offered nursing nook) because transportation is an issue for many families – let Ilana know if you have ideas for (volunteer) activities
- **90by30:** Roots of Empathy is in 19 classrooms; hoping to add another 15 next year; seeking instructors and volunteer families
 - i. South, West, and East Lane Welcome Baby Boxes available to all families (no requirements)
- **South Lane SD:** Ana Maria Dudley awarded First Citizen Award in Cottage Grove!
- **Eugene Public Library:** Power of Play workshop on Saturday, Feb 2 from 1-3: presentation for preschool/daycare providers (anyone welcome); can receive training hours
 - i. New director coming on board: this year is a good time to reach out if want to give feedback
 - ii. Reminder that anyone can come to the programs and use the books in the space, even if you don't have a library card
- **Springfield Library:** Awarded State Award of Excellence for *For Every Student, a Library* program!
 - i. New facility planning: open houses to get community feedback on new library
 - ii. Dia de Los Ninos: April 27th – let LuCinda know if you would like to table; please have fun activity; agencies can also donate a gift basket
- **United Way:** Imagination Library – free books in the mail for kids 0-5th birthday; Michelle will reach out if expanding into your area. Now available to Springfield families! (lanekids.org – Imagination Library link)
 - i. Remember to add events to LaneKids activity calendar and let Emily know if you would like your event featured on the LaneKids facebook page (ereiter@unitedwaylane.org)
 - ii. Lanekids website getting an upgrade! Stay tuned for LaneKids newsletter
 - iii. Triple P Online is an online parenting course that is free for any families on OHP! Available in Spanish!
 - iv. Received 11 applications for parenting education awards
- **Trillium:** Baby shower to take place between March and April; giving out diaper bags; providers can interact with families
 - i. Hiring Referral Specialist (admin work with foster families); RNs
- **Migrant Ed**
 - i. Let Natalia know if you want to present at a Migrant Ed Program staff meeting. They are always looking for more resources/info to share with staff and families. Contact Natalia Piar at npiar@lesd.k12.or.us
- **Downtown Languages:** seeking adult bilingual teacher for Pilas program

NEXT MEETING: February 28, 2019
United Way of Lane County