

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

December 14, 2018

3:00-5:00pm

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

NOTES

Present:

Todd Hamilton, Creswell School District
Sue Norton, Lane Community College
John Radich, Department of Human Services
Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County
Bruce Smolnisky, Springfield School District
Gustavo Balderas, Eugene 4J School District
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES
Chris Parra, Bethel School District
Lise Schellman, Pearl Buck Center
Leslie Finlay, Relief Nursery
Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District
Noreen Dunnells, United Way of Lane County
John Lively, Oregon State Representative
Tony Scurto, Lane Education Service District
Katherine Pears, Oregon Social Learning Center
Marian Blankenship, Pacific Source Health Plans

Absent:

Karen Gaffney, Lane County
George Russell, Community Leader
Liz Schneider, Parent Representative
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture
Darcy Phillips, Cornerstone Community Housing

UWLC/ELA Staff:

Bess Day, Director of Education, **meeting facilitator**
Ann Salminen, Preschool Promise Program Mgr
Clarissa Parker, Ed Program Specialist, **note taker**
Holly Mar-Conte, VP of Community Impact
Sylvia Barry, VP of Resource Development
Senna Towner, Director of Health
Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, Ed Program Mgr

Public: No members of the public present

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:07 PM.

II. Welcome and Introductions

III. Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

IV. Consent Agenda

- Approval of the October 11, 2018 meeting notes (**action required**)
- Acknowledge receipt of written reports from Advisory Groups and Innovation Teams, Preschool Promise, KITS, and LaneKids

V. One Mission, one Story

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

Motion: Marian Blankenship motioned to approve the consent agenda.

Support: Chris Parra seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

Ayes: Todd Hamilton, Sue Norton, John Radich, Annie Soto, Bruce Smolnisky, Gustavo Balderas, Judy Newman, Lise Schellman, Leslie Finlay, Debi Farr, Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Noreen Dunnells, John Lively, and Tony Scurto.

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

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.



Reconnect to our mission by relating one or two stories that illustrate how our partners are making a difference to children and families in our community. The following stories were shared to the group:

- Triple P discussion group in Creswell was well-attended and impactful.
- A single father from Bethel School District shared how much KITS helped him prepare his daughter for kindergarten and how it strengthened their relationship overall.
- Parents at First Place Family Center's night shelter shared that they are interested in participating in the nascent ELA parent advisory group and ways to get in touch as that group comes together.

VI. 2019-21 Governor's Budget and Upcoming Legislative Session, 20 min.

- New investments in Early Care & Education -- Governor Kate Brown has proposed a budget for new investments to scale up the availability of infant/toddler care and early education in Oregon, including:
 - A pilot phase of the "Baby Promise" program.
 - Caseload support for licensing specialists to improve quality and efficiencies moving forward.
 - Expansion of Preschool Promise program slots from the piloted 1,300 in nine regional hubs to 6,600 statewide.
 - Increasing in funding for Oregon Pre-K (OPK) and Early Head Start.
 - Workforce expansion and improvements in quality package.
 - Equity Fund to provide culturally specific and responsive kindergarten readiness services to historically underserved families around the state.
 - Community-based planning and support of organizations such as Relief Nurseries, Healthy Families, the Home Visiting Program, and some parenting education that will be in collaboration with OPEC.

Group Discussion Items and Considerations

- Preschool Promise expansion is very complex, with many planned and unintended consequences. If funding is approved, it will require very intentional coordination and cooperation from all relevant and affected state agencies, hubs, and providers to implement.
- Coordinated enrollment will be a new feature of Preschool Promise going forward. Our hub may be used as a model.
- Facilities/classroom space is at a premium; school districts, especially, are feeling the pinch as they consider how to offer early/pre-K services and instruction.

VII. KITS Sustainability Planning, 60 min

The purpose of this discussion is to plan for next year's funding streams and review what has happened up until this point.

- Year 3 review
 - i. In 2018, there was carryover of Social Innovation Fund (SIF) federal funding from the first two years but it was not enough to fully fund all of the programs that wanted to run the KITS program again.
 - ii. This past program year, all SIF dollars, including all match funding, were spent. The ELA will be closing out the grant in March 2019.
- Year 4 (and beyond) funding formula (**action required – funding recommendations delayed until next meeting.**)
 - i. After seeing the significant success of the KITS program from the past three years, the ELA is committed to the perpetuity of the program.
 - ii. One of the main reasons the KITS program has been so successful is because of the robust financial investment made into the program initially.
 - iii. The Hub will continue to invest its Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation funds as well as School Readiness funds, in addition to any designated donations via United Way of Lane County.
- Alternative KITS program models -- implications and considerations, Dr. Katherine Pears
 - i. Proposed idea to have the KITS start dates shift from mid-summer to the beginning of the year. The program would be embedded in the school day within the first 8~ weeks of school.
 - ii. This change would allow every child to receive KITS training and allows for an extra staff member that would already be in the room to offer extra support.

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.



- iii. In the summer, there are often kindergartners who need it the most that did not/could not attend KITS. The fall model would allow for almost 100 percent participation and capture children who have the greatest needs.
- iv. This model would not be appropriate for every district; it would work better in some than others.
- v. Parent involvement has been a barrier in the past. They are not required attend, but if they know there is a parent piece, they may opt out of the program.
- vi. All teachers that experience the KITS training use the techniques taught in classroom, especially for challenging behaviors. Every teacher would then receive this training, which is a positive professional development benefit of this new implementation. The training is also something that would remain the same and potentially lower future training costs.
- vii. This model hasn't been tested and would need to be piloted first. It's unclear if it could be sustainable over time.

Group Discussion Items and Considerations Regarding Future Sustainability Planning

- In 2018, the Hub asked school districts to match 25 percent of the districts' costs of running KITS. (The Hub would cover the remaining 75 percent.) This district cost match request will increase in 2019.
- The training costs have traditionally been covered by the Hub. This won't change as we go forward, but it's important to keep in mind the training costs per district will vary as staff transition in and out of the program and/or the district adopts the fall model.
- Does district size make any difference, and do all the districts want to continue? – The size does make a difference, and the assumption is yes, though the districts will be contacted to know for sure.
 - o For example, some smaller school districts have more classrooms than larger school districts.
 - o Should the school district size be a consideration?
- Has the per-child amount been analyzed? – Not yet. However, there are baseline costs that exist whether there are 3 children or 25 children.
- Are there alternative ways to fund the various components of the KITS program? Training, facilities, transportation, supplies, etc.
- Similar to 2018, individual district conversations will need to happen to address their specific needs for next year.

VIII. Other Updates/Announcements, 15 min.

- UWLC Dental Kits
 - i. For the past three years, in partnership with Trillium, OHP, Oregon Community Foundation, and other organizations, United Way of Lane County has assembled and distributed dental kits to elementary schools, Preschool Promise sites, and other early education, early intervention, and/or child care sites throughout Lane County in efforts to reduce the state's prevalent issues with poor oral health.
 - ii. The dental kits will be implemented this year in the same volume they were last year (~15,000 kits).
 - iii. United Way of Lane County is looking into the best way to measure how effective the kits have been for children's dental health and whether or not school districts are successfully getting them to the children who need them the most.

Questions for consideration: Is there a more efficient strategy for dissemination?

- a) Contact all four of the dental care organizations (DCOs) that serve Lane County to see which children are receiving dental kits from them and if there's a way to find out who is not receiving them.
- b) Partner with the DCOs to provide some dental kits and screenings to alleviate the need for fewer individual donations.
- c) School districts outreach to the families to receive dental kits.

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.



- d) There are potential opportunities for DCOs to have more imbedded services for families and they are willing to form more partnerships. The County is also willing to work with schools and education programs to provide dental care.
- e) Supply school districts with enough dental kits for kids in grades K-2 and provide an additional surplus of kits for school offices, health centers, home visitors, etc. so they can have some on hand for any children/family who many need one.

In the interest of time, discussion and updates on the Imagination Library, Campaign for Grade Level Reading, Equity and Engagement Manager position, and Hub Monitoring Process and Site Visit are tabled for the next meeting.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:57pm.

Next Meeting: January 11th, 2019

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Early Childhood CARES: 1500 W. 12th Ave, Eugene