

# Lane Early Learning Alliance

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earlylearningalliance.org



## Lane Early Learning Alliance Early Learning Stakeholders Thursday, August 22, 2019 3:00-5:00pm

### 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

**JOCELYN WARREN**

Lane County

### NOTES

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions- (5 minutes)

In attendance: Claire Hambly, UWLC; Katheryn Blair, LCC CFC; Maria Cortez, Eugene Mission; Stacie Grabo; Johanna Wheeler, Eugene Mission; Taylor Worley, Springfield Public Library; Amber Matthews, Willamette Family; Ilana Jakubowski, First Place Family; Jeanine Taylor, ECCARES; Dave Hulbert, Springfield SD; Natalia Piar, MEP; Jenny Mendoza, UofO; Terra Ralph, DHS; Emily Reiter, UWLC; Bess Day, UWLC; Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, UWLC; Nancy Figueroa, UWLC; Ann Salminen, UWLC; Kristen Helton, QCC; Kori Rodley, UWLC; Hedi McGowan, East Consulting & Assoc.; Theresa Baur, Lane Co. Diaper Bank

#### 2. Family Engagement in the ELA- (60 minutes)

- Conversation facilitated by Heidi McGowan, East Consulting & Associates
- How to engage parent voice in the work
- Conversation: what is family engagement? How is family voice influencing our shared work? How is/isn't it a value?
- What are your values around parent engagement/voice? Why is it important?
  - Skill building: teaching skills to parents
  - View parents and children as clients: need to understand their needs/wants and deliver what they are seeking; meet them where they need to be met
  - Parents are the ones who know their children; have valuable input on what their kids need
  - Parents are their children's first & primary teacher
  - Equity: must bring service recipient into the planning process
  - More diverse voices
  - Tracking on health of whole family; parent's wellbeing effects the child's wellbeing
- How do these pieces influence the work you do?
  - Library: How to keep both parties happy (parent and child)
  - Childcare rules and regulations: hard to translate to families how these are best for them; parents bring a softer side/reality
- How are families currently informing your work?
  - Surveys
  - Parent group planning events (i.e. clothing swaps)
  - Parenting boards/advisory groups
  - One-on-one relationship building; conversations
  - Hear/see gaps in services that we need to provide (i.e. childcare at the Mission)
  - Home visits
- How would you like families to be informing your work?
  - Need to reach families who aren't utilizing services; what are the barriers?
  - Childcare: decisions are being made at the state level; no one is asking the parents. Schools have PTAs – something like this for childcare?

- Being more open/creative about ways parents do inform the work: organic, relationship-based; feedback surveys have not worked, how else can we capture the information? The child can bring the parents and agency together
  - Parents who are highly involved are already being heard; want to hear from parents who experience barriers (i.e. reading to their child every night)
    - The loud voices drown out the others; need more voices and not just a few loud voices – how to reach marginalized families who feel like they can't approach an organization?
  - Asking parents: is this feasible for you? We think we have considered all of the barriers but what would work?
  - Balance between following curricula and being responsive to parent needs
- If the hub were to form some mechanism for family voice, how would that be of value to you?
  - Schools can be very different from one another – can we break up by district?
  - Hearing from voices that we are not currently reaching
  - EC CARES: our families have special needs, their child needs extra attention, doesn't necessarily apply to these parents
    - Important to bring this voice to the hub; extra value in having them, challenging to engage them
  - Some agencies are broad, others are more niche – can feel isolated; hub could offer a perspective that is not in line with niche families (First Place)
  - Do we have the ability to go to the families who don't come forward?
  - Help community understand what we're doing/what families need; how to empower parents (i.e. give testimony, go to a school board meeting, advocate for themselves)
  - Remodeled school bus parked at mobile home park for meetings; had local champion/leader who rounded up parents
  - Marginalized families: it's about building trust relationships; important for the hub to talk to direct service staff and not to the parents (no relationship/trust)
- What mechanism would work well in our region?
  - Do we need to have one group? Multiple groups? Have representatives from these groups come together?
  - Childcare PTA: parents think they don't have a choice; parents could get together to drive change
  - Barriers: parents have children in childcare b/c they are working and don't have time; would be effective if hub can go to where they already are
  - Parents will be invested for a limited amount of time while their child is in that age group (high turnover)
  - Making sure systems are aligned so that there is follow-through; build credibility through showing that their feedback is heard
- Representatives from other committees coming together
  - Would be a hard sell
  - What would they do? What are their needs/hopes; using them as a guiding body for leadership
  - Using what we already have: the issue is more around collecting the data that is already there rather than getting parents to physically come together; need a mechanism for data collection and analyzing in a way that's meaningful
  - Trust issues with immigrant families
- Success with marginalized families
  - Early intervention specialists (home visitors) build strong relationships; some are looking for parents who would be interested in being advocates
  - Personal connection to decision-making process
  - When parents find value in what we're doing, they will put in the time
  - Meeting people where they are: not asking them to do more than what they are already doing; families at the night shelter want to share their experience/perspective
  - Eugene Mission: staff lives with families, there is a lot of information to gain from families/staff, more a matter of tapping into it; transportation is the biggest barrier; is a small stipend really worth their time?
  - As a school principal, engage with some families more when emotions are high; can start with anger and build on that; the ones that are too scared/don't have time/overwhelmed with life are the ones I can't reach
- UWLC is committed to making progress in parent engagement this year – what makes sense for your community?
- Email Claire if you would like to get involved or provide feedback

### 3. Early Learning Alliance Updates- (10 minutes)

- Governance Consortium Update- *Bess Day*
  - Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every month from 3:00-5:00 and are open to the public
  - Kindergarten assessment data: Daniel Anderson at UofO put kinder assessment data into an app; can look at other counties. UofO will also help with pre-k programming data – kids are being

- flagged in school records in order to see long-term outcomes of programs such as KITS; pilot data-sharing program with school districts
  - Legislative session wrap up (John Lively); went over Student Success Act (\$400 mil. allocated to early learning)
  - Hub budget: went through expenditures; will form subcommittee
  - Family Connections presentation: partnering with Lane Co. Public Health to do universal home visiting program for all families (helps reduce stigma around home visits); this year is a planning year
  - Ready for K app
  - Lane County Diaper Bank presentation
- UW Updates:
  - GC openings: 2 openings for Governance Consortium representatives; let Claire know if you are interested in learning more
  - Please sign up for the LaneKids newsletter! Sent out once a month, featuring local events and Triple P blogs; please share with your families
  - Preschool Promise: please reach out to the PP team with any questions
  - Strengthening Families for ages 7-17 on September 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>

#### 4. Agency Updates, Networking & Announcements- (45 minutes)

- **Lane Co. Diaper Bank**
  - Free diapers to low income families
  - Part of the national diaper bank network
  - 7 sites throughout the community accepting donations
  - Agencies fill out a form to apply to distribute, estimate need; decide how to distribute to families
- **Migrant Ed Program**
  - 3 summer schools; teachers from Mexico
  - Successful summer turnout
  - Getting ready for new school year; will do home visits all year – at least 3 family meetings
  - Always looking for new families (moved in the last 3 years across school district)
- **Quality Care Connections**
  - Preschool Promise sites
  - 2 job openings: bilingual specialist & financial specialist
  - Focus Childcare Network: special needs ending, infant/toddler starting
- **Willamette Family**
  - Working on getting accredited; going through policies/procedures, making sure it aligns
- **First Place Family**
  - Director has moved on; Mike is the new Director, Katie Pat Director of Shelter Services
  - Night shelter and the preschool has been full; 50-60% of children receive ECC services
  - Rely heavily on interns for the preschool and there is a gap in September
  - Parent Café starts again in September
- **Springfield SD**
  - Getting ready for start of school year
  - New superintendent: Todd Hamilton
  - Funding is increasing for the first time!
- **Maternal Child Health**
  - Looking for pregnant women to refer to services
- **Eugene Suzuki School of Music**
  - Getting ready for new parenting education workshop; did training for Circle of Security – will integrate with music curriculum; preparing to launch in January for low-income families
- **Parenting Now!**
  - Fall enrollment; have parents contact enrollment folks
- **Early Childhood CARES**
  - Free developmental screening for kids 0-5!
  - Starting 4 new classrooms
  - Collaborating with other agencies
  - Seeking typically-developing peers for preschool classrooms
  - Fall kick-offs in Eugene, West Eugene, Springfield, Cottage Grove
- **Eugene Mission**
  - New ED is steering in a new direction
  - “Rescue, Revitalization, Restoration” – looking to collaborate with other agencies; develop programs/classes to serve single population and parents
- **United Way of Lane County**
  - LaneKids newsletter in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Share with families and sign up today!

- Received phone call from woman who has large number of toddler toys; is willing to drive them somewhere to donate; contact [msheng@unitedwaylane.org](mailto:msheng@unitedwaylane.org) if interested
- **Springfield Library**
  - Only a couple days left of summer reading
  - Red Yarn (kids folk singer) on Tuesday
  - New calendar – 4 per year; only one per season
  - Free one-on-one (online) tutoring for K-college
    - Need library card if logging in from home or can come into the library and use computers; homework resources, flashcards, real person on the computer
  - Get on Board grant: hired someone for the school year; busing kids from title 1 schools to the library; will also provide food
  - Kids area upgrades

**NEXT MEETING: September 26, 2019**