

# Lane Early Learning Alliance

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## Lane Early Learning Alliance Early Childhood Education (ECE) Expansion Planning Regional Stewardship Committee Notes Friday, October 25, 2019

11:30 – 1:00 pm

United Way of Lane County, 3171 Gateway Loop, Springfield

### Attendees:

- Rachel Cushman, Parent Representative
- Bess Day, United Way of Lane County
- Graciela Escalante, Parent Representative
- Jesus Escalante, Family Representative
- Lani Finnegan, Grandparent Representative
- Valerie Follett, 4J Native Programs
- Ali Groberg, 4J Natives Program
- Claire Hambly, United Way of Lane County
- Theya Harvey, Quality Care Connections
- Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES
- Sue Norton, Lane Community College
- Clarissa Parker, United Way of Lane County
- Chris Parra, Bethel School District
- Kori Rodley, United Way of Lane County
- Beatriz Robles Kieser, Interpreter with Crosscultural Now
- Ann Salminen, United Way of Lane County
- Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, United Way of Lane County
- Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County
- Brooke Wagner, Eugene 4J

### Planning Activities Update

Bess Day, Director of Education with the Lane Early Learning Alliance/United Way of Lane County, welcomed attendees to the second meeting of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Expansion Planning Regional Stewardship Committee.

Bess and Judy Newman with Early Childhood CARES provided a recap of the activities they worked on related to ECE Expansion Planning since the last meeting.

- Bess and Judy attended the monthly Lane County Superintendent's meeting to provide an overview of the planning process. Asked Superintendents if they had space in their school/community for preschool, ways they could partner to provide preschool in their district, and if interested in that, and where/who the highest need populations families are. Also explained that they would like feedback from families in their district to hear what they need, want, and barriers they have to accessing early learning environments. Ask that they help distribute surveys and allow us to join focus groups they are already conducting.

Find ways to coordinate with the planning process K-12 is conducting as they are looking for ways to support early learning.

- Have reached out to non-profit agencies and stakeholders to ask if we can attend existing meetings to deliver surveys and hold focus groups with families.
- Have communicated with the Early Learning Alliance Governance Consortium and Early Learning Stakeholders about this planning process and to ask for help accessing families they serve.
- Currently focused on family engagement and planning process because this process will identify for the state who we would want to serve with our investments.

## **Family Engagement Activities**

### **Parent Survey**

Stewardship Committee reviewed a draft of the parent survey. Draft survey questions were chosen to inform the Early Learning Division's request to know attributes of childcare settings that families want and barriers that families face in accessing childcare. Survey will be accessible by paper, online and can be done over the phone. Links will be sent to partners for them to share with families, shared through social media, and disseminated in paper form to partners, clinics and schools. Surveys will be collected in November.

Committee provided feedback on the Introduction section of the survey:

- Add gift card options other than Amazon
- Translate into Spanish
- Use words parent/guardian instead of parent
- Think about the wording to be sure it is accessible to the layperson. Less than 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading level would be fine.
- If you have a lot to cover, use bullet points.
- Shorten and simplify the intro.
- Mention that they will get a gift card earlier in the intro.
- Make it friendly and accessible
- When completing a survey I want to know who is asking the questions, why are they asking, and are they on my side? Keep the tone in mind.
- Parents with children of what age range should be completing the survey?
- Branch the survey so people can answer questions about infant/toddler and preschool.
- If want to provide participants the chance to do a quick survey, prioritize questions: want to know vs need to know. Once priority questions are answered ask if willing to provide more information, and then they can be presented the lower priority questions.
- The survey can be a tool to increase level of engagement with parents. Let them know that if they want to discuss their thoughts further to give us a call. Can invite them to future meetings.
- Ask demographic questions:
  - Zip code
  - Ages of children
  - Gender
  - Race/ethnicity

- Income

#### Feedback from Committee on Survey Questions

- Using the term state licensed child care could be a trigger for families who have experience with the system in a negative way. Just use the word licensed child care.
- For questions where more than one answer is okay can ask that they check all that apply, pick top 3, or rank them in order of importance.
- When would you need childcare? Options should include morning, afternoon, evenings, weekends, overnight, weekdays. Could also add 'other' box so they can write in their needs.
- For each question could add a comment option so they can add detail.
- Families might need childcare more than 5 days a week.
- Transportation question should ask about both the barriers families have to using/accessing transportation and what modes of transportation they currently have access to.
- Can ask if they have been unable to find or afford childcare in a certain area (where you live, where they work, etc).
- Will develop different questions for infant/toddler care and work with Quality Care Connections and Head Start to draft questions.

#### In-person parent groups

Part of the ECE planning process is to conduct focus groups in November with families that include the same questions as the survey. To date, Bess has scheduled time during existing parent groups meetings to conduct these brief focus group with: Head Start Parent Council, South Lane/Creslane Preschool Promise Parent Council, Preschool Promise – Spanish & English parent forums, 4J Native Parent Council, 4J Family Resource Center, Migrant Education parent group, Centro Latino Americano & Downtown Languages, Grupo Latino de Acción Directa, NAACP, Early Childhood CARES, The ARC and First Place Family Center. Bess asked that the Stewardship Committee assist with conducting these focus groups.

#### Group brainstorm on who else should we connect with?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| - Siletz Tribal office   | - Homes for Good                                |
| - Springfield Indian Education Program   | - WIC   |
| - Sponsors   | - Cornerstone                                   |
| - Willamette Family Treatment  | - Catholic Community Services                   |
| - Trauma Healing Project   | - Libraries – family activities and story times |
| - Womenspace   | - Parks and rec childcare                       |
| - Native American Student Union at LCC and UO  | - Parenting Now                                 |
| - Pearl Buck   | - Well Mama                                     |
| - ECCO   | - Daisy CHAIN                                   |
| - Food pantries –ask pantry coordinators at Food for Lane County meeting if they can disseminate surveys to families | - Family Resource Centers                       |
| - Huerto de la Familia   | - Native program through LESD                   |
|  | - Parenting groups in rural areas               |
|  | - Family Relief Nursery                         |
|  | - Ophelia's Place                               |

## **Review Deliverable 1**

Deliverable 1 (of 3 required ECE planning deliverables):

- Complete the Priority Populations Decision Grid which identifies:
  - o Potential Priority Populations
  - o Quantitative Data Analysis
  - o Geographic Areas
  - o Family Engagement Efforts
  - o Findings from Family Engagement
- Refined Priority Population List where we indicate top 4 populations for whom it is most crucial to expand access and ECE services in this planning timeframe determined through data analysis and community engagement.

## **Next steps**

Bess will send the next draft of the parent/caregiver survey to group via email to get continued feedback.

**Next meeting Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**

**12:00-1:30**

**United Way of Lane County, 3171 Gateway Loop, Springfield**