

Lane Early Learning Alliance

3171 Gateway Loop
Springfield, OR 97477
tel 541.741.6000
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earlylearningalliance.org



GOVERNANCE CONSORTIUM

MARIAN BLANKENSHIP
PacificSource Health Plans

RETA DOLAND
Oakridge School District

NOREEN J. DUNNELLS
United Way of Lane County

DEBI FARR
Trillium Community Health Plan

KAREN GAFFNEY
Lane County

LYNNE GRILLEY
Early Learning Stakeholders
Parenting Now

TINA GUTIEREZ-SCHMICH
Bethel School District

TODD HAMILTON
Springfield Public Schools

CHERYL HENDERSON
Lane Community College

THEYA JOSLIN
Quality Care Connections

JOHN LIVELY
Oregon State Representative

RENEE LOVE
Parent Representative

JUDY NEWMAN
Early Childhood CARES

CHRIS PARRA
Bethel School District

DARCY PHILLIPS
Cornerstone Community Housing

JOHN RADICH
Department of Human Services

GEORGE RUSSELL
Community Leader

TONY SCURTO
Lane Education Service District

HEATH SNYDER
Parent Representative

ANNIE SOTO
Head Start of Lane County

JOHN STAPLETON
Pivot Architecture

JEANINE TAYLOR
Early Learning Stakeholders
Early Childhood CARES

JOCELYN WARREN
Lane County

Lane Early Learning Alliance Governance Consortium

November 13, 2020

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Via Zoom Meeting

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and Introductions (15 min)**
- 2. Public Comment**
- 3. Consent Agenda**
 - Approval of October 9, 2020 meeting notes (*action required*)
 - Acknowledge receipt of November written reports from Advisory Groups and Innovation Teams, Preschool Promise, KITS, and LaneKids
- 4. Early Learning Hub 20201 Legislative Session Advocacy (30 min) (*action required*)**
 - Statewide coalition of EL Hub Directors seeking to hire a lobbyist for 2021 legislative session
 - Financial commitment
 - Governance Consortium sign-on to letter of support
- 5. Early Learning System Priorities: Impacts of Under-enrollment in Child Care & School (30 min)**
 - Discuss how Covid-19 has created (and may continue to create) gaps in enrollment for child care, Head Start, Preschool Promise, and Kindergarten and what the potential impacts this may have on students, families, providers, and schools going forward.
- 6. Status Update: Legislative Budget Note Report (15 min)**
 - Update on the Early Learning Division's budget note report on the feasibility of consolidating Early Learning Hubs & Child Care Resource and Referral entities.
- 7. Preschool Promise Enrollment (15 min)**
 - Enrollment & program service delivery update
- 8. Other Updates/Announcements (15 min)**
 - Child Care Fund
 - Parent Advisory Council
 - Early Learning Advocates (Judy Newman)

Next Meeting:

**Friday, December 11,
2020 via Zoom**

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Lane Early Learning Alliance Governance Consortium

October 9, 2020

3:00-5:00pm

Virtual Meeting

NOTES

Present:

Lynne Grilley, Parenting Now!
Reta Doland, Oakridge School District
Karen Gaffney, Lane County
Renee Love, Parent Representative
John Radich, Department of Human Services
Cheryl Henderson, Lane Community College
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES
Chris Parra, Bethel School District
Jeanine Taylor,
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District
Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County
Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan
Theya Joslin, Quality Care Connections
George Russell, Community Leader
Todd Hamilton, Springfield Public Schools

Marian Blankenship, Pacific Source Health Plans

Absent:

John Lively, Oregon State Representative
Noreen Dunnells, United Way of Lane County
Tony Scurto, Lane Education Service District
Jocelyn Warren, Lane County Health & Human Services
Darcy Phillips, Cornerstone Community Housing
Heath Snyder, Parent Representative

UWLC/ELA Staff:

Christie Costello, Marketing Manager
Bess Jayme, Director of Education, **meeting facilitator**
Kori Rodley, Equity and Engagement Manager
Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, Ed Program Mgr.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Bess Jayme welcomed everyone and introduced the new Early Learning Stakeholders representatives, Jeanine Taylor with Early Childhood CARES, and Lynne Grilley with Parenting Now!.

III. Public Comment

No comments were made.

IV. Consent Agenda Approval of the September 11, 2020 meeting notes. Acknowledge receipt of written reports from Advisory Groups and Innovation Teams, Preschool Promise, KITS, LaneKids, and Imagination Library.

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

Motion: Karen Gaffney motioned to approve the consent agenda.

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

Ayes: Lynne Grilley, Reta Doland, Renee Love, John Radich, Cheryl Henderson, John Stapleton, Judy Newman, Jeanine Taylor, Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Annie Soto, Debi Farr, Theya Joslin, George Russell, Marian Blankenship and Todd Hamilton.

Nays: None; **Abstentions:** None

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V. School-aged Childcare & Distance Learning Support

United Way has received funding from the City of Eugene through their CARES Act dollars and a private foundation to support full and/or partial child care scholarships, technology costs (e.g., bandwidth, hot spots, head phones), staffing, facilities costs, and supplies. Contracts will go through the end of the calendar year. Realize districts are making plans for what school will be like and United Way may need to provide support for school-age care in the new year.

United Way child care fund will provide contracts to Discover Champions, YMCA, and Boys and Girls Club.

There is a small pot of money remaining in the child care fund and are looking to expand into Florence or other rural communities; as well as how to support Black/African American families and child care providers. Bess will be in conversation with staff from NAACP, the Lane African American Black Student Success grant, Blacks in Government, H.O.N.E.Y. and LULAC of Lane County.

Available child care versus need conversation

Willamalane only had 10 families sign up for school age care. It would be helpful to spread the word more broadly. Theya Joslin with Quality Cares Connections shared that many child care providers have openings. Willamalane did a parent survey to determine what the demand is in their area, and they would be happy to share that out with the Governance Consortium.

Employment Related Daycare (ERDC) – Income limits have increased, and ELA is working to spread the word about this being available. Quality Cares Connections provides a monthly update on the number of vacancies for child care providers, but would be helpful to have a list of locations that accept ERDC and currently taking new families.

A lot of parents are looking to other parents to get help during the day to cover child care because of affordability, getting kids one on one help with their distance learning, and that kids may have a lot more freedom if they are in a familiar place.

Parents can become Licensed Exempt Care providers and have 4 children in their care. Theya has marketing materials which can be shared broadly.

VI. Preschool Promise Enrollment

More than 400 people on the interest list, but at this point have only over 100 screener forms received back from families. We will not need to run a lottery because of the low number of applicants. Will place the interested/eligible families by the deadline of 10/31 to get our slots filled.

All but one of our Lane County providers have signed their service agreements. ELA staff have met with providers to discuss their programs.

QCC is working with Preschool Promise providers to support coaching and classroom improvement. But, the most urgent requests from providers is to help with grant management. That is not a skill set that our staff have or a role we are contracted to provide.

VII. Early Learning Alliance 2020-21 Budget

Hubs went through a forecasting cut exercise in the Spring. The proposed cuts to early learning funding were vetoed by the Governor, so the funding to the Early Learning Division is intact and there are no large funding cuts to our hub.

Had discussed in previous Governance Consortium meetings that we would maintain a cushion for a rainy day and allocate those dollars to fully support existing ELA programs currently funded. Had been projected to spend much of that carryover balance down through a number of contracts, but due to delays in service delivery caused by Covid and unanticipated program changes, have not spent that down so will again carryover funds to the next biennium.

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Bess walked through each line item in the budget and called out that she did not include certain items in direct costs in anticipation of restrictions and adjustments due to Covid, such as staff travel, food for events, and in-person trainings.

The ELA's total expenditures exactly meet our grant revenue, but with Admin factored in we are eating into the carryover. As we whittle down the carryover we need to think through implications for staff if overspending what we are bringing in revenue wise.

Action requested: Motion to approve hub coordination budget as submitted.

Motion: Chris Parra motioned to approve the hub coordination budget.

Support: Todd Hamilton seconded the motion to approve the hub coordination budget.

Ayes: Reta Doland, Renee Love, John Radich, Cheryl Henderson, John Stapleton, Judy Newman, Jeanine Taylor, Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Annie Soto, Theya Joslin, George Russell, Marian Blankenship and Karen Gaffney.

Nays: None; **Abstentions:** None

VIII. Other Updates/Announcements

KITS (Fall/School Year model)

Offering KITS At Home groups to start in late October, but are having really low numbers of interested families.

If school does come back in person this year Bethel is interested in doing the KITS program embedded during the school day. ELA staff will connect with other districts to explore interest in doing the program in-person in the school day.

Districts are seeing a smaller number of Kinders enrolled this year. Next year parents could choose to enroll their child in 1st grade, or in Kindergarten. KITS might be needed in 1st grade, as well as for entering Kinders.

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

The PAC met in September and had a really engaged group of parents. Talked about community resources that families have accessed. Instead of zoom interpretation rooms, had English and Spanish speaking parents in the same zoom room together.

Renee Love enjoyed hearing about the different resources families used and where they find them. In the PAC attendees were walked through the LaneKids website and Renee felt there was a lot to learn and a lot of relevant resources. Found it helpful connecting with other parents to share what's going on in their lives and learn how they are dealing with things. Made it a safe space where everyone feels comfortable sharing and not judged.

Structure of the council meetings was to start in the first group hearing how people interface with the system. Second meeting discuss resources used. Next meeting will be around what are you needing, missing, barriers to access, so we can hear what they would appreciate having in our community, and dive in to what the parents want the council to look like in its structure and purpose. Want to move beyond the focus group feel, so they are a body that has power and decision making capability, while also building the communication channel between the Parent Advisory Council and the Governance Consortium.

Early Learning Advocates

Judy Newman is a part of the Governor's Early Learning Advocates, consisting of representatives and advocates for education in the state (e.g., ESDs, child care representatives, early learning hubs, Children's Institute.).

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Three Governor appointed groups: Racial Justice, Early Learning and K-12. Priorities are identified by the Early Learning and K-12 groups which are presented to the Racial Justice group to identify funding recommendations and policy option proposals for this legislative session. Then that is brought to the Early Learning Advocates group for feedback. There is a lot of interest in prioritizing early learning policy expansion and funding.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 pm.

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Early Learning Alliance (ELA) Advisory and Innovation Teams Update November 2020

Early Learning Stakeholders

- The Early Learning Stakeholders met on October 22nd; members received updates on Preschool Promise and the Lane African American/Black Student Success (LAABSS) grant work. We also received information on the new Community Allies Resources for Eugene-Springfield (CARES), which provides wraparound services to families in need. Candace Marzullo, Executive Director of A Voice for Change also presented to the group on their work supporting noncustodial parents with supervised parenting time. Lastly, we received updates from all of the agencies represented at the meeting.

Home Visiting Innovation Team

- The HVIT met in October and learned about the results of the Maternal Child Health Intern with Lane County interviews with Home Visiting agency staff regarding the differences between using simple phone calls or virtual (video) telehealth platforms to complete home visiting services. Additionally, agency staff shared their current anti-racism work. And, the group discussed protocol for home visiting staff to meet with clients in the field.

Equity

- Working with UWLC marketing team to create a video and PSA about the expanded childcare efforts in Eugene area and Florence.
- Attending several community meetings—meetings with folks in community organizations over the past month around evolving community needs heading into the winter months—much around basic needs.
- We continue our internal diversity, equity and inclusion work.

Family Resource Centers

- In October FRC Coordinators submitted their quarterly reports, annual applications and worked with their finance staff to provide their final 2019-2020 invoice.
- Springfield Public School has determined they would not be applying for FRC funding this school year.

Kids in Transition to School (KITS)

- Recruitment for the KITS At Home virtual parent/caregiver program began in October for fall groups. Enrollment has been slow, so KITS staff have begun offering a meal stipend for families that can join the meeting, in hopes of providing an additional

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incentive to participate. Enrollment for groups will be rolling, with groups starting as they are filled.

Lane African American/Black Student Success Grant

- Ayanna is now a referral person for [Friends of the Children](#); four children were referred in early November for the first cohort of 16 children.
- Several families have been very impacted by Covid and are thankful to hear of the local/state resources such as Oregon Cares, Lane Mutual Aid, and changes in ERDC co-pay waiver.
- Four families are happy to have (masked) in-person visit. Many families would just like email and text support because of Covid.
- Toy lending library is on its way! Because I can't meet with most families, and the possibility that I will soon not be able to meet with any families, I am gathering fun educational toys for families to check out for a month.
- Our partner, NAACP, has a program at the Eugene Science Center to provide distance learning support to school aged kids. Lane African American Navigators are working to keep students engaged by offering BSU meetings and family supports.

Preschool Promise Coordinated Enrollment

- Preschool Promise providers remain under enrolled.
- We are still accepting Screening Forms, Applications and Eligibility documents in an effort to fill vacancies as soon as possible.
- Targeted outreach will become a main focus in the coming weeks.

LaneKids

- The 2021-22 LaneKids request for proposals for parenting education programming has been released. Applications are due on December 18, 2020. Please contact Emily at ereiter@unitedwaylane.org to receive an application.

Triple P

- The Triple P Implementation Team has been focused this month on marketing strategies online and around Lane County. We have also been strategizing how best to support our Triple P Providers with online discussion groups and will bring providers together for a quarterly meeting in early December.
- [Triple P Online](#) is available in English and Spanish and remains free for any families on OHP or any families who need financial assistance to participate.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

- 1349 families were enrolled in the program as of October.