

# Lane Early Learning Alliance

3171 Gateway Loop  
Springfield, OR 97477  
tel 541.741.6000  
fax 541.726.4150

[earlylearningalliance.org](http://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

**JACOB FOX**  
Homes For Good

**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

**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 January 8, 2021

### AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Introductions (15 min)**
  - Welcome new member Jacob Fox, Executive Director, Homes For Good
2. **Public Comment**
3. **Consent Agenda**
  - Approval of December 11, 2020 meeting notes (**action required**)
  - Acknowledge receipt of December written reports from Advisory Groups and Innovation Teams, Preschool Promise, KITS, and LaneKids
4. **2021 Legislative Session: Early Learning Priorities (30 min)**
  - Update on ELD legislative policy option packages (POPs) & budget note report
  - Discuss how advocacy to the legislature (& legislative voting) will look like this session, given COVID restrictions
5. **Preparation for the 2021-22 School Year (25 min)**
  - School district updates/predictions on the likelihood of in-person instruction for any remaining part of this year and next fall. And, what sustained changes might families expect?
  - What are things we (the hub) can be doing **right now** to help families get their children ready to enter kindergarten or head back to school?
6. **Family Engagement Coordinator (25 min)**
  - Potential new bilingual/bicultural position dedicated to engaging directly with families and centering their voice in our work.
  - What would you like to see a person in this position do?
  - Equity considerations and decision tool exercise
7. **Early Learning Programs Enrollment Update (15 min)**
  - Enrollment & program service delivery update – Preschool Promise, Head Start, Early Childhood CARES
  - Coordinated enrollment contract update
8. **Other Updates/Announcements (10 min)**
  - Parent Advisory Committee meeting: January 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Hub Monitoring Report

**NEXT MEETING: Friday, February 12, 2021, 3:00 – 5:00 PM**

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### Lane Early Learning Alliance Governance Consortium

December 11, 2020

3:00-5:00pm

Virtual Meeting

#### NOTES

##### **Present:**

Noreen Dunnells, United Way of Lane County  
Tony Scurto, Lane Education Service District  
Cheryl Henderson, Lane Community College  
Lynne Grilley, Parenting Now  
John Lively, Oregon State Representative  
Jeanine Taylor, Early Childhood CARES  
George Russell, Community Leader  
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES  
John Radich, Department of Human Services  
Chris Parra, Bethel School District  
Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan  
Theya Joslin, Quality Care Connections  
Reta Doland, Oakridge School District  
Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County

##### **Absent:**

Marian Blankenship, Pacific Source Health Plans  
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District

Todd Hamilton, Springfield Public Schools  
Karen Gaffney, Lane County  
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture  
Jocelyn Warren, Lane County Health & Human Services  
Darcy Phillips, Cornerstone Community Housing

##### **Guest:**

Brooke Wagner, 4J School District

##### **UWLC/ELA Staff:**

Michelle Hjelm, Preschool Promise Coordinated Enrollment Specialist  
Bess Jayme, Director of Education, **meeting facilitator**  
Ayanna Moriguchi, Early Learning Specialist  
Kori Rodley, Director Equity and Engagement  
Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, Ed Program Mgr.

#### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 PM.

#### **II. Welcome and Introductions**

#### **III. Public Comment**

No comments were made.

#### **IV. Consent Agenda** Approval of the November 13, 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:** Tony Scurto motioned to approve the consent agenda.

**Support:** Noreen Dunnells seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

**Ayes:** Cheryl Henderson, Lynne Grilley, John Lively, Jeanine Taylor, George Russell, Judy Newman, John Radich, Chris Parra, Debi Farr, Theya Joslin, Annie Soto and Reta Doland.

**Nays:** None; **Abstentions:** None

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### V. Early Learning Hub Legislative Advocacy

Bess Jayme reviewed the discussion from the November Governance Consortium meeting and provided updates since then. She reiterated that there are many new legislators and very few that remain from when the original hub legislation was passed. Hiring a lobbyist is not meant to be contrary to the Early Learning Division's (ELD) broader vision, really is in support of that and their system building efforts. Will be lobbying on behalf of EL Hubs specifically and advocating for the important roles of the hub at the local level.

Two hub Directors met with Miriam Calderon, ELD Director, to discuss their pursuit of a lobbyist. Hub Directors have met with Eames Consulting as the firm selected to be hired. Have developed initial plan to do introductory conversations with new legislators. Are looking at what our hub level talking points will be and will share that finalized document with the group.

\$5000 in undesignated, non-donor funds will come from United Way of Lane County to support the ELA's share of the cost for Eames Consulting.

#### Group Conversation

##### What is the ask and to whom?

Going directly to the legislators and seeding the ground for the new members unfamiliar with hubs. The ask is to maintain our current service level of funding and protect School Readiness, Kindergarten Partnership Readiness and Innovation, and Family Support funding streams and our programmatic investments. To remind that we are the local implementers of the state level strategic plan. Will speak to what will be missing without the hub and no direct pipeline between the state and local communities.

##### What has been done for the hub to make connections with legislators?

- In past legislative session have been there on lobbying days and on behalf of the Early Childhood Coalition led by Children's Institute to promote the agenda of the ELD, Governor and Early Childhood Coalition. Not outspoken for hubs, more for investments in early learning and family support.
- Eames would talk about the role of hubs, which is a conduit of the work of the ELD. What we would be promoting is the work that hubs do connected to Raise up Oregon.

**Action requested:** Motion to approve, accept or ratify ELA's participation in this legislative advocacy endeavor, with expenditure from United Way of Lane County budget to support ELA's share of funding for lobbyist this session.

**Motion:** Judy Newman motioned to approve ELA participation in legislative advocacy endeavor.

**Support:** Chris Parra seconded the motion to approve ELA participation in legislative advocacy endeavor.

**Ayes:** Noreen Dunnells, Tony Scurto, Cheryl Henderson, Lynne Grilley, John Lively, Jeanine Taylor, George Russell, John Radich, Debi Farr, Theya Joslin, Annie Soto and Reta Doland.

**Nays:** None; **Abstentions:** None

### VI. 2021 Legislative Session: Early Learning Priorities

Bess reviewed priorities outlined in Governor's budget, Early Learning Division's proposed legislative policy option packages (POPs), and what advocacy to the legislature (& legislative voting) will look like this session, given COVID restrictions.

See Early Learning Division Proposed Legislative Concepts and Policy Options Packages document for specifics.

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### VII. Statewide Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Model

The ELD has received funding to develop a statewide infant and early childhood mental health consultation model and would provide support to early childhood programs to support social emotional development. Are working to develop this program and are getting info on what are the existing models locally. Sent a survey to hubs to know who is doing this work, using what models, and ELD will reach out to providers to learn about what is happening local.

#### Who, in our community, are providing these services?

Are there infant and early childhood mental health programs that we should be connecting the ELD to? Already recommended to the ELD are: Judy Newman, Direction Services, Options Counseling, The Child Center, Center for Family Development, Maternal Child Health.

- Carol Njonjo, Early Head Start Director.
- Child welfare Department at DHS - All children in foster care have to have a Child Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment, would be good to talk with the people doing these.
- Healthy Families – Sarah Closser is local lead. Parenting Now home visitors are getting infant mental health certificates.
- Oregon Infant Mental Health Association - Infant Toddler Mental Health endorsement
- Elizabeth Skowron, Prevention Science Institute at UO
- Should look at OHA funding model. Locally did a pilot with prevention dollars through Trillium. Now that pilot is over it's nearly impossible for this age group to continue under this model and lost ground and went back to more traditional approach of needing to go to the office. Hard to tease out mental health, behavior, and social emotional skills. Getting the infant mental health license gives great training, but you don't get anything beyond that (being able to bill insurance, etc.).
  - o Early Intervention and Foster Care program developed at OSLC.
- Pacific University MSW program are attracting BIPOC students, possible connection for the future?

If you know of culturally specific programs working with families and culturally specific programs with professionals, send that to Bess.

### VIII. Preschool Promise, Head Start and Early Childhood CARES Enrollment

Preschool Promise continue to be under enrolled: 200 kids enrolled out of 350 Lane County slots. Hub staff are working with the state to plan for next years coordinated enrollment efforts.

QCC is supporting Preschool Promise programs with a Quality Improvement Specialist and Instructional Coach to work with providers in their classrooms.

Head Start - enrollment has increased slowly and in terms of new sites for Early Head Start, it's difficult to get those sites filled. Have closed in-person classrooms because it was challenging to keep them staffed.

Early Childhood CARES – completed annual census that generated funding for the state, enrollment is down 14%. Because kids aren't in their usual services the referrals are down, but are still getting them through doctors.

### IX. Other Updates/Announcements

- Proposal to move January meeting from 1/8 to 1/15? Group agreed to keep the meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The Children's Institute is searching for a new CEO. George Russel will be heading the search team and have a target of trying to find someone by April 1<sup>st</sup>. If you know someone who may be interested or search consultants, let George know.

### X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:56 pm.

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

#### Early Learning Stakeholders

The Stakeholders did not meet in December, due to the holidays. Meetings will resume in January.

#### Home Visiting Innovation Team

The HVIT did not meet in December. Planning continued for an OHA funded training this Spring for home visitors. The HVIT will meet again in early February.

#### Equity

- Kori facilitated a workshop on Cross-cultural communication for Lane County government staff (about 40 individuals attended.)
- A big focus of the past month has been having one-on-one conversations with all UW staff who are people of color to talk through how they are experiencing their jobs, their challenges and successes, needs, etc.
- Kori has also been working to set up goals and strategies for DEI work, both internally and externally, for the next 6 months and to participate in the restructuring work of UWLC, bringing the DEI perspective and lens.

#### Family Resource Centers

The FRC Coordinators met on 12/14 and heard updates from the Diaper Bank and WomenSpace. All have submitted their 2020-21 budgets and work plans, and contracts have been sent out. Individual district meetings are being scheduled to discuss work plans, and will take place during January.

#### Kids in Transition to School (KITS)

- ELA staff met with representatives from the Marion County early learning hub to provide information about the KITS At Home program. They were interested in finding ways to support families virtually during this school year.
- KITS At Home groups will be offered again this Winter.
- Planning for summer KITS implementation will begin again with OSLC and school district staff.

#### Lane African American/Black Student Success Grant

- This year, the MLK March & rally will be very different, a drive rally from 9 am-10:30 am and a virtual event from 11:30-1 pm.
- Continued work with Lane ESD & NAACP, space still available for elementary age black student scholarships at science factory day camp, also middle and high school tutoring
- Community Leader Betty Snowden Donated Money for Christmas gifts for several children

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- 15 Families were gifted Walmart gift cards
- Hosting monthly Black Parent Nights
- Toy Library in the works - 1st toys are out on loan
- Bi-monthly newsletter coming soon for Early Learning section of LaneAABS

### **Pediatric Advisory Team**

The Pediatric Advisory Team met on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. We were joined by ODHS Director John Radich who provided an update on ODHS referrals as well as resources and supports available to families. In addition, Debi Farr and Judy Newman gave updates on Lane County schools including supports available to children and families.

### **Preschool Promise Coordinated Enrollment:**

- We have placed 199 children in Preschool Promise programs (67% of capacity). We have 126 remaining vacancies.
- Currently, programs are being delivered in person, online and in an in-person/online hybrid model.
- Our next full scale targeted outreach and recruitment has begun and will include new flyers, reaching out to community partners and targeted ads on Facebook and Instagram.

### **LaneKids**

Proposals from community agencies planning to offer parenting education were due 12/18. We received 12 proposals, and they will be reviewed and scored by the Selection Committee in January. Selection Committee members include several parents, community and agency partners, and key staff. We are also working on our OPEC Hub Renewal Application, which is due 2/1/21. We are eligible to apply for \$48,600 in funds from OPEC.

### **Triple P**

- The Triple P team met on December 7<sup>th</sup> where we discussed strategies for increasing Discussion Group parent survey completion. We also discussed which marketing campaigns were yielding results and which ones to not renew.
- 49 families signed up for Triple P Online last quarter (October 1 – December 31)
- [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**

- 1467 families were enrolled in the program as of December.