

Lane Early Learning Alliance

3171 Gateway Loop
Springfield, OR 97477
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earlylearningalliance.org



GOVERNANCE CONSORTIUM

Lane Early Learning Alliance Governance Consortium February 12, 2021

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 GUTIERREZ-SCHMICH
Bethel School District

TODD HAMILTON
Springfield Public Schools

CHERYL HENDERSON
Lane Community College

THEYA JOSLIN
Quality Care Connections

JOHN LIVELY
Oregon State 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

ANNIE SOTO
Head Start of Lane County

JOHN STAPLETON
Pivot Architecture

JEANINE TAYLOR
Early Learning Stakeholders
Early Childhood CARES

JOCELYN WARREN
Lane County

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Public Comment**
3. **Consent Agenda**
 - Approval of January 8, 2021 meeting notes (*action required*)
 - Acknowledge receipt of January written reports from Advisory Groups and Innovation Teams, Preschool Promise, KITS, and LaneKids
4. **Early Childhood Systems Theory of Change**
 - Carmen Ellis, Early Learning Hub Specialist, Early Learning Division will present this newly developed Theory of Change that was included as part of the recent legislative budget note report.
5. **Equity Considerations in the Theory of Change (TOC)**
 - If “addressing root causes of local system issues” is a system change strategy, what are examples of local issues for our hub in which we need to examine and address the root cause?
 - How can we ensure that we aren’t perpetuating characteristics of white supremacy when implementing the work of an “effective Early Learning Hub”?
6. **Updates & Announcements**
 - 2021-23 Hub Scope of Work input sessions (need 1-2 GC members to attend)
 - Legislative session updates
 - Parenting Education funding
 - Coordinated enrollment next steps
 - Parent Advisory Committee recap

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

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Lane Early Learning Alliance Governance Consortium

January 8, 2021

3:00-5:00pm

Virtual Meeting

NOTES

Present:

Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County
Theya Joslin, Quality Care Connections
Jeanine Taylor, Early Childhood CARES
Lynne Grilley, Parenting Now
Tony Scurto, Lane Education Service District
Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan
Chris Parra, Bethel School District
Marian Blankenship, Pacific Source Health Plans
Jacob Fox, Homes For Good
George Russell, Community Leader
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES
Cheryl Henderson, Lane Community College
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District
Todd Hamilton, Springfield Public Schools
Noreen Dunnells, United Way of Lane County

Absent:

John Lively, Oregon State Representative
John Radich, Department of Human Services
Reta Doland, Oakridge School District
Karen Gaffney, Lane County
Jocelyn Warren, Lane County Health & Human Services

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 3:05 PM.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Welcomed new member Jacob Fox, Executive Director, Homes For Good. Darcy Phillips has stepped down from her role on the Governance Consortium.

III. Public Comment

No comments were made.

IV. Consent Agenda Approval of the December 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: John Stapleton motioned to approve the consent agenda.

Support: Lynne Grilley seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

Ayes: Noreen Dunnells, Annie Soto, Theya Joslin, Jeanine Taylor, Tony Scurto, Debi Farr, Chris Parra, Marian Blankenship, Jacob Fox, George Russell, Judy Newman, Cheryl Henderson, Tina Gutierrez-Schmich.

Nays: None; **Abstentions:** None

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V. 2021 Legislative Session: Early Learning Priorities

Bess provided an update on Early Learning Division's (ELD) legislative concepts and policy option packages (POPs) that will be presented in the legislature session. See 'ELD Legislative Agenda.pdf' for further details.

Budget note update

Early Learning Division is submitting a report in response to the budget note about the feasibility of consolidating Early Learning Hubs and Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&Rs). They are not going to make that recommendation to consolidate these agencies. An exciting part of the report is the development of a theory of change which encapsulates the work of the hubs, their impact and outcomes they are driving for.

Lobbying efforts

Group approved participation in and funding for a lobbyist to help members understand the role of hubs as system builders and implementers. Working with Eames Consultation, have held meetings with legislators around the state before the session starts, and teeing up asks to prevent the cut to hub funding. Hubs are being included in the ELD's advocacy work through meetings with ELD staff to get messaging in sync for legislative session.

Advocacy to the legislature given COVID restrictions

Are there tools you will use to get people to meet with reps or provide testimony?

Head Start: The Oregon Head Start Association has legislative visiting days in February that will be done virtually.

Eugene 4J School District had legislative breakfast. It was easier for parents to participate that have internet access, since they don't have to drive to Salem. But it does feel more flat than an in-person visit.

ELA Parent Advisory Council (PAC): Will do an advocacy 101 with PAC members at next meeting. If you are seeking to engage parents in the community around advocacy let Bess know and she is happy to do outreach to partner agencies and PAC members.

VI. Preparation for the 2021-22 School Year

Updates and predictions from School Districts on the likelihood of in-person instruction for any remaining part of this year and next fall. And, what sustained changes might families expect?

Reopening 20-21

- Waiting for an announcement January 19th on the updated metrics for K-12 to help with planning.
- Springfield:
 - o When the metrics allow us to, we will open up for elementary grades.
 - o Understanding when educators will receive the vaccine. Have a plan to provide vaccines and are ready to do that. Large school districts are able to help smaller districts to get staff vaccinated.
- Staffing will be critical to every district reopening. Will need to reconfigure classrooms. 40% of families in Bethel want to remain online so will have to create new classrooms.
- How quickly can kids get back in buildings from when we get metrics to opening up classrooms?
 - o Around 3 weeks for 4J. Want to make sure kids and teachers are able to connect and meet each other before the hybrid class starts.
 - o Adding in those teachers who may want vaccinated first, it could extend the timeline.
- There will be differences in how districts approach going back, for smaller districts they see the numbers in their community and if they are smaller they would be more likely to go back to a hybrid model.

Kindergarten

- We are missing a huge number of kindergarteners this year so need help with spreading the word about enrollment coming up since this will impact staffing and budgeting.
- School choice and Kinder registration will start again February and March.
- Head Start will have 500 students entering Kinder this fall.
- ELA has some funding leftover for school readiness, so if a school district needs funding for community outreach to get kids enrolled this fall, please let Bess know.

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School-aged Care

- Childcare workforce has adapted to providing full time care to kids doing distance learning, so childcare is going to be an issue for those families that want their kids to be in hybrid model.
 - o Students that are doing their off-week distance learning would need care every other week.
 - o Will need after school care since the in-person school program is not a full day.
- Concerned that a lot of family childcare programs will go out of business when hybrid learning starts.

Early Childhood

- Early Childhood CARES and Head Start will come up with different scenarios for fall.
- Head Start will need to lay off people soon because have not been able to open up the number of classrooms expected.
- EC CARES trying to find more kids, since referrals are down 20%. Have increased service levels for families, so have hired staff using Student Success Act funding. When reopen classrooms will not do a hybrid model.

What are things the ELA can be doing **right now** to help families get their children ready to enter kindergarten or head back to school?

- ELA staff have talked about putting together a kinder transition packet for families, and will bring this idea to the ELA PAC to find out what they would want as parents. Will reach out to districts to find out how we could get these to families.
- Ready4K – could this be provided to families? Ready4K has moved to a model where an entity enrolls the families they serve by uploading family's phone numbers. The ELA does not have access to family information so have not pursued enrolling families.
- Social Emotional aspect of going back to school is another important component that will need to be addressed.

VII. Family Engagement Coordinator

The ELA is interested in developing a new bilingual/bicultural position dedicated to engaging directly with families and centering their voice in our work. Possible responsibilities include coordinating the ELA PAC and supporting Spanish speaking families interested in Preschool Promise. There is some room in the hub budget and through Preschool Promise Coordinated enrollment that could fund the position.

What would you like to see a person in this position do?

- Is the role someone who would refer families to other programs?
 - o Yes, would be a lot of resource referral.
 - o Want to connect with families and hear what they need, so getting input and providing support.
 - o That people will not continue on with that person
- Have someone providing one-on-one support to family's needs is different from a programmatic person.
- Having a family resource navigator at the hub to do the types of things most program can't do, to walk families through accessing services could be helpful.
- There is a point at which programs aren't able to provide the amount of help families need
- Maybe that person could help direct some specific projects and work with the Governance Consortium and ELA PAC to move those forward.
- If also wanting someone to engage the Latinx community, you are now adding a lot of different tasks to their work in.
- Who are their partners, who are they engaging if they are doing this specific cultural work? Are they doing engagement with the Latinx community? Or are they doing broader family engagement?
- If wanting a person to connect with Spanish speaking families, that is a lot more time than folks think it is. It takes developing relationships.
- Can the ELA work with an existing agency, like Centro and Downtown Languages, that has connections with the specific communities we are wanting to do outreach to, instead of creating a position?

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VIII. Early Learning Programs Enrollment Update

Preschool Promise:

- Still enrolling for this current program year, currently at 67% capacity. Do not yet know what next program year will look like. Doing a second round of targeted outreach through social media.
- Received contract for this next year which will help us maintain our Coordinated Enrollment Specialist.

Head Start:

- Have vacancies in all of our classrooms, but attendance has been strong.
- Working on getting health services up in January.

Early Childhood CARES:

- Serving about 1100 students.

IX. Other Updates/Announcements

- ELA Parent Advisory Council: Next meeting is January 14th. Families can learn more and express interest in joining by visiting the ELA PAC page in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
- Hub Monitoring Report – sent information to the Governance Consortium with the hub system wide report for 2017-2019. If interested in learning about other hubs around the state, there is a summary which is an interesting read.

X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:51 pm.

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Early Learning Alliance (ELA) Advisory and Innovation Teams Update February 2021

Early Learning Stakeholders

The Stakeholders met on 1/28 and heard a presentation from Bess Day regarding the ELD's recent Budget Note and Theory of Change. Emily Little, Founder & Director of Nurturely also presented on their organization and available classes, services, and workshops. Finally, group members shared relevant updates from their organizations.

Home Visiting Innovation Team

The HVIT did not meet in January, but staff supporting the HVIT worked on the logistics for an April training with Dr. Tina Payne Bryson: The Power of Showing Up. We are excited to offer this free virtual training to home visitor which incorporates components of her latest book, the latest brain science and approaches to building resiliency.

Equity

- Working with Jared Pruch, UWLC Director of Community Impact, and Banyon Consulting to develop a DEI cohort for white-led organizations.
- Attending the Equity/Inclusion workgroup attended by many health partners.
- Working to create equity panels as engagement opportunities for the public and to promote UWLC collaborations.
- Internally, working with UWLC attorneys and HR to evaluate all positions with a pay equity lens.

Family Resource Centers

The FRC Coordinators met on 1/11 and hear a presentation from Emily Little, Founder & Director of Nurturely. Mary Augustine, Youth Food Program Coordinator with FFLC, also presented and had a conversation with the Coordinators about creating more food access points in schools via the FRCs (or other programs). Several districts were interested in exploring the possibility further, and have followed up with Mary directly.

Individual district conversations with each FRC have taken place over the month of January. Overall FRC coordinators report feeling frustrated they cannot do more, but are finding ways to adapt their programs and serving families in a variety of modalities.

Pleasant Hill SD may not replace their Coordinator, Lorena Hammond, and my forfeit the majority of their award for 2020-21. The door will remain open for them rejoin the cohort if/when they fill the position.

Kids in Transition to School (KITS)

Oregon Social Learning Center and ELA staff met to discuss 2021 implementation plans. A survey will be sent to district contacts in February to gauge preliminary thoughts around providing the KITS program this summer, staffing, and funding needs.

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Pediatric Advisory Team

The Pediatric Advisory Team met on 1/28 and heard legislative updates from the Early Learning Council, presented by Judy Newman. Trillium's Government Relations Manager, Courtney Johnston, also presented legislative updates related to children's health. Judy Newman and Debi Farr presented updates regarding the school districts' plans around in-person learning.

Preschool Promise Coordinated Enrollment:

- Preschool Promise is at 66% capacity (113 vacancies)
- Final outreach push for this program year has begun and it includes Facebook ads and new flyers in English and Spanish.
- We will be meeting with providers, families and community partners to reflect on this program year and come up with new ideas to make the enrollment process better.
- Kicking off collaboration between PSP, other state funded early learning programs in Lane County and our community partners to brainstorm ways that we can team up and consolidate recruitment and outreach for next program year (2021-2022).

LaneKids

LaneKids submitted the OPEC Hub Renewal Application for our 11th and final year of OPEC funding. A budget and work plan was submitted to Lane Co. for renewal of funding, as well. We have also learned we can expect about \$85k in funding from the Student Success Act and a partnership between OPEC and ODHS for parenting education for the 2021-22 year. This is great news, as OPEC funding is sunsetting.

LaneKids received 12 applications for funding from local partners. The proposals were reviewed by a committee of community partners, parents, and key staff. All proposals were recommended to receive funding, and all have been notified of their tentative award status. New to LaneKids this year included Nurturely, providing post-partum education during the prenatal period for birthing parents and their partners, CAFA, and The Child Center.

Triple P

The Triple P Implementation Team met on 2/1 where we discussed the Q2 quarterly report, training opportunities, and marketing campaigns. 51 families signed up for Triple P Online last quarter bringing the total to 660 since the start of the project. 6 virtual discussion groups were held last quarter, serving a total of 29 parents and caregivers.

We sent out a training announcement to community agencies and will be sending several participants to a virtual discussion group training in June. The 3-day training includes training in groups for ages 2-12 and an extension for ages 13-17.

The Triple P Team decided to start a new marketing campaign with LTD Buses with the goal of driving viewers to sign up for Triple P Online and also to normalize parenting education in the community.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

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In January, 1555 families were registered for the program. While growth slowed significantly in spring of 2020, enrollment has started to hold steady at around 100 new families each month.