

**Lane Early Learning Alliance
Parent Advisory Council
February 11, 2021**

Notes

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Reminder of Group Agreements
- The Early Learning Alliance (ELA) is Lane County's Early Learning Hub. We bring together different sectors to support kids and families so that kids enter school ready to learn
- Purpose of this group is to find out from parents/caregivers your needs, barriers, thoughts and opinions on issues; how can the ELA better advocate for kids and families?
- Group started in August, have had 3 meetings so far

2. LaneKids Parenting Education Hub

- Group discussion: What resources for parents/caregivers would you like to see on the LaneKids website, in the monthly newsletter and shared on Facebook?
- Website: www.lanekids.org
- Have lots of resources and information on website, newsletter, and Facebook page. Already doing
- Activity calendar is amazing during non-COVID times!
 - Free and low cost events
 - Events in locations across Lane County
 - Can search by day, time, language, type of activity, ages, regions, prices
 - Not an app but is mobile-friendly
- Other sections of LaneKids
 - Preschool Promise: free high-quality preschool
 - Child care and distance learning resources
 - COVID resources
 - Talking about race
 - Early learning support for black children
 - Blogs
 - Information is also in Spanish
 - Classes and Workshops (can search for parenting education)
 - Community resources
 - Imagination Library
 - Triple P: online parenting course
 - LaneKids newsletter - a few PAC members receive it

What's missing?

- Driving families to the website: have been seeing lots of yard signs for Springfield Public Library; something like that could be helpful
- Try to do things that aren't virtual because kids are online so much
- Specify which events are in person and which are virtual as things open up

- Sports classes - links to scholarships, tuition discounts
- A lot of resources change, struggle with 211; would be cool to have something up-to-date about resource availability related to kids
 - COVID-19 testing, food box on a Saturday, not only classes, something to support families who are struggling
- Use City of Eugene or Lane County parks maps - scavenger hunt around the city
- Live in Springfield- link up with Willamalane? Like to go to local museums; usually reasonably priced (Cottage Grove, Florence, Creswell, Springfield), directory of museums, scholarship link (KidsSports kind of expensive)
- Books, music for children

Questions? Thoughts?

- Basic needs; lots of resources for Eugene but doesn't include other utility companies in rural areas; in general, making resources available to rural areas
- In Creswell, need activities for mental health (emotional resilience) things you could do at home to build those skills
- For kids not born in the US, what support can you provide for families (ex: family works in restaurant, earns minimum wage, daycare charges a lot)
 - Don't have a list currently but we could start to put that together
 - Work with many partners throughout the community- a resource page for utility support, food boxes, clothing drives
- 90by30 just awarded grant from United Way of Lane County (UWLC) - is there a place on the website where those could be highlighted?
 - LaneKids grants are for parenting education, which are different grants from what UWLC awards. LaneKids funded parenting education is on the classes and workshops page.
 - ELA website is www.earlylearningalliance.org - this is more for community partners, could include information on grant opportunities

3. Legislative agenda, lobbying and advocacy

Presentation from Joy Marshal with Stand for Children

- Goal is to demystify experience of speaking in front of legislature
- Currently in a long session, will go through June- are mandated to present a balanced budget before July 1. Currently collecting public testimony, making decisions about what to fund- we want to see investment in education, high quality public preschool; competing against housing, climate change, infrastructure...
 - 2 years ago, Student Success Act was passed; 20% going to early learning/early childhood and this is the first time this has happened! They are starting to understand the importance of investing in young kids
- What is your take on going to the legislature?
 - Important because stories have a lot of power; hearing how it affects the actual person
- Has anyone done it?

- Yes, in the past was involved in my union, worked for Head Start - feels weird the first time but then it doesn't; just telling your story
- Many new legislatures are coming in who don't understand why the hubs are important; big role of parents and community members is to teach them what is important; need to tell stories
- Be respectful, don't want to back them into a corner but also be clear and state your case. Don't need to be polished, have everything memorized; can go and be yourself, authentic. Talk about yourself, talk about your family
- If there is a certain issue or topic you would like to advocate for, find out who sits on that legislative committee
 - Julie Fahey - affordable housing
 - John Lively - early childhood

Questions?

- Where to find the bills: look up [Oregon Legislature](#), have all the bills laid out but is kind of clunky - they put a summary at the top (3 sentences); also on social media you can follow [Stand for Children](#), [Children's Institute](#), [Early Learning Division](#)
 - Current bills (see last few pages of notes for more details)
 - funding to support child care providers with mental health practices,
 - professional development to prevent expulsion and suspension of preschoolers; kids of color are disproportionately targeted; need training to help de-escalate a situation
 - Expansion of state-funded early learning (Baby Promise, Preschool Promise, Head Start, Early Head Start)
 - Childcare providers who live in rental housing are not allowed to have business in their rental home
- If you are interested in talking to legislatures, we would love to have you (virtual, 15 minutes, we will hook you up with organizational people who can tell you what to talk about)
 - Email Bess if you are interested bjayme@unitedwaylane.org

4. What are you interested in?

Kindergarten readiness toolkit, other topics? If there is something you want to have a conversation about, email or call Bess: bjayme@unitedwaylane.org or 541-741-6000.

Next meeting dates:

March 11, 2021

April 8, 2021

2021 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

All children are born full of potential, yet young children who experience barriers to opportunity due to racism, classism, and other forms of discriminatory policy and practice are often denied access to proven programs and services that strengthen early learning and healthy development. **Before the age of 5, a child's brain makes one million new neural connections every second** with early experiences shaping brain architecture. This stage of complex neural, social, and emotional development makes early childhood a critical window in which to eliminate disparities.

Children ages 0-5 are the most racially, ethnically, and linguistically diverse Oregonians, and they are also the group most likely to live in poverty. Children born during the COVID-19 pandemic will be entering kindergarten just as we're climbing out of a recession, and decisions made during this session will influence the trajectory of their lives and Oregon's future.

Our 2021 agenda is guided by the experiences of Black, Indigenous, and families of color, and families and providers historically excluded from policy and budget decisions and it is just the tip of the iceberg. These priorities, coupled with the historic passage of the Student Success Act, are the first steps toward implementing comprehensive change needed to build an early childhood system which addresses generations of exclusion and discrimination.

When racial equity is at the center of decision-making, early childhood programs and services can mitigate disparities by race/ethnicity, income, geography, disability, language, immigrant and refugee status, houselessness, and foster care. **We ask legislators to commit to continued improvement in early care, education, and supports for all of Oregon's young children and families.** Solutions must be built with families, to work for them.



ADVANCE RACIAL EQUITY

These proposals, designed by and for impacted communities, will improve early childhood experiences for Black and Indigenous children and children of color.

Reduce/Eliminate Suspension and Expulsion in Early Care and Education Programs** **\$5.8 million**

Senate Bill 236, House Bill 2166
Lead advocates: Black Child Development-PDX & Children's Institute

Create an Early Childhood Equity in Access Report

Senate Bill 237
Lead advocates: Children's Institute, in partnership with the Equity Collaborative

Compel Congress to Keep Children and Families Safe from ICE in Early Childhood Settings

Senate Joint Memorial 1
Lead advocates: Latino Network & Children's Institute

Create a Tribal Early Learning Hub** **\$900,000**

House Bill 2055, ELD POP 406

EXPAND EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENTS

Every child deserves access to early childhood programs that are culturally relevant, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate. Oregon started to make progress with the Student Success Act, and more is needed to reach all children and families who are eligible.

Expand Access to Culturally Relevant, Inclusive, Developmentally Appropriate Preschool and Early Learning** **\$103.3 million**

ELD POP 402
Lead Advocates: Oregon Head Start Association, Children's Institute & Latino Network

Provide Wage Parity for Relief Nurseries **\$4.8 million**

Lead Advocate: Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries

Expand Funding for Healthy Families Oregon Home Visiting* **\$10 million**

Lead Advocate: Fight Crime: Invest in Kids & Ready Nation

Expand Reach Out and Read to Underserved Families** **Restore \$75,000**

Lead Advocate: Reach Out and Read Oregon

STRENGTHEN THE CHILD CARE SYSTEM

Oregon's child care system isn't effectively meeting the needs of children, parents, providers, or Oregon's economic recovery. Children born during COVID-19 will turn 5 as we exit a recession. Oregon must start now to build the system we need.

Reform Child Care Subsidy to Work for Children and Families

House Bill 2503/Senate Bill 239
Lead Advocate: Family Forward Oregon

Ensure Child Care Providers can Operate in Rentals

House Bill 2484
Lead Advocates: AFSCME & Children's Institute

INVEST IN FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES

Children ages 0-5 are the Oregonians most likely to live in poverty. Under-resourced families now face additional burdens because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Children need us to invest in their families and communities during this difficult time and beyond.

Protect and Grow Flexible Funding for Early Learning Hubs **Restore \$1.4 million**

Lead Advocates: Early Learning Hub Leaders & Eames Consulting

Increase Access to Nurse-Family Partnership Home Visiting by Using State Funds for Medicaid Match **Up to \$5 million**

Lead Advocate: Nurse-Family Partnership

Invest in New, Affordable Housing for Families, Rural Communities, and Communities of Color **\$250 million in Article XI-Q Bonds**

Lead Advocate: Oregon Housing Alliance

Support College Students, Many of Whom are Parents, to Access Food and Basic Needs Assistance **\$4 million**

Lead Advocate: Hunger Free Oregon

Strengthen Family Support and Create More Accessible Communities by Reinstating Funding for Family to Family Networks **Restore \$1.3 million**

Lead Advocate: Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities

