

# 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

**LESLIE FINLAY**  
Early Learning Stakeholders  
Relief Nursery

**JACOB FOX**  
Homes For Good

**KAREN GAFFNEY**  
Lane County

**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

**JUDY NEWMAN**  
Early Childhood CARES

**CHRIS PARRA**  
Bethel School District

**ADRIAN POLLUT**  
Parent Representative

**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

**NINA WATKINS**  
Parent Representative

**SHEILA WEGENER**  
Department of Human Services

## Lane Early Learning Alliance Governance Consortium

May 14, 2021

Via Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/910589082?pwd=RDE0Mk5WRm1YcHdOcUJMRFRaWS9FUT09>

## AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Public Comment**
3. **Consent Agenda**
  - Approval of April 9, 2021 meeting notes (*action required*)
  - Acknowledge receipt of written reports from ELA Advisory Groups and Innovation Teams, Lane AABSS, Preschool Promise, KITS, and LaneKids
4. **Parent Advisory Council report**
  - Nina Watkins & Adrian Pollut will report on discussion at the May Parent Advisory Council meeting.
5. **Early Learning Stakeholders report**
  - Jeanine Taylor & Leslie Finlay will report on discussion at the April Early Learning Stakeholders meeting.
6. **Increasing the Child Care Supply in Lane County**
  - Discuss how we can best coordinate and align the various conversations and efforts taking place right now, across sectors and the county, to increase and diversify the supply of child care and the early care and education work force.
  - Specify equity considerations, how white supremacy culture is showing up in this issue, and identify any individuals or groups that should be invited to these conversations.
  - Share any emerging or existing solutions that might be replicated or from which lessons can be learned. Are there projects currently on hold or trying to get underway that could use additional resources?
  - Identify external influences, policies, or practices that are hampering our ability to deploy solutions quickly. What are the barriers?
  - Brainstorm ideas for how we can make short- and long-term progress in solving this critical issue. Prioritize next steps.
7. **Updates & Announcements**
  - Legislative session updates
  - KPI/KITS Summer Funding
  - Family Engagement Coordinator update

**NEXT MEETING: Friday, June 11, 2021, 3:00 – 5:00 PM**

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## Lane Early Learning Alliance Governance Consortium

April 9, 2021

3:00-5:00pm

Virtual Meeting

### NOTES

#### Present:

Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan  
Reta Doland, Oakridge School District  
Tony Scurto, Lane Education Service District  
Jeanine Taylor, Early Childhood CARES  
Noreen Dunnells, United Way of Lane County  
Adrian Pollut, Parent Representative  
Nina Watkins, Parent Representative  
Jacob Fox, Homes For Good  
Theya Joslin, Quality Care Connections  
Chris Parra, Bethel School District  
Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County  
Leslie Finlay, Relief Nursery  
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District  
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture  
Cheryl Henderson, Lane Community College  
Marian Blankenship, Pacific Source Health Plans  
Todd Hamilton, Springfield Public Schools  
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES

Sheila Wegener, Department of Human Services

#### Absent:

John Lively, Oregon State Representative  
George Russell, Community Leader  
Karen Gaffney, Lane County  
Jocelyn Warren, Lane County Health & Human Services

#### Guest:

Holly Mar Conte, United Way of Lane County

#### UWLC/ELA Staff:

Ayanna Moriguchi, Early Learning Specialist  
Bess Jayme, Director of Education, **meeting facilitator**  
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 Adrian Pollut, Parent Representative from the ELA Parent Advisory Council.

#### III. Public Comment

No comments were made.

#### IV. Consent Agenda

Approval of the March 12, 2021 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:** Chris Parra motioned to approve the consent agenda.

**Support:** Debi Farr seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

**Ayes:** Reta Doland, Tony Scurto, Jeanine Taylor, Noreen Dunnells, Adrian Pollut, Nina Watkins, Jacob Fox, Theya Joslin, Annie Soto, Leslie Finlay, Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, John Stapleton, and Cheryl Henderson,

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

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### V. Community Project Funding (Federal funding opportunity)

Holly Mar Conte, UWLC's VP of Community Impact, presented an opportunity for United Way to submit appropriation requests for community projects to Rep. DeFazio. Project funding is similar to applying for a federal grant but it's not a competitive process. Rep. DeFazio's office is looking for projects that meet an important need and have widespread support throughout the community. UW has been working with partners to understand who is interested in applying for what. This funding would start September 2021 through September 2022. Possibly would propose a package for KITS to sustain or scale the program, and increase access in summer of 2022. Could also look to this funding as a COVID education recovery package that addresses learning loss.

Questions:

- Funding range? \$20K to \$1.5 million. UW looking for something in the realm of \$500K.
- Can we do summer KITS and then also pilot the school year model in more schools/districts? Yes. Some districts in their ELA/KITS check-ins have been interested in the Fall model.
- Funding could be used to address the barriers to access, such as providing transportation/gas stipends.

Need letters of support from the community. Holly will send a template to fill in the blanks. Proposal is due April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### VI. 2021-23 Hub Coordination Budget Draft Preview & Discussion

Bess reviewed the hub coordination 2021-23 draft budget line items. For 2019-2021 budgeted \$384K annually. Because of the change in funding formula, the ELA is now anticipating \$427K annually for '21-'23 biennium.

Will revisit again with Governance Consortium once hubs have received their final funding numbers from the state. If we have more funding than expected can have a discussion about replenishing some of the Community Funding that will be lost.

### VII. Early Childhood Mental Health

In previous meeting discussed statewide plan, [Raise Up Oregon](#), and new priorities for next biennium. Early childhood mental health was a big piece of that plan. The upstream nature of early childhood mental health, and prevention, working on early childhood mental health is critical for our youth. Early childhood mental health means working on the parent-child relationship. The amount of effort that is required to change in response to an adverse event is so much smaller when you are younger, so you have an opportunity in early childhood to do some positive intervening early on.

**What has happened locally, lessons learned, promising practices, and things the hub can do to lower barriers to access infant/toddler mental health care:**

- Head Start has had many collaborations including:
  - o Had a therapeutic classroom with 6 children paid for by Lane County Mental Health, with Early Childhood CARES. Kerry Holmes would be able to speak more about this.
  - o Current mental health consultation model with South Lane Mental Health, Options and individual therapists. The consultant is part of meetings to build behavior plan, placements, in conversation with parents, and helps staff.
- Early Head Start:
  - o have a curriculum, working with parents through home visits, a lot of 1 on 1 with families, calling in mental health professionals as needed.
  - o Dr. Ed Feil at Oregon Research Institute developed an online program ([MOM-Net](#)) that is self-directed training and is being disseminated across other Head Start programs. Have a family support person that checks-in with parents.
- Relief Nursery –
  - o Mental Health Consultation that was provided to Home Visitors. Model was specific to spending time with Home Visitors to talk through their work with families and process what was coming up for them. When we support the mental health needs of our staff, that will impact outcomes for families. Pilot project had good outcomes. But, there were barriers to the project. Eligible

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- programs needed to be considered evidence based. Not accessible to all agencies that are serving families in early childhood, since not all were providing evidence based programs.
- Work with Early Childhood CARES and initially Trillium, to create specific classrooms for children with higher mental health needs. Thinking about the opportunity to have mental health providers embedded in the places where we have families showing up. If we want families to feel comfortable accessing services, they need to get to know providers and see them interacting with kids in their natural environment. And through those informal interactions parents are more likely to engage in getting support. A way to move forward is thinking about how to embed therapists in places that families are and make them accessible. Doing things like playgroups or parent coaching, to soften the approach. A lot of the models that are accessible for families, are expensive.
  - LCC Child and Family Center – Curious about the comprehensive nature of what [Oregon Community Programs](#) (OCP) is doing, they had a case manager that would visit families at home and in the classroom, provide parenting groups, daily check-in calls with parents. While expensive, the parent can now relate to the provider because they are in the child care center and doing home visits.
  - By embedding a clinician in places that children are, parents are going to have a positive perception of the program, and will spread the word.
  - Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) incentivized metric around early childhood mental health, what is status of proposed new metric for 2022?
    - The metric is still under development. There was a Social/Emotional pilot that we participated in. There is some forward movement in getting a metric in the next year or two.
      - Worry about incentivizing it as a metric because it reinforces the fee for service model.
  - Early Learning Division (ELD) had early childhood mental health consultation panel in April.
    - Presented models from other states, but not a lot new that came out of it. These programs won't be transformational until we figure out how to fund it.
  - Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) – interested in looking more at early intervention and would like to participate with partners around this.
  - Lane Community Health Council has focused on behavioral health broadly with a subgroup working on youth mental health.
  - Early Childhood Mental Health Committee is convened by Lane County.

If this focus is in a way to keep expulsion from happening later on, and that boys of color are the ones being expelled at a higher rate, do we have the resources we need to serve families of color that is culturally responsive?

- Head Start –
  - believe we have Latinx providers in South Lane.
  - National Head Start program has trainings to provide strategies to work with families from specific cultural backgrounds. A lot of the strategies are around developing relationships with families, because you need a relationship with the parent to talk about behavioral health. Not sure of how this is implemented locally.
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) – there is a cultural companion document that is used with the pyramid model

Will hear more about this from the ELD and resources should be available, would like our hub to be ready to help with next steps.

### VIII. Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

In an effort to build connection and communication between the PAC and Governance Consortium, would like to have space for the parent representatives to share what's happening. Parent representatives Nina Watkins & Adrian Pollut provided a recap of the April meeting:

- Had a great conversation discussing Preschool Promise eligibility, enrollment, recruitment. Identified a lot of barriers for families. Looked at materials created and gave feedback. Discussed different equity issues. Ways to make information about the program more available, and where doing outreach and advertising.

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- Would like to see coordination for state funded early learning program that lets parents complete one application.
- One parent said that in gathering information from people applying to a program, need to be cognizant of the types of questions asked because some parents may be undocumented and be scared off.

### IX. Updates & Announcements

- Family Engagement Coordinator – in process of interviewing and will conduct second round of interviews in next few weeks. This Coordinator will facilitate PAC meeting and support coordinated enrollment for Preschool Promise. All candidates are Spanish speaking and bicultural.
- Legislative session updates – Early Learning Authority bill, Summer Learning Package, and Joint Committee on Ways & Means “virtual road show” opportunity – Thurs, 4/22, 5:30 – 7:30 pm.

### X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 pm.

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

#### Early Learning Stakeholders

-The Stakeholders met on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and engaged in a discussion about the local ECE workforce, with multiple group members sharing their difficulties in recruiting and retaining high quality staff. Enough interest was generated that a small sub-committee will be forming to consider how this group might help address these issues in our community.

#### Home Visiting Innovation Team (HVIT)

-In April, over 100 home visitors and professional that work with families attended a virtual training with Dr. Tina Payne Bryson on The Power of Showing Up. Attendees overwhelming appreciated the content and ways to support families during the pandemic, and learning about the science behind the approaches.  
-The HVIT met in April and discussed topics for future HV trainings, current service levels and outreach efforts, anti-racism work, and learned more about ODHS' new ONE System.

#### Equity

-This past month has been incredibly busy and we are making some important effort and progress in our Equity/Inclusion work. Kori has participated in the UWLC Community Investment Process, providing an equity lens to the grant making process for the forthcoming support award grants. Additionally, we facilitated a discussion at the UWLC board of directors meeting around equity and budgeting as the organization prepares to adopt the FY 21/22 budget. Work continues on the creation of a Racial Justice Fund to help fund organizations and work that help advance racial justice throughout Lane County (this will launch as part of our 75th anniversary celebration year.)

-UWLC is also in the midst of a re-organization and with the creation of new and modified jobs that embed equity, inclusion, anti-racism, and anti-oppression into how we do the work. We are sharing newly-imagined resource development jobs with the public currently (<https://www.unitedwaylane.org/job-opps>) and are digging into a pay and job equity analysis to update every staff person's job description and evaluate our job classifications, compensation structure and collaborative teams through a lens of equity and belonging.

-Finally, we have launched the "Leading for Racial Justice" cohort for nonprofit leaders. This is a several week intensive training led by Terrill Thompson of Banyan Consulting focused on bringing together executive directors and board leadership from 8 different local organizations to delve into how they can bring an antiracist and equity perspective to their work as part of our shared collective impact.

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

-Oregon Social Learning Center continued working with districts on their KITS summer planning, including purchasing and compiling supplies for districts, preparing for the June training, and assisting with recruitment efforts. Families can contact their local school to learn more about the program, or can complete the interest form on the [KITS website](#).

-ELA staff have worked on determining available funding for summer groups, prepping contracts, and communicating reporting requirements to districts.

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### Family Resource Centers

- The FRC Coordinators did not meet in April, as many were registered to attend the virtual training with Dr. Tina Payne Bryson. The group will meet in May to discuss creating a general, not district specific, kinder-readiness resource.
- As we approach June 30, we are also working with the FRCs to ensure they will spend down their funds. Several districts are going to be significantly underspent, so we will need to plan to reallocate some funds elsewhere.

### Pediatric Advisory Team

- The PAT met on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and saw a demonstration of the Unite Us system, a closed loop referral program being utilized by a growing network of health and social/human service providers in Oregon, including PacificSource. The group is potentially interested in how this could be compatible with their EHRs, and how it might help their providers/families with resource navigation.

### Preschool Promise Coordinated Enrollment

- Preschool Promise is at 78% capacity (72 vacancies)
- Collaboration between PSP, Head Start, Early Head Start, Relief Nursery, ODHS's ERDC and Early Childhood CARES. Result: Working on a landing page on Lane Kids for Early Care and Supports with information about the above organizations and how to connect to them. A flyer with simplified information will direct people to this landing page.
- Chose SchoolMint as our new inward/ outward facing interface to handle coordinated enrollment digitally and erase barriers for families, providers and the hub.
- Collecting contact information (adult name, preferred language, phone number, email address, mailing address) via phone, text and email for families interested in program year 2021-2022.
- Some PSP providers will be providing Summer Learning (July 1-August 31, 2021). Full list of participating providers given to hubs June 1, 2021.
- 21-22 Enrollment will begin July 1, 2021.
- Up to date information can be found at: [lanekids.org/preschool-promise/](http://lanekids.org/preschool-promise/)

### LaneKids

- LaneKids has received the OPEC-ELD contracts, and are working to identify community partners who are ready to serve families. We've had conversations with Options Counseling, the Center for Family Development (CFD) H.O.N.E.Y., Inc. Options and CFD appear more ready to move forward, as they both have at least one facilitator already trained in an acceptable curriculum. Conversations with H.O.N.E.Y., Inc. indicate we are still at an exploratory level. We launched a survey of parents connected to their programming to learn more about what they are interested in around parenting support, and will use that data to inform any next steps.

### Triple P

- The Triple P Team met on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The team spent time prepping for the CAC presentation, reviewing the Scope of Work for fiscal year 20-21, and analyzing data from Triple P Online sign-up and retention numbers.
- On April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Triple P Coordinator and Manager presented to the Lane County Prevention Community Advisory Council. We provided a brief history of the project and an update on recent successes and challenges as well as our vision going forward.

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-We completed our Lane County Triple P photoshoot with a final shoot featuring the large ads on the LTD bus. We captured members of the Triple P Team, the UWLC Education Team, and their families.

### **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL)**

In April, 1599 families were registered for the program. Quarterly newsletter was sent to DPIL families with information on ELA funded programs.