

**Lane Early Learning Alliance
Parent Advisory Council
May 13th, 2021
6:00 - 7:30 pm
Zoom Meeting**

Notes

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Icebreaker
- Reminder of Group Agreements

2. ELA Governance Consortium Report

- Governance Consortium (GC) met on April 9th, Nina Watkins & Adrian Pollut are parent representatives
 - Community project funding - request to office of Representative Peter DeFazio for funding
 - Reinstating earmarks (pot of funding Reps can spend in their districts), we submitted proposal on behalf of KITS, youth mental health project - neither one got advanced to the next round
 - Budget draft
 - Bess can share the Early Learning Hub draft budget with this group if there's interest
 - Early childhood mental health services (barriers to entries, engaging parents)
 - Happening at state of Oregon- Early Learning Division trying to improve services for children, infants, toddlers - what is the best way to deploy these services? Related to strengthening parent relationship; working with parents in early childcare or education settings; billed through healthcare system- barriers in working across systems
 - Parent Advisory Council meetings are the night before the GC; tomorrow is part 1 of building supply of childcare discussion; how to bring conversation to one place to solve this problem
 - You are always welcome to join the GC meeting!

3. Parent Education & Parent Support: Claire Hambly, Education Program Manager, UWLC, will attend to talk about parenting education & parent supports offered by LaneKids and other agencies around Lane County.

Group discussion/questions:

- LaneKids structure & brief overview
 - LaneKids is parenting education and family support hub
 - Funding from Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative (OPEC) and from prevention arm of Lane County Public Health
- Typical programming & partners

- Some hubs have their own facilitators and classes but in Lane Co. it made more sense to give funding to agencies already doing parenting education- we fund classes and offer trainings
 - Parenting Now, Relief Nurseries, First Place Kids, Pearl Buck Center; more recently are thinking more outside the box, addressing equity issues; want to ask parents how can we better serve parents?
- Have you ever participated in a parenting group/class? What did you like or not like?
 - Community; being with other parents with same age kids, level of chaos; didn't like that it was facilitated by college student who had never been a parent before
 - Enjoyed learning new tips for discipline; didn't like that there were also parents who were mandated to take class; felt a little weird
 - Where was that feeling coming from? Both from facilitator and other parents
 - Enjoyed the class but felt the need to explain to others that she wasn't required
 - Loved community, did them online through COVID and there wasn't the same community; Circle of Security most valuable thing I've ever done; definitely understand the stigma- bio dad judgmental of her taking course
 - Loved class...preschool promise? Doesn't qualify
 - Did Parenting Now (PN) class- make lifelong friends! Sometimes it feels really low level and I want data, facts, reasons behind over fluff/feeling pieces; want to be challenged
 - Love parenting classes/workshops! Wasn't super impressed with quality of childcare (watched a movie)
- What would be your ideal way to get information or support with parenting issues?
 - PN approach with text, email, phone call check ins- sometimes easier to text a question
 - Loving parent cafes to get socialization, connection and then a different level of parenting class where it's higher level; monthly is hard cause you're not in the habit of doing it but weekly is a lot; nice to find happy medium
 - Having dinner provided
 - Would love hybrid model: combo of in-person and virtual
 - A class that can include our kids. something we can do together and bond
- Are there any topics you feel are particularly needed either for yourself or for the community?
 - Nutrition- easier to start kids on the right track if you start early
 - Quality of presenter
 - Mental health
 - Single parenting (intimidating to walk in to class as single parent)
 - Supporting introverted/shy kids
 - Kids w/ developmental disabilities; support for parents; advocacy coaching
 - One-off classes about specific thing (one class instead of attending whole series)
 - Families going through divorce - parents and kids
 - Services for Spanish-speaking families (support after sexual abuse)

- Centro Latino Americano has a lot of programs for Latinos; services with a therapist; help if there are financial difficulties too
 - Quality parenting books on LK website?
 - Ford Family Foundation will send you free parenting books: <https://www.tfff.org/select-books/browse/children>
 - Bicultural household- both speak different languages and struggle in non-native classes; different “rooms” feels awkward but understand that they’re trying to meet needs
 - When you go as a couple the outcome is better than when you do it alone because you can both practice the strategies together
 - Is there hesitation from fathers? Is it hard to get both parents? What is the barrier?
 - Sometimes because you don’t have childcare; jobs- one of them has to work; in some classes they were encouraged to bring partners- provided dinner! Helpful to be able to participate
 - In our household, parenting is my job; hard to get partner invested in these things; traditional view of dad works and mom takes care of kids; I also veto him when we disagree about parenting
 - Sometimes helps if he hears it coming from someone else
 - Would love to see more language classes to learn a second language opportunities for younger kids.
- Email Claire if you have any final thoughts, additional things you didn’t want to bring up in the group- love to hear from parents about what works and doesn’t work for you!
- chambly@unitedwaylane.org
- Interested in becoming a parent educator? We have resources to help put you through training, we could sponsor a class, contract with other agencies who do groups

4. Announcements or other news good for the order

- Created Fun Family Activities on LaneKids website: <https://www.lanekids.org/family-fun/>
 - Indoor/outdoor play
 - Fitness
 - Making learning fun
 - Getting kinder ready
 - Creative exploration
 - Museums
 - Email Michelle if you have resources you want to add: msheng@unitedwaylane.org
- Family Engagement Coordinator update
 - Just today we hired a Family Engagement Coordinator! Starting June 7th. Will take over facilitation of this group; primary goal is to raise voices of parents in early learning system; thank you Brenda for participating in hiring process!
- Update on legislative session
 - Last week scheduled a bunch of meetings with legislators; in Lane Co. we have legislators who support Early Learning

- Oregon is mandated to have a balanced budget- there is a lot of competition for funding; additional funding for summer learning, KITS program, schools for summer learning to catch kids up
- Scholarships for kids to attend camps? Possible

Next meeting dates

June 10, 2021

September 9, 2021