

**Lane Early Learning Alliance  
Parent Advisory Council  
October 14, 2021  
6:00 - 7:30 pm  
Zoom Meeting**

**Notes**

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

- **Welcome to new Family Engagement Coordinator, Adriana Medina!**
- **Icebreaker**
- **Reminder of Group Agreements**

**2. ELA Governance Consortium Report**

- Future strategy for Family Resource Centers (FRC); some districts are connecting with families in other ways and not reapplying for FRC funding - should we revisit this funding? Decided to keep funding; many districts (especially smaller, rural) do need the funding.
- ELA is a hub, we convene different groups of community members around different goals (pediatricians, home visiting professionals, FRC Coordinators); discussion- is any group missing? Equity advisory group? Data group? Conversation is ongoing.
- Anything you want taken to the Governance Consortium?

**3. Early Care & Education Sector Plan Update**

2 years ago, Oregon passed Student Success Act- 20% to early childhood services (kids 0-5); part of that went to expand access to Preschool Promise (PSP) (income eligibility up to 200% of federal poverty level- family of 4 can make up to \$53K and still qualify)

State asked early learning hubs to come up with plans- how to reach kids furthest from opportunity (priority populations); looked at lots of data and identified 5 pops: kids of color (BIPOC), kids who are emerging English language learners, kids with special needs, kids in rural communities, kids ages 0-3 b/c there is so little infant & toddler care

Now, being asked to update these groups; talk to parents, is this still the 5 groups we want to prioritize for placement?

Met Monday with a group of community members and want to talk to you; we don't have new data to share due to COVID; have been successful in prioritizing these populations in PP; thinking about replacing the kids 0-2 because Preschool Promise (PP) only serves 3 & 4 year olds.

**Group discussion**

- *What is a priority population? Does that definition make sense & work for you?*

- *Based on your knowledge and experience, are the current priority populations the right ones? Are there other populations that you might also prioritize for receiving publicly funded child care & preschool slots?*
- *Our current geographic regions are really broad, what communities, specifically, would you prioritize expanding the supply of child care & preschool?*
- *What are other needs or preferences you, your friends, family, or neighbor have, in regards to a high quality childcare or preschool experience? (For example: transportation, non-traditional work hour care, more Spanish-speaking providers, etc.)*
- Niyah: for BIPOC communities (including Latinx) make good income but can't afford childcare; different income requirements for BIPOC families?
  - Unfortunately no, income eligibility is a hard rule.
- Niyah: What is the 200%?
  - \$53K for a family of 4; one of the issues is that the federal poverty level is set at federal minimum wage level (\$7; much higher in Oregon) and probably won't qualify for Head Start of PP if you make minimum wage.
- Niyah: Anything going on for kids who need care but parents are over income?
  - They are capping the parent co-pay portion of Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) at 7%; can apply for a subsidy to offset costs for daycare; this is 400% of FPL; encouraging all working families to apply for this
  - <https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/ASSISTANCE/CHILD-CARE/Pages/Parents.aspx#HowToApply>
- Brenda: Hours of childcare don't work for the Latinx community
  - Bess: Also get to update family preferences; we have listed expanded hour care second (#1 is transportation); fewer hours is also a request
  - Some PP programs offer before and after hours but this is parent pay
- Adriana: to clarify term BIPOC- also includes Indigenous folks in other countries, all POC represented
- Niyah: Is the time schedule for PP established by federal? Sometimes just 15 minutes over, but then have to pay
  - The number of hours per day per week is set by the state; try to make it close to full day kindergarten. Providers have some control over what they offer around that. Could talk to Michelle Hjelm about what your options might be
- Judy: right now barriers are lower to become a DHS Child Care Providers; extended \$0 co-pay into 2022; my experience is transportation is provided (if on IFSP), through Early Childhood CARES
  - Bess: Yes, but other families won't necessarily have transportation options (only districts are providing transportation); want to put more preschools in districts
- Kids with complex social families: kids of teen parents, parent who is incarcerated or in treatment for substance abuse, kids of parents with cognitive limitations, possibly also kids of students
  - How do you feel about swapping kids 0-2 with this group?

- Jen: Was thinking kids who are experiencing trauma or living situations that aren't concrete; families that have been evicted, bouncing between mom and dad; not in typical/secure situation; experiencing social/emotional traumas
- Megan: not sure about "student families" b/c college educated parent kids are likely going to do pretty well. Wraparound services that RN or HS can provide would be a better fit. Many preschool providers might not be trauma informed to provide care for complex situations
  - Jen: An ACE (Adverse Childhood Events) score could be a great indicator of priority
  - Bess: Agree, need to partner with HS earlier in the process in order to get families who qualify for HS into the program. Families navigating poverty can often use additional services
  - Yes, not all providers have trauma-informed training; need more PD and support
- Niyah: When I was a student at UofO, we were low-income, kids went to UofO HS; think we should be including student families- I still need support for child care now! Student parents are very stressed out. I agree that if a family qualifies for HS, they should go there first.
  - Bess: Agree, I was a student parent also, was very overwhelmed. However, some of the student parents we serve now would fall into other categories of priority (international, student of color, English language learners, have an IFSP)- these groups would get into PP anyway
  - Megan: I didn't want make it seem like I don't think student families should get spots, but thinking of priority groups
- Niyah: First responders? Medical workers?
- Jen: grandparents raising children; only fall into another priority category if they're foster parents; would be complex social family as well
- Nina: Kids with special needs working with early intervention services, is that separate? Would it be one or the other? Haven't heard of HS or PP for kids with IFSP.
  - Bess: These populations are specific to PP, work close with EC CARES so that they can be in PP classroom; EC CARES staff will work with child and classroom to help support the child. We've done this from the beginning, 20% of kids have IFSPs. Do continue to need to do trainings, but EC CARES does a lot of working with providers
- Nina: if child is connected with early intervention services; how to they get referred?
  - Bess: Sometimes parents apply before they've been assessed, then get assessed at EC CARES; or provider recommends assessment
- Niyah: Would be awesome to communicate with families when there's a child with an IFSP so that other parents can help talk to their children to be supportive and friendly

- Bess: there's coaching and training that can support this kind of environment; new Preschool Coach at QCC; the more we can help teach our own kids to be inclusive is huge
    - Judy: You've identified areas of need specific to children, how do you reach a fluid population?
      - Big part of outreach is working with community partners to reach families they serve; flyers, Fb ads, Spanish radio. Doing a pretty good job but also always room for improvement
  - Number of slots are going up by 260: where is there readiness, where do we have the most demand, what languages do families need? (need more Spanish), Eugene 4J, Springfield, Bethel have highest waitlists; also recommending Florence, Fern Ridge, Marcola, McKenzie, Oakridge; South Lane has many slots and aren't full yet; Creswell still has vacancies
  - Niyah: Afghan refugees? Will fall into other categories as well
    - Jen: Catholic Community Services will be taking refugees in. Waltherville? Noti, Veneta? Fern Ridge serves that area; Lorraine? FR hoping to include these families too (Crow-Applegate-Lorraine)

#### **4. LaneKids/Triple P Marketing Discussion**

How to tell parents about these two programs? Triple P (TP) has a different funding source than Lane Kids (LK) so we have talked about them separately but TP really falls under the umbrella of LK.

As parents, would you rather have one flyer or postcard that had a little bit of information about everything or 2 that had more in depth information about each?

- Would rather have 1, especially if you can access TP from LK
- Sol: is TP in Spanish? Haven't been able to sign up
- Reach out to Claire if you have ideas [Chambly@unitedwaylane.org](mailto:Chambly@unitedwaylane.org)

#### **Next meeting dates**

**November 11, 2021**

**January 13, 2022**