

Lane Early Learning Alliance

3171 Gateway Loop
Springfield, OR 97477
tel 541.741.6000
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earlylearningalliance.org



GOVERNANCE CONSORTIUM

Lane Early Learning Alliance Governance Consortium

October 8, 2021

Via Zoom Meeting

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

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
Quality Care Connections

MELISSA IBARRA
Eugene 4J School District

JOHN LIVELY
Oregon State Representative

JUDY NEWMAN
Early Childhood CARES

ADRIAN POLLUT
Parent Representative

GEORGE RUSSELL
Community Leader

TONY SCURTO
Lane Education Service District

ANNIE SOTO
Head Start of Lane County

KRAIG SPROLES
Bethel School District

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

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Introductions (15 min)**
2. **Public Comment**
3. **Consent Agenda (5 min)**
 - Approval of September 10, 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. **Family Resource Centers (FRCs) 2.0 (45 min)**
 - Review role & funding level of ELA with school-based FRCs to date
 - Discuss how FRCs are evolving and what needs they are currently meeting
 - Discuss how FRCs might better serve the families furthest from opportunity in their communities and what additional resources might be brought to support their work.
5. **Early Learning Alliance Advisory & Innovation Groups 2.0 (40 min)**
 - Review current ELA advisory group/innovation teams structure - and what has changed in the last few years.
 - How are/are not our advisory groups furthering our anti-racism, equity, and inclusion work?
 - There are a few groups that no longer meet – should we revive or evolve? Are any critical perspectives missing?
6. **Updates & Announcements (15 min)**
 - 2021-22 Preschool Promise Enrollment Update
 - Regional Stewardship Committee meeting/ECE Sector Plan update
 - Meeting date & time change? (group poll)

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

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Vision: A community in which all Lane County families, organizations, and neighborhoods are unified in an effort to ensure that all children are safe, healthy, cherished and are ready to succeed in school.



Lane Early Learning Alliance Governance Consortium

September 10, 2021

3:00-5:00pm

Virtual Meeting

NOTES

Present:

Adrian Pollut, Parent Representative
John Lively, Oregon State Representative
Kraig Sproles, Bethel School District
Melissa Ibarra, Eugene 4J School District
Jacob Fox, Homes For Good
Nina Watkins, Parent Representative
Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County
Leslie Finlay, Relief Nursery
Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan
Jeanine Taylor, Early Childhood CARES
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES
Reta Doland, Oakridge School District
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture
Todd Hamilton, Springfield Public Schools
Sheila Wegener, Department of Human Services
Noreen Dunnells, United Way of Lane County

Marian Blankenship, Pacific Source Health Plans
Cheryl Henderson, Lane Community College
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District

Absent:

Tony Scurto, Lane Education Service District
Karen Gaffney, Lane County
George Russell, Community Leader
Jocelyn Warren, Lane County Health & Human Services

UWLC/ELA Staff:

Bess Jayme, Director of Education, **meeting facilitator**
Kori Rodley, Chief Experience Officer
Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, Ed Program Mgr.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 PM.

II. Welcome and Introductions

III. Public Comment

No comments were made.

IV. Consent Agenda

Approval of the August 13, 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: Nina Watkins motioned to approve the consent agenda.

Support: Todd Hamilton seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

Ayes: Adrian Pollut, John Lively, Kraig Sproles, Melissa Ibarra, Jacob Fox, Annie Soto, Leslie Finlay, Debi Farr, Jeanine Taylor, Judy Newman, Reta Doland, John Stapleton, Sheila Wegener.

Nays: None; **Abstentions:** None

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V. COVID-related Health & Safety Guidelines for Child Care & Schools

At-A-Glance table highlights what protocols are in place for school districts and child care providers, including vaccination, masking, physical distancing, transportation, etc. Bess will continue to update as changes come from the state. If there are additional items that should be added, let Bess know.

VI. Coordinated Enrollment Implementation Plan

The Early Learning Division (ELD) released their vision of a coordinated enrollment/implementation plan through 2024, to look at the lifecycle of coordinated enrollment for hubs across the state. The plan will impact how we enroll families in Preschool Promise and Head Start, and create a no wrong door for access to child care. Bess walked the Governance Consortium through the ELD-provided Implementation Plan Dialogue Slides.

Questions/Comments/Barriers:

- Annie – every child care provider is hurting for staff, so need more planning on how you are going to educate and get people prepared to be providers, since that is crucial to expanding services. It seems like an urgent issue and to be responsive to people can go back to work so their child has care. Thinking through how to describe all of the pieces that push on the childcare system.
- Bess - Will have a regional workforce stakeholder meeting next week, with economic development and city/county representation.
- Rep. Lively: hearing anything about child care work force dev? Knew before COVID that we were struggling to have enough providers. Once COVID hit, it has complicated it tremendously. The state has learned that we are unable to respond quickly. By the time we have a strategy that requires funding, it takes a long time to get through the legislature. If there are impediments that exist we need to identify and remove those barriers, or if we can invest in existing programs.
- Leslie: legislation for pay increase, has it helped with hiring? Doing pretty well in hiring, but it has created other challenges that they have inadvertently destabilized the early learning system. The salary issue is very complicated and within Relief Nursery are experiencing a crisis. Due to pay equity laws we are required to raise wages for our Healthy Families staff that have similar positions to Relief Nursery staff, but do not have the funding to do so. ELD needs to look at the big picture of how this can destabilize the early learning system state wide.
- Cheryl – if you are a part of a larger institution you can't raise wages because you are a part of a whole system, but if you are a smaller program there is no tracking of if you are paying staff more than before, and the middle size programs seem lost in the shuffle.
- Judy – Need to be looking at long term solutions with a short term pathway. For example, in EI/ECSE created an interim way to get practical experience to get a license before training through a university caught up to the need.
- Cheryl - QCC web page is up where people can have one place to go to see open child care positions. No one has hired yet as a result of this. If people have ideas on how to do outreach and get people interested, let Cheryl know.
 - o Have people reached out to parents or parent groups to recruit providers?
 - Have talked about this and there is a way for parents who are taking care of a few kids to get ERDC payments.
 - 4J Parent Leader Group, ELA Parent Advisory Council, etc.

ECE Sector Plan

ECE Sector Plan needs to be updated to reflect current priority populations and is due October 15. This involves review of data and input from a Regional Stewardship Committee. This report will highlight where preschool needs to be expanded, and in turn will be shared with providers that apply to be Preschool Promise (PSP) providers, and inform the ELD's report submitted to the legislature to release funding for preschool expansion and determine additional slots for each community. The gaps identified in our Sector Plan will determine our outreach to recruit providers. For example, we have no PSP programs in Florence, Oakridge, and Fern Ridge. Are there providers in that community serving our priority populations to build more supply?

Will be convening the ECE Regional Stewardship Committee meeting on October 11 from 1:00-2:30.

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VII. Updates & Announcements

- 2021-22 Preschool Promise Enrollment Update: this time last year were about 60% full, this year we are nearly full with just 32 slots left out of 329. Some programs have wait lists.
 - Head Start (HS)– have about 1000 slots and are about 50% full. Processed 140 apps this weekend and only 30 were income eligible. Have 120 Early Head Start (prenatal to age 3) slots with 88 filled. Have new centers through state expansion which are home based sites in Veneta and Lowell.
 - Opportunity for PSP and HS to work closer to get access for those families that are not income eligible for one program.
 - Is there a connection between ODHS and HS to enroll families? Yes, we communicate with them so they know where we have slots to fill.
- Regional childcare stakeholder convening: meeting with those focused on economic development and child care to discuss the development of the work force.
- Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD) grant for Florence-area child care providers: \$10,000 grant that the City of Florence applied for to distribute funds to providers to upgrade materials and their classrooms. Gathering apps now, through Sept 20, and United Way will distribute funds by 10/1.
 - Later this year the ELA will partner with the City of Florence to help with distributing funds through their Community Development Block Grants to offset tuition costs for Florence families.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:13 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, October 8, 2021, 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Early Learning Alliance (ELA) Advisory Teams & Funded Programs Update

October 2021

Advisory Teams:

Early Learning Stakeholders

The Stakeholders met on 9/23. The primary agenda item was both an update and discussion on the new funding streams supporting the LaneKids work. The group shared insight into what parenting supports may be needed, populations that have been historically excluded, and suggestions for groups/orgs with which we should consider partnering.

Home Visiting Innovation Team (HVIT)

The HVIT did not meet in September, and will meet on October 18th. In the meantime, ELA staff worked with the HVIT training subcommittee to identify future training topics and disseminated a survey to narrow down options based on home visitor interest which will be reviewed in the October meeting.

Pediatric Advisory Team

The PAT met on 9/23 and discussed flagging rates of well-child visits and routine childhood immunizations. Group discussion revealed that these conversations are also taking place at the county level, and the PAT may be able to plug in to other efforts that Public Health is undertaking to support families in accessing these important medical services.

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

The Parent Advisory Council will meet next Thursday, Oct. 14th and will provide input to inform the update of our regional Early Care and Education sector plan.

Funded Programs:

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL)

In October, 1643 families were served. United Way staff met to determine a sustainable funding model for the program as the initial ELA and UW investment is spent down. DPIL fundraising will fall under UW's broader fundraising efforts, as it is aligned with the org focus on Kindergarten Readiness.

Additionally, 11 states nationally have government investment to provide half of the cost of an affiliate's program. Exploring with Eugene Public Library Foundation's Executive Director ways to build momentum with affiliates state wide to find an avenue to advocate for this funding model.

Family Resource Centers

The FRC Coordinators met on 9/13. We discussed the application and contracting process for 2021-22, and heard updates from each FRC on summer programs/activities and current plans for the year. The group welcomed new FRC/Family Support staff from the Fern Ridge School District.

Black Early Learning (Lane African American/Black Student Success Plan)

On 9/24 we had a successful family dinner night. On 10/19 we are partnering with Lane ESD African American Black student success to hold a parent night discussion via zoom. Ayanna attended my first of three meetings with Early Childhood Cares to share information about Black Early Learning and what I do, encouraging the staff to share my information with families parenting black children.

LaneKids

We continue to strategize on how best to leverage the new funding streams from the ELD and ODHS, as well as continued funding from LCPH-Prevention and OPEC-OCF. The last Stakeholders meeting included significant time in discussion on what is needed, what's missing, and ideas for new groups to partner with.

Kids in Transition to School (KITS)

The KITS summer program wrapped up in districts countywide by September. Around 400 children participated in the in-person groups, and about 200 parents joined the virtual parent group sessions. OSLC is currently working on collecting data from parents/caregivers regarding program outcomes as a part of Portland State University's KPI evaluation. KITS Kindergarten groups launched in three Bethel schools and one Eugene 4J school.

The three-year Ford Family Foundation grant to offset the cost of KITS for rural districts has come to an end, but will not impact support for district costs as the hub and Tykeson Foundation grants will continue to be available.

Preschool Promise Coordinated Enrollment

Although the 2021-22 program year has started, we are continuing to accept applications (and do all year-round). Although most of our providers are currently full, we do have vacancies in Creswell at Creslane Preschool Promise and Ellie's Preschool & Daycare. We also have vacancies at Dorena Preschool Promise, Lane Child & Family Center's second location in downtown Eugene and Mariela's Day Care in Springfield. Of our 329 awarded slots we have 114 returning students, 15 transfer students, 12 students in the eligibility process and 166 placed students, leaving us with 22 vacancies at the providers mentioned above. Please direct folks to our website for the more up to date information and access to our application: <https://www.lanekids.org/preschool-promise>.

Triple P

The Triple P team met on September 20th where we discussed how making TPOL available to all families in Lane County will impact the various roles and responsibilities on our team. We also edited the drafts of the surveys to be sent out to parents and community partners who serve families in order to gauge the need for various Triple P expansion areas.

We also began a new monthly guest blog series in which a local healthcare provider will provide information to parents and caregivers about a health-related topic. This month, Mark Buchholz, MD, FAAP, a Pediatrician and Associate Medical Director at PacificSource Community Solutions, wrote a great blog about the importance of regular well-child visits.