

Early Childhood Hub of Lane County

3171 Gateway Loop
Springfield, OR 97477
tel 541.741.6000
fax 541.726.4150

earlychildhoodlane.org

Mission: Working together to prepare children for success in school and life.

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.



Early Childhood Hub of Lane County Governance Consortium

June 9, 2023
3:00 - 4:30pm
Virtual Meeting

NOTES

Present:

Adrian Pollut, Parent Representative
Cheryl Henderson, Lane Community College
Heather Brey, Early Childhood CARES
Jacob Fox, Homes For Good
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES
Kellie DeVore, PacificSource Health Plan
Kraig Sproles, Bethel School District
Noreen Dunnells, United Way of Lane County
Sheila Wegener, Department of Human Services
Sol Granados, Parent Representative
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District
Tony Scurto, Lane Education Service District
Holly Mar-Conte, Childcare Sector Strategist
Amy Davidson, Trillium Community Health Plan
Beth Oaks, Homes For Good

Jaycob Nolte, Impact Program Coordinator
Dulce Cano,
Jessie Daher

Absent:

Becky Lamoureux, Moss St School
Brian K Johnson, Lane County Public Health
Charleen Strauch, Head Start of Lane County
Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan
John Lively, Oregon State Representative
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture
Lane Tompkins, McKenzie School District
Leslie Finlay, Relief Nursery
Melissa Ibarra, Eugene 4J School District
Todd Hamilton, Springfield Public Schools

UWLC/Hub Staff:

Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, Co-Dir Early Learning
Kris Coomes, Co-Dir Early Learning, *meeting facilitator*

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM.

II. Welcome and Introductions

III. Public Comment

IV. Consent Agenda

Approval of the May 12, 2023 meeting notes.

Action requested: Motion to approve, accept or ratify items listed on consent agenda as submitted.

Motion: Kellie DeVore motioned to approve the consent agenda.

Support: Noreen Dunnells seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

Ayes: Adrian Pollut, Jacob Fox, Judy Newman, Kraig Sproles, Sheila Wegener, Sol Granados, Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Tony Scurto **Nays:** None; **Abstentions:** Heather Brey, Cheryl Henderson

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V. Family Leadership Council Report

- Family Leadership Council did not meet this month and has nothing to report
- This will be Adrian's last meeting and we will have a new parent representative at the next meeting

VI. Partnership Opportunity with Homes for Good for larger bedroom homes

- Homes for Good wanted to share a potential partnership opportunity for different community organizations in Lane County for site based housing for 3 bedroom units
- One of the projects that Homes for Good does is Project based vouchers which are for properties that Homes for Good do not own but come to an agreement with the private landlords
- There are some developments throughout the county that they own in Springfield and Eugene, and other developments that do project-based vouchers in those areas as well as a newer development in Florence
- By opening the application to the general public, they believe there is some confusion around the requirements to qualify for a 3-bedroom apartment.
 - Their most recent round of applicants had about 120-130 people on the waitlist, and only 17% of the waitlist was eligible for that housing
- Homes for Good wants to engage with community partners to help people know what they are available for when looking for housing and create referrals to them to make the process easier for the families and Homes for Good
 - Partner referrals also give priority to people on the waitlist
- If you would like resources, materials, or trainings surrounding this or anything Homes for Good does please contact Beth: bochs@homesforgood.org

Group Discussion/Questions:

- Is there a way to convert the 3-bedrooms into smaller room counts
 - The funding to make the housing applications is competitive and if you add 3-bedroom housing you have a better chance of getting funding
- When a family is approved for a project based voucher, their rent is based on their income (roughly 30% of their income)
- Do you have MOUs in place with Head start or other orgs?
 - Yes, they do have MOUs in place with agencies and are actively trying to create more
 - Head Start, ODHS, Tribal Community in Florence, and others
- What does the relationship look like if an agency has an MOU with Homes for Good?
 - It varies from agency to agency but they would work with Beth and try to just amplify what it is that the agency already does
- Will there be childcare in some units?
 - It is all up to the owner of the property and those renting depending on risk
- Do you have any ideal partner agencies?
 - A partner that would be engaged in a longer term with the family
 - Have the resources and if needed funding necessary to deal with paperwork
 - Most ideal, available to help families with housing stability when their lease is up
- They realize not every partner will have those things and can work with them to figure out a best way that they can help
- Where should agencies who are not partnered with Homes for Good send people if they want them to fill out an application?

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- Or sending them to a partnered agency if they qualify for other care to get preferred status
 - All preference partners are listed on their website: <https://homesforgood.org/>

VII. Regional System Assessment

- The group took time to look over the different priorities to choose which area we would like to prioritize
 - Many families are unable to access existing high-quality affordable early care and education that meets their unique needs/preferences
 - Not enough supply of high-quality ECE to meet families' needs and preferences
 - Insufficient number of ECE workforce in the field who represent communities served and can deliver high-quality, safe, culturally responsive care
 - Low Wages/benefits paid to ECE Workforce
- Each person was then given three stickers or sticky notes to put on whichever issue they felt most strongly about.
 - They could put one on three different issues or all three on one
- The results of the vote were as follows:
 - Issue 1 = 3 votes
 - Issue 2 = 6 votes
 - Issue 3 = 8 votes
 - Issue 4 = 18 votes
- We will begin strategizing and planning ways we can work through this issue in the coming meetings

VIII. Updates & Announcements

- Childcare Sector Strategist and Quality Care Connection Update
 - Brought up to funding for the Business Accelerator funding with the group and it did not work out but met with a private funder and they are going to fund Lane County's program as well as an additional two counties in Oregon
 - Rural Development initiative in Cottage Grove to recruit and support new childcare and had the initial training and one QCC staff followed up and they are now first aid and CPR certified with a cohort of all Spanish speakers
 - There is a childcare feasibility study in our area that would have the capabilities to bring childcare to many families
 - In June offer a training to let people be licensed exempt in Florence for childcare
 - Eugene Child Development Closed for good recently
- Relevant and Related Early Childhood Legislation
 - The DELC did not apply for a federal PDG grant so that money was going to go towards coordinated enrollment in PSP there was a huge outcry and a lot of conversations they managed to find the money elsewhere
 - All other funding for early learning looks stable in the budget
 - There is an increase in amount for PSP but not for slots
 - DELC is going to launch July 1st regardless of anything in response to funding
 - Early Literacy Bill and Early learning money in there too with a discussion of how to distribute it
 - Schools have pushed back because that funding is coming out of the student success bill
 - They are opposing the bill for now until they find other money

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- Early learning and Special ed has have had multiple numbers floating around and there is hope that that money will be fixed by the end of the budgeting session
- Trillium
 - Trillium's community benefits initiative is opening their applications for funding under 200,000
 - Applications are due by July 31st
 - Over 200,000 awardees will be announced July 1st
 - Link: <https://www.trilliumohp.com/supporting-oregon-communities/community-benefit-initiatives.html>

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, August 11, 2023, 3:00 – 4:30 PM