

## Lane Early Learning Alliance

3171 Gateway Loop  
Springfield, OR 97477  
tel 541.741.6000  
fax 541.726.4150

earlylearningalliance.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.



### Lane Early Learning Alliance Governance Consortium

January 8, 2021

3:00-5:00pm

Virtual Meeting

#### NOTES

##### Present:

Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County  
Theya Joslin, Quality Care Connections  
Jeanine Taylor, Early Childhood CARES  
Lynne Grilley, Parenting Now  
Tony Scurto, Lane Education Service District  
Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan  
Chris Parra, Bethel School District  
Marian Blankenship, Pacific Source Health Plans  
Jacob Fox, Homes For Good  
George Russell, Community Leader  
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture  
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES  
Cheryl Henderson, Lane Community College  
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District  
Todd Hamilton, Springfield Public Schools  
Noreen Dunnells, United Way of Lane County

##### Absent:

John Lively, Oregon State Representative  
John Radich, Department of Human Services  
Reta Doland, Oakridge School District  
Karen Gaffney, Lane County  
Jocelyn Warren, Lane County Health & Human Services

##### Guest:

Brooke Wagner, 4J School District

##### UWLC/ELA Staff:

Michelle Hjelm, Preschool Promise Coordinated Enrollment Specialist  
Bess Jayme, Director of Education, **meeting facilitator**  
Ayanna Moriguchi, Early Learning Specialist  
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 Jacob Fox, Executive Director, Homes For Good. Darcy Phillips has stepped down from her role on the Governance Consortium.

#### III. Public Comment

No comments were made.

#### IV. Consent Agenda Approval of the December 11, 2020 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:** John Stapleton motioned to approve the consent agenda.

**Support:** Lynne Grilley seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

**Ayes:** Noreen Dunnells, Annie Soto, Theya Joslin, Jeanine Taylor, Tony Scurto, Debi Farr, Chris Parra, Marian Blankenship, Jacob Fox, George Russell, Judy Newman, Cheryl Henderson, Tina Gutierrez-Schmich.

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

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### V. 2021 Legislative Session: Early Learning Priorities

Bess provided an update on Early Learning Division's (ELD) legislative concepts and policy option packages (POPs) that will be presented in the legislature session. See 'ELD Legislative Agenda.pdf' for further details.

#### Budget note update

Early Learning Division is submitting a report in response to the budget note about the feasibility of consolidating Early Learning Hubs and Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&Rs). They are not going to make that recommendation to consolidate these agencies. An exciting part of the report is the development of a theory of change which encapsulates the work of the hubs, their impact and outcomes they are driving for.

#### Lobbying efforts

Group approved participation in and funding for a lobbyist to help members understand the role of hubs as system builders and implementers. Working with Eames Consultation, have held meetings with legislators around the state before the session starts, and teeing up asks to prevent the cut to hub funding. Hubs are being included in the ELD's advocacy work through meetings with ELD staff to get messaging in sync for legislative session.

#### Advocacy to the legislature given COVID restrictions

Are there tools you will use to get people to meet with reps or provide testimony?

Head Start: The Oregon Head Start Association has legislative visiting days in February that will be done virtually.

Eugene 4J School District had legislative breakfast. It was easier for parents to participate that have internet access, since they don't have to drive to Salem. But it does feel more flat than an in-person visit.

ELA Parent Advisory Council (PAC): Will do an advocacy 101 with PAC members at next meeting. If you are seeking to engage parents in the community around advocacy let Bess know and she is happy to do outreach to partner agencies and PAC members.

### VI. Preparation for the 2021-22 School Year

Updates and predictions from School Districts on the likelihood of in-person instruction for any remaining part of this year and next fall. And, what sustained changes might families expect?

#### Reopening 20-21

- Waiting for an announcement January 19<sup>th</sup> on the updated metrics for K-12 to help with planning.
- Springfield:
  - o When the metrics allow us to, we will open up for elementary grades.
  - o Understanding when educators will receive the vaccine. Have a plan to provide vaccines and are ready to do that. Large school districts are able to help smaller districts to get staff vaccinated.
- Staffing will be critical to every district reopening. Will need to reconfigure classrooms. 40% of families in Bethel want to remain online so will have to create new classrooms.
- How quickly can kids get back in buildings from when we get metrics to opening up classrooms?
  - o Around 3 weeks for 4J. Want to make sure kids and teachers are able to connect and meet each other before the hybrid class starts.
  - o Adding in those teachers who may want vaccinated first, it could extend the timeline.
- There will be differences in how districts approach going back, for smaller districts they see the numbers in their community and if they are smaller they would be more likely to go back to a hybrid model.

#### Kindergarten

- We are missing a huge number of kindergarteners this year so need help with spreading the word about enrollment coming up since this will impact staffing and budgeting.
- School choice and Kinder registration will start again February and March.
- Head Start will have 500 students entering Kinder this fall.
- ELA has some funding leftover for school readiness, so if a school district needs funding for community outreach to get kids enrolled this fall, please let Bess know.

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### School-aged Care

- Childcare workforce has adapted to providing full time care to kids doing distance learning, so childcare is going to be an issue for those families that want their kids to be in hybrid model.
  - o Students that are doing their off-week distance learning would need care every other week.
  - o Will need after school care since the in-person school program is not a full day.
- Concerned that a lot of family childcare programs will go out of business when hybrid learning starts.

### Early Childhood

- Early Childhood CARES and Head Start will come up with different scenarios for fall.
- Head Start will need to lay off people soon because have not been able to open up the number of classrooms expected.
- EC CARES trying to find more kids, since referrals are down 20%. Have increased service levels for families, so have hired staff using Student Success Act funding. When reopen classrooms will not do a hybrid model.

What are things the ELA can be doing **right now** to help families get their children ready to enter kindergarten or head back to school?

- ELA staff have talked about putting together a kinder transition packet for families, and will bring this idea to the ELA PAC to find out what they would want as parents. Will reach out to districts to find out how we could get these to families.
- Ready4K – could this be provided to families? Ready4K has moved to a model where an entity enrolls the families they serve by uploading family's phone numbers. The ELA does not have access to family information so have not pursued enrolling families.
- Social Emotional aspect of going back to school is another important component that will need to be addressed.

## VII. Family Engagement Coordinator

The ELA is interested in developing a new bilingual/bicultural position dedicated to engaging directly with families and centering their voice in our work. Possible responsibilities include coordinating the ELA PAC and supporting Spanish speaking families interested in Preschool Promise. There is some room in the hub budget and through Preschool Promise Coordinated enrollment that could fund the position.

What would you like to see a person in this position do?

- Is the role someone who would refer families to other programs?
  - o Yes, would be a lot of resource referral.
  - o Want to connect with families and hear what they need, so getting input and providing support.
  - o That people will not continue on with that person
- Have someone providing one-on-one support to family's needs is different from a programmatic person.
- Having a family resource navigator at the hub to do the types of things most program can't do, to walk families through accessing services could be helpful.
- There is a point at which programs aren't able to provide the amount of help families need
- Maybe that person could help direct some specific projects and work with the Governance Consortium and ELA PAC to move those forward.
- If also wanting someone to engage the Latinx community, you are now adding a lot of different tasks to their work in.
- Who are their partners, who are they engaging if they are doing this specific cultural work? Are they doing engagement with the Latinx community? Or are they doing broader family engagement?
- If wanting a person to connect with Spanish speaking families, that is a lot more time than folks think it is. It takes developing relationships.
- Can the ELA work with an existing agency, like Centro and Downtown Languages, that has connections with the specific communities we are wanting to do outreach to, instead of creating a position?

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### VIII. Early Learning Programs Enrollment Update

#### Preschool Promise:

- Still enrolling for this current program year, currently at 67% capacity. Do not yet know what next program year will look like. Doing a second round of targeted outreach through social media.
- Received contract for this next year which will help us maintain our Coordinated Enrollment Specialist.

#### Head Start:

- Have vacancies in all of our classrooms, but attendance has been strong.
- Working on getting health services up in January.

#### Early Childhood CARES:

- Serving about 1100 students.

### IX. Other Updates/Announcements

- ELA Parent Advisory Council: Next meeting is January 14<sup>th</sup>. Families can learn more and express interest in joining by visiting the ELA PAC page in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
- Hub Monitoring Report – sent information to the Governance Consortium with the hub system wide report for 2017-2019. If interested in learning about other hubs around the state, there is a summary which is an interesting read.

### X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:51 pm.