

Lane Early Learning Alliance

3171 Gateway Loop
Springfield, OR 97477
tel 541.741.6000
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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
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