

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

March 11, 2022

3:00-4:30pm

Virtual Meeting

NOTES

Present:

John Lively, Oregon State Representative
Noreen Dunnells, United Way of Lane County
Adrian Pollut, Parent Representative
Cheryl Henderson, Lane Community College
Nina Watkins, Parent Representative
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES
Jeanine Taylor, Early Childhood CARES
Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan
Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County
Leslie Finlay, Relief Nursery
Sheila Wegener, Department of Human Services
Marian Blankenship, Pacific Source Health Plans
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture
Jacob Fox, Homes For Good

Absent:

Melissa Ibarra, Eugene 4J School District
Reta Doland, Oakridge School District

Karen Gaffney, Lane County
Jocelyn Warren, Lane County Health & Human Services
Tony Scurto, Lane Education Service District
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District
Todd Hamilton, Springfield Public Schools
Kraig Sproles, Bethel School District

UWLC/ELA Staff:

Claire Hambly, Dir ELA, *meeting facilitator*
Holly Mar Conte, Chief Strategy Officer
Adriana Medina Garcia, Bilingual Family Engagement Coordinator
Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, Dir Early Learning Strat.
Joslyn Vargas, Marketing & Communications Mgr.
Emily Reiter, Education Program Coordinator
Yajaira Guzman, Preschool Promise Coordinated Enrollment Specialist

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 PM.

II. Welcome and Introductions

III. Public Comment

No comments were made.

IV. Consent Agenda

Approval of the February 11, 2022 meeting notes with requested edit, "LCC in process of hiring additional faculty member in ECE". Acknowledge receipt of written reports from ELA Advisory Groups and Innovation Teams, Lane AABSS, Preschool Promise, KITS, and LaneKids.

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

Motion: Noreen Dunnells motioned to approve the consent agenda.

Support: Cheryl Henderson seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

Ayes: Adrian Pollut, Nina Watkins, Judy Newman, Jeanine Taylor, Debi Farr, Annie Soto, Leslie Finlay, John Lively, Sheila Wegener, Marian Blankenship, John Stapleton, Jacob Fox

Nays: None; **Abstentions:** None

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V. Family Leadership Council report

The March FLC agenda included:

- Johanis Tadeo, Program Organizer for SAfER (Springfield Alliance for Equity and Respect), provided insight on their work with schools and police. SAfER helps families be heard, connect with administration staff, access resources. Families are made aware of school board meetings and their right to speak at these meetings.
- Claire Hambly spoke about family support program funding. The ELA is re-evaluating how these funds are being used and are starting the conversation with the FLC. Participants gave suggestions for where these kinds of programs might be better accessed in communities where the school-based FRC's aren't being utilized.

VI. Publicly Funded PreK Programs in the News

Judy Newman received questions and heard a lot of conversation generated by the NPR article, [A top researcher says it's time to rethink our entire approach to preschool](#), which indicates poorer outcomes for some children who attended publicly funded preschool programs.

Group Discussion

- Early Learning sometimes seen as a silver bullet, this article addresses complications, how we teach kids
- Also relates to parent choice; supporting parents to make the best decisions about how their child is spending their time; matching families with the right program.
- Middle class kids vs free programs: how much of the difference is because of all the other issues that go along with being in a low-income family; lack of basic needs will negatively impact the outcome.
- Hesitant to roll education further downstream (formal classroom for 4 and 5 year olds); one model doesn't fit all; how do we make sure there's enough opportunity for kids to learn the social skills that are less developed when they're in a formal classroom.
- There are many great preschool models across the country; role of the parent is important – parents as partners, talk about what goals they have for their child, for themselves, get input into learning goals; start with a strengths-based approach. We have great resources in our community and parents sometimes need support in accessing these.
- PSP, Head Start, Early Head Start have no/low cost but are still high quality
- Oregon is doing some things right in early learning (play, movement) that will influence the system; less kids being expelled from Kindergarten
- Mixed delivery: have kids of all different income levels, backgrounds that could be educated together
- Even the Tenn. kids were doing better when they entered school
- Agreed, the kids were more ready for Kinder, it's not surprising that they weren't doing as well in 6th grade when they come from low-income families; need supports in 6-12; not fair to summarize that much research in such a short article.
- Role of transition time: how much time is lost, inability to play, use their bodies; idea around control- so much external control when the kids didn't learn internal control.
 - o Sometimes the class structure can minimize transition time; we're putting kids in spaces that don't work for early learning (ex: walking kids down the hall, to the playground); research community is digging deeper.
 - o Research at Brain Lab at UofO: kids exposed to music, dance and then do MRI; the most successful intervention was when home and school were congruent (same reinforcements at home and at school)- importance of parent being involved in the education; bulk of time still spent at home.
- Classrooms are heavily managed, adult systems- is there something we as a group want to say more broadly in response to this article? To address the take-away that preschool doesn't matter.
 - o Might be something to do in the future if there are consequences from this article
 - o UWLC staff and hub can have an influence in helping bring the voice of caution when it comes to state-funded early learning; outcomes for BIPOC students, lack of family engagement- a lot we can learn from what K-12 has struggled with; difficult to be flexible/responsive; the hub needs to continue to speak to that.
 - PSP has moved closer to a K-12 model

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- Early learning is also about families and not just the child

VII. Hub Work Plan

Claire Hambly gave an update on progress with the 2021-23 ELA work plan. UWLC staff have been working on the hub work plan. Raise Up Oregon is the strategic early learning plan for the state. The three goals are:

- Children arrive ready for Kindergarten
- Children are raised in stable and attached families
- The early learning system is aligned, coordinated, and family-centered

Claire shared the draft version of the hub work plan. We want the work plan to be reflective of the work that's happening (realistic but aspirational).

- Goal 1, objective 4: Early childhood physical and social emotional health promotion and prevention is increased
 - o Strategy: Strengthen coordination among early care and education, health, and housing to promise health and safety for young children
- Thoughts on strategies to include? Other ways to approach this?
- City of Eugene is making a 3-acre site available, Homes for Good may develop there, could be early learning facility; old Eugene library is vacant
- (John S) working with students building transitional housing; working with transitional housing folks, wonder if there are early learning folks that can get involved
- Including spaces in common areas where parents could get connected to services, esp. for parents of young kids
- Multi service of wrap around services
- More partnerships with early learning and childcare; new potential site down the street from Early Childhood CARES

Claire to share the work plan out with the group, will be a working document; just got the hub contract two days ago.

VIII. Updates & Announcements

- Hub Grant Agreement, budget, and new funding stream: will present overview at the next meeting; new funding stream, will need to do some thinking around how to invest those "Children and families involved or on the cusp of involvement with child welfare"; will pull together subcommittee to plan how to use these funds; Claire will reach out to folks to join subcommittee.
- Preschool Promise Regional Stewardship Committee: as the hub, we're charged with facilitating local coordinated enrollment planning by collaborating with families, QCC, Head Start PSP providers, Early Childhood CARES, and others – brought this group together and had conversations about enrollment.
 - o Looked at data for families who had completed applications, what increases do we want for priority populations
 - o Goal setting: increasing priority populations; lead to conversation about provider capacity to serve families (larger % of kids with an IFSP = providers needing support)
 - o Beyond RSC, interest to expand PSP; up to 2500 across the state; what local capacity is there to serve families; sent out survey to providers – ¾ said they were interested in expansion, reported potential slots; lead another conversation around work force – is there enough staff to fill this need? Hoping to see request for application from the state soon.
 - o Any questions? Reach out to Michelle Sheng-Palmisano
- KITS Funding for Biennium: Early learning hub invested in KITS for years through federal funding received in 2015; when we lost that funding, provided a tiered level of funding and districts found funds from other sources; now we no longer have School Readiness stream, have significantly less funds for the program
 - o Having conversations with districts about reduced funding, how they will fill the gap moving forward, hub still committed to 5K per group; will continue to support Oregon Social Learning Center
 - o Hoping that districts are building into the budget for future years and hub funds could be used elsewhere.
 - o Questions or comments?

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- The goal has been for districts to take this on, exciting that districts are starting to see the importance and have other funding for it
- UWLC applied for federal ear marks to expand KITS last fall- didn't make it but there were other similar programs around the country that did
 - Didn't make it through appropriations committee, but laid the groundwork, built relationships to go back and apply again – who should apply? OSLC?

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, April 8, 2022, 3:00 – 4:30 PM