

## Early Childhood Hub of Lane County

3171 Gateway Loop  
Springfield, OR 97477  
tel 541.741.6000  
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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

April 14, 2023  
3:00 - 4:30pm  
Virtual Meeting

#### NOTES

##### Present:

Adrian Pollut, Parent Representative  
Noreen Dunnells, United Way of Lane County  
Sheila Wegener, Department of Human Services  
Kellie DeVore, PacificSource Health Plan  
Tony Scurto, Lane Education Service District  
Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan  
Sol Granados, Parent Representative  
Charleen Strauch, Head Start of Lane County  
Cheryl Henderson, Lane Community College  
Kraig Sproles, Bethel School District  
Todd Hamilton, Springfield Public Schools  
Melissa Ibarra, Eugene 4J School District  
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District  
Holly Mar-Conte, Childcare Sector Strategist

##### UWLC/Hub Staff:

Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, Co-Dir Early Learning

Kris Coomes, Co-Dir Early Learning, *meeting facilitator*

Jaycob Nolte, Impact Program Coordinator  
Adriana Medina, Bilingual Family Engagement Coordinator  
Emilyn Bell, Resource Development Coordinator  
Jessie Daher, Preschool Promise Coordinated Enrollment Manager

##### Absent:

John Lively, Oregon State Representative  
Jacob Fox, Homes For Good  
Leslie Finlay, Relief Nursery  
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture  
Lane Tompkins, McKenzie School District  
Ilana Jakubowski, First Place Kids  
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES  
Brian K Johnson, Lane County Public Health

#### I. Call to Order

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

#### II. Welcome and Introductions

#### III. Public Comment

#### IV. Consent Agenda

Approval of the March 10, 2022 meeting notes.

**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:** Tony Scurto seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

**Ayes:** Adrian Pollut, Sheila Wegener, Kellie DeVore, Debi Farr, Sol Granados, Charleen Strauch, Cheryl Henderson, Kraig Sproles, Todd Hamilton **Nays:** None; **Abstentions:** None

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### V. Family Leadership Council Report

- Parent representative Adrian Pollut and Sol shared a report about the Family Leadership Council Meeting
- They discussed the Regional Systems Assessment root causes that were highlighted, and after some group analysis they determined what should be prioritized for the first three issues
- Then in the second half of the meeting Dana Hepper came to help parents develop their stories so that they could talk with legislators about upcoming bills affecting early childhood care and education
  - In the end they planned a meeting to meet with legislatures at the United Way of Lane County building

### VI. Regional Systems Assessment (RSA)

- For this conversation the group will be split into breakout groups and each breakout group will look at one barrier that has been identified
  - Each group will then select 3-5 root causes of the issue that they believe to be the most impactful
- The Regional Systems Assessment has been going on for about a year now
  - The main goal of the assessment is to identify barriers and develop strategies to reduce these in the hope to make early childhood care and education more accessible for all
- The big themes for the Regional Systems Assessment are:
  - Issue 1: Many families are unable to access ECE
  - Issue 2: Not enough high quality ECE slots that meet families' needs/preferences
  - Issue 3: Not enough ECE workforce who represent communities served and can deliver high quality care
    - Most childcare settings are at 70% capacity because they don't have enough staff to fill the slots available
  - Issue 4: Low wages and benefits paid to ECE workforce
    - Market Failure in the ECE business model (operational costs are more than market/subsidy rate)
      - Most childcare settings profit of margin is 1-2%
    - Lack of sufficient, sustainable investment into ECE as an essential community infrastructure from government, business, and institutions at all levels
- The root causes of these issues can fall into three buckets
  - Regional Root Causes (Our focus today)
  - Broader System Root Causes (Policy outside of the regional level)
  - ELD operational root causes (ELD is working to address these internally)

#### Group Discussion:

- Issue 1: Many Families are unable to access Early Childhood Care
  - Society does not value childcare
  - Lack of Paid Parental Leave
  - No centralized system to know what Childcare is available
  - Educating Parents on policies and Procedures on how childcare centers are created to have a better understanding of licensure
- Issue 2: Not enough Early Childhood education slots that meet family's needs
  - Even if families have ERDC there aren't enough providers that accept it
  - ECE staff need training to make environments accessible for children with IFSPs or ways to set up environments to help students with big behaviors
  - There are a limited number of existing facilities, and there are very high barriers into creating new facilities for ECE

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- Issue 3: Not enough early childhood education workforce
  - Not enough training, support and implementation of best practices/universal supports for the success of all young children.
  - There IS CTE in schools, but formalized pathways and institutions don't exist for child care/early learning providers
  - Lack of incentives to enter the field and awareness of opportunities in the field
- Issue 4: Low Wages/ Market Failure/ Lack of sufficient, sustainable investment into early childhood education
  - Childcare is a type of small business that has not been supported by the government, and is not seen as an area that employers or larger systems traditionally would make an investment in.
- The education of parents to
  - Families didn't feel like 211 answered their needs. They want to know location, how many openings and cost. They specifically said that they didn't feel that 211 gave them the information they needed.
- Next steps is to choose an issue and then choose a couple of coot causes to then
- Improve wages and benefits then it will improve a bunch of things as well

### VII. Updates & Announcements

- Raise Up Oregon: Housing Sector
  - The Hub asked for feedback and input to give to the state to help develop the next round of RUO
  - Many of the items in RUO are an overlap in the work for the Regional Systems assessment and we went our own route in having these conversations
  - We have had conversations that felt meaningfully, and worked with Judy who talked with Homes for Good, John Stapleton, SVDP, and Cornerstone Family Housing on how they see the landscape of housing and ECE connecting
  - We also had conversations with our early learning stakeholders and our family resource center coordinators to get their views
  - Locally we have a lot to think about and are looking at all of the feedback given and developing next steps

### VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:35pm.

**NEXT MEETING: Friday, May 12, 2023, 3:00 – 4:30 PM**

## Early Childhood Hub of Lane County Advisory Teams & Funded Programs Update May 2023

### Advisory Teams:

#### **Early Learning Stakeholders**

In our April meeting we discussed how we could make the meetings more engaging. It was suggested that we use some time each meeting for a “brainstorming” session, so that we can support each other when agencies have issues or we need to collectively work towards something. We also heard from Tami Stebbeds from CASA as well as Marcia Koenig from the PASS program at LCC. We discussed needing a new stakeholder representative for the Governance Consortium and an ask will go out to the entire stakeholder community.

#### **Pediatric Advisory Team**

In April the Pediatric Advisory Team heard from Kristina Rogers, Senior Traditional Health Worker Liaison with Trillium. Kristina spoke about ILOS, In Lieu of Services which is a pilot program that Trillium offers in Oregon designed to offer additional support to members such as; peer and qualified mental health services, community health workers, diabetes prevention and lactation consultants.

#### **Family Leadership Council (FLC)**

This month the FLC provided feedback on the Regional System Assessment (RSA). Dana Hepper joined us again to prepare parents for our meeting in May where we will have conversations with our local legislators at the UW office, our first in-person FLC meeting. Also, this month Sol Granados joined the Governance Consortium as a FLC representative. What a memorable meeting thanks to her phenomenal advocacy!

### Funded Programs:

#### **Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library (DPIL)**

In April, our affiliate provided books to 1879 families. Our affiliate is currently reaching 50% of the eligible children in our coverage area which consists of most of the rural zip codes in Lane County.

#### **Family Resource Centers**

In April, the Family Resource coordinators heard from Tami Stebbeds with Casa of Lane County, who spoke about Child Abuse Prevention Month and being a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for children. Michelle Sheng-Palmisano also talked about Raise Up Oregon and where affordable housing could intersect with child care. Kris had site visits at both Fern Ridge FRC and 4J FRC.

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

42 families signed up for 22/23 school year

41 people are in the private Facebook group for parents of black kids 0-6 in Lane County.

80 people receiving Weekly Newsletter going to receive weekly newsletter email

[blackearlylearning@unitedwaylane.org](mailto:blackearlylearning@unitedwaylane.org)

Home visits continue which include the delivery of some educational toys purchased by Lane AABSS

Playgroups at Bethel Family Resource Center Tuesdays at 3:30-5:30

Lane AABSS Parent Advisory meeting 4th Mondays. Parents have funds allocated to spend from ODE, they have decided to request funds to provide scholarships for summer activities, provide scholarships for parent mental health activities, and a camping trip/retreat for families

Relief Nursery DEI committee

Partnership with Adventure Children Museum continues on 3rd Thursdays expanded to all BIPOC children

Summer Calendar coming soon

### Recent events

Playgroups Tuesdays 4/11 4/18 4/25

OMSI/ZOO Trip 4/8 replacement trip because of snow if February

Step Africa 4/15 Lane AABSS has tickets and students will get to do a meet and great

Adventure Children Museum 4/20

## **Upcoming Events**

5/9 5/16 5/23 and 5/30 Play groups

5/13 Mother's Day Tea LCC BSU/G.O.R.I.T.

5/18 Adventure Children's Museum play date

5/20 Culture Club H.O.N.E.Y.

6/8 Black Graduation

Date TBD Coast Field trip

Date TBD Little Mermaid

## **Kids in Transition to School (KITS)**

Planning for the next program year continues, with most 2022 KITS implementation partners communicating they will provide the program in the summer of 2023.

OSLC continues outreach and recruitment for the KITS At Home program made available to families living in non-participating KITS districts.

## **Preschool Promise Coordinated Enrollment**

Preschool Promise closed the 22-23 application/enrollment on May 1. The team is busy working on getting ready for 23-24 and hope to have the application available to families by June 1. Our 23-24 interest list is open on our website <https://www.earlychildhoodlane.org/preschool-promise>

## **Parenting Education**

Parenting Now has been awarded the contract for Triple P, beginning July 1, 2023. The Early Child Hub will continue to be a part of the implementation team, consult with Parenting Now as needed and continue to support Triple P parenting education being offered to non-OHP families.

## **Child Care Sector Strategist**

### **Child Care Media Campaign**

Onward Eugene, in partnership with our local Child Care Resource and Referral agency (CCR&R): Quality Care Connections (QCC) at Lane Community College and CCR&R agencies across Oregon, is working with Madison Avenue Collective to develop a child care media campaign. This campaign will convey the importance of accessible, quality early learning and child care while also amplifying the work of local CCR&Rs and promoting opportunities for careers in the child care field. This campaign will be designed to launch in Lane County but with the potential to scale across Oregon.

### **Florence Convening**

A cross-sector group in Florence meets monthly to develop child care strategies for the Florence community. At their most recent meeting, the group heard an update about First Step Florence's plans to build a 40 unit transition housing development that would include a 2,000 square foot child care space on the ground floor. This group is also exploring options to build capacity to support child care-related efforts.

### **South Lane Partnerships**

Partners in South Lane continue to meet to identify needs and opportunities related to child care. Currently, there are several potential facility spaces and several providers interested in expanding their programs. Partners are hosting a convening this month to further map out and align opportunities, including resources needed to move forward.