

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

March 10, 2023

3:00 - 4:30pm

Virtual Meeting

NOTES

Present:

Adrian Pollut, Parent Representative
Leslie Cooper Parsons, Head Start of Lane County
Noreen Dunnells, United Way of Lane County
Holly Mar-Conte, Childcare Sector Strategist
Sheila Wegener, Department of Human Services
Ilana Jakubowski, First Place Kids
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES
Brian K Johnson, Lane County Public Health
Kellie DeVore, PacificSource Health Plan
Tony Scurto, Lane Education Service District
Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan
Sue Wilson, Superintendent of Maple

UWLC/ELA Staff:

Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, Co-Dir Early Learning,
meeting facilitator
Kris Coomes, Co-Dir Early Learning
Jaycob Nolte, Impact Program Coordinator

Jessie Daher, Preschool Promise Coordinated
Enrollment Manager

Absent:

John Lively, Oregon State Representative
Jacob Fox, Homes For Good
Melissa Ibarra, Eugene 4J School District
Leslie Finlay, Relief Nursery
Kraig Sproles, Bethel School District
Todd Hamilton, Springfield Public Schools
Nicole Desch, Onward Eugene
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture
Lane Tompkins, McKenzie School District
Cheryl Henderson, Lane Community College
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District
Charleen Strauch, Head Start of Lane County

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 PM.

II. Welcome and Introductions

III. Public Comment

IV. Consent Agenda

Approval of the February 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: Judy Newman seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

Ayes: Adrian Pollut, Leslie Cooper Parsons, Holly Mar-Conte, Sheila Wegner, Ilana Jakubowski, Brian Johnson, Kellie DeVore, Tony Scurto, Debi Farr **Nays:** None; **Abstentions:** None

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V. Family Leadership Council Report

- Parent representative Adrian Pollut discussed the most recent Family Leadership Council meeting which was more of a check-up to determine how the FLC is feeling about advocacy and what has been discussed at past meetings
- Afterwards there was discussion and early planning for the FLCs summer celebration which is looking like it may be a camping trip
- Over the past couple of sessions there has been an increase in membership
- The idea was also brought up of using the FLC to show solidarity for members in our group when a member may want to take something to the school board, the rest of the group will attend so they know that they are not alone.

VI. Funding Requests to the Hub: Part II

- Last month the GC talked about a process to grant funds from Hub reserves and as there was no transparent way to review the application and a committee was formed last session to draft a process for the coming years
 - This process is attached to the notes
- Some major themes that came out of the committee was that there would be a small application process and the funds would only be available to already funded partners since it is both limited funding and to reduce the number of applicants
- There will be a yearly subcommittee for this process that would be made up of one hub staff member and two Governance Consortium Members

Group Discussion/Questions

- What happens with conflicts of interest?
 - To be involved in the process and committee for this process you cannot have conflict of interests with agencies applying for funding
 - Ilana discussed that as someone who represents an agency that would have a conflict of interest, I support the notion for government consortium members who is also a funded provider to be excluded for the decision making sub-committee.
- Could we create a priority matrix or separate the funds evenly across all agencies that apply
 - Wanted to stay away from priority matrices so as to not make there being further barriers for partners to receive funding
 - The way funding is distributed may be looked at differently depending on how much funding is available as a \$5,000 award and a \$50,000 award are very different and would impact agencies differently
 - Potentially having different criteria based on the amount of the award
 - There was discussion around if we were to spread the funds evenly it may create further barriers for organizations
- On the process document it originally states that the funding will be distributed randomly across available agencies and there was talk about incorporating both that and spread funding approaches depending on the amount of money as well
- A question was asked if "Can that be part of the application process? Ask the org applying if they could use less than asked?"
 - The process could show a range of funding and have narrative components of what would be done with the lower and higher amounts
- Operationalizing it, would it be appropriate, to show how many awards we expect to award so if there are more than listed agencies applying that they know they may not receive the money, to keep it realistic
- Sometimes there is a delay in funding and could we incorporate risk reduction so that awards are only discussed to make this funding contingent on actually getting the hub funding

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- Yes and all awards that are already given out has this information already listed on the awards
- And eventually if there is more money awarded than we thought there would be the hub could retroactively fund possible partner agencies that were not funded
- **Next Steps:**
 - Hub leaders will combine the feedback given today and make updates to the process
 - Michelle Sheng-Palmisano will talk with UWLC CFO's to find out the dollar amount that may be able to discuss the funding available to get the ball rolling and potentially get funding out this year

VII. Raise Up Oregon (RUO): Housing Sector

- Present and discuss goals, activities, and next steps on gathering input for RUO version 2
- Making this a little bit more manageable to make sure we are not doing extra work that is already being conducted and contacting agencies in the field to make sure we can consolidate efforts
- Three distinct categories of strategies were created from last meetings notes:
 - Expanded the number of sites where there is co-location of services and supports: In current facilities and locations and create and build new locations and sites.
 - Partners: DHS, Public Health, parenting programs, navigators, Food for lane county, health care and behavioral health services (Include representatives from potential sites as identified)
 - Increase successful access to services and supports by improving and expanding meaningful ways to connect families/children to them
 - Partners: McKinny Vento Liasons, New position housing navigator at HSLC, Catholic Human services, Sheltercare, Willamette Family Treatment, 15th night, First place kids
 - Expand and increase services, supports and resources: childcare providers and facilities, food, housing and climate preparedness
 - Partners: Homes for good, cornerstone, SVDP, Pivot architecture, QCC, Onward, Trillium and PacificSource (1115 Medicaid Waiver)
- Questions for community partners:
 - What is happening now related to #1 and #2/3 depending on which group
 - Ask each agency what information/data/surveys they have on families or parents or people in general. If they have it, can they share it with us?
 - What information from families or parents or people would be useful to your work?
 - Do you have suggestions for possible sites for co-location of services? Such as: community centers, schools, early learning centers, housing sites, churches, or synagogues, etc.
 - What of these strategies do you think are most urgent/important?
 - Which strategies do you think are most achievable and why? (such as has there been groundwork and planning or funding, etc)
 - Are you willing to engage in joint planning?
 - How do we best include and involve Tribal Affairs Coordinators locally?

Group Discussion

- Lane county will be submitting the strategy for emergency declaration on homelessness 18 and 20 million
 - Called All-in and voted and submitted strategies, there are wrap-around services and prevention piece that fit with this work and if some of those funds could be directed towards these

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- Group responsible called the MACC
 - Kate bud is leading it
- Here's an online article with a link to the draft plan:
https://www.dailyemerald.com/news/lane-county-to-accept-around-20-million-from-state-to-address-homelessness/article_9709ca66-bead-11ed-b6a7-f7b41febd0d4.html
- Sue has just met with Confederated tribes of Coos, Umpqua and Siuslaw about their highest needs and housing was one of their top issues
 - Tribal affairs coordinators may be a good start to make these connections and get their input
 - There are four of the nine federally recognized tribes that have members services in lane county
- There was talk about potential listening sessions for the tribes and could be a good point to collaborate with other agencies to not have a lot of listening sessions but make them intentional and compensate individuals for their time to not burn out individuals
- Lots of opportunity on a local level to look at the CCO data with child level health with the social emotional health metric and the community information exchange in terms of connecting families to services
 - The waiver around housing is for a prescribed population and so we are still somewhat unsure of what that is going to look like but for any updates that will be brought back to the group
 - Health care is going into the social determinates of health and it makes sense to try and bring it together somehow and while we have different reporting bodies we may be able to all report the same information as we find it out together in collaborative ways
- St. Vincent de Paul and First Place Kids is uniquely poised to support this project, as they are already co-located with early education services within our family shelter and are also a big provider for the unhoused community. Ilana stated she is more than happy to help
- We are very focused on community integration and also want to be involved in any way
- This project is coming from the Early Learning Division
 - Can use this process to inform how we can work in Lane County in these efforts
 - I think it was included, but Homes for Good is working on a large project in Florence and just hosted a community session regarding this work.

VIII. Group Agreements

- Present draft of group agreements developed by hub staff and discuss potential value for Governance Consortium meeting
- Last Year the education team started discussing group agreements
 - They are rules/intentions/guidelines on how we interact with each other
 - How do we start from a beginning point on how we expect to bring ourselves to these conversations
- And looking to this group to see if we have established or would like to establish group agreements in our GC meetings
- Looked at the draft agreements from last year as well as other agencies (OPEC) and had a great conversation around
 - Took those agreements and prior draft agreements where everyone identified the top 5 that were relevant to each other
- These are still draft agreements that were shared and will be further refined and streamlined to get rid of redundancies that are in there
- They fell into 3 different buckets
 - Be Present
 - Be Responsible

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- And a third unnamed bucket with leftover agreements
- Would the GC like to adopt a set of group agreements?
 - Would we like to adopt the agreements that the education team has or create one that is unique to our group

Group Discussion

- What does this mean looking at accountability?
- Do others use group agreements?
 - Brian likes the idea because it shows the culture of the group that new people might be going into when members change
- Would it be better to do a group agreement process with the GC or would you want to adopt the agreements that come from the ed team?
 - Would be good to see the final version of the Ed teams agreements and then add input to potentially change this to make it work for the GC so as to not start from scratch
- Next Steps:
 - Group agreements will be refined by the education team and then will bring these back to the bigger group

IX. Updates & Announcements

- Hub Advocacy Day (Kris/Michelle)
 - Kris and Michelle joined other hub leaders last Wednesday at the capital to advocate for bills surrounding early learning
 - Advocacy day was a day to meet with representatives and talk with them about the bills affecting hubs and early childhood care
 - They met with five different legislators from the state that serve Lane county or Lane county and other districts (Get names from Kris)
 - This was an opportunity to let them know what a hub does and connect to be a resource for them if they have questions about what was going on in their district surrounding early childhood care and education
 - Testimony was also happening with the DELC and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (HB2472) which should have a decision released in the coming weeks
 - Kris and Judy regularly attend policy calls with the hub's lobbyist
- Relevant and Related Early Childhood Legislature (Judy)
 - The list of 2023 Policy priorities is attached
 - March 17th is the deadline for bills to have a date scheduled to move into discussion
 - April 4th there is a 2-week session they have to hold the hearing otherwise the bill is dead
 - Most early learning related bills will most likely get a hearing
 - SB531 is about summer reading for both school aged children and early learning
 - Fear this will take over some money already allocated for kindergarten partnerships, we will watch this closely to make sure it is additional funds and not reallocated
 - There was a partnership with the hub and the housing sector to push for colocation or affordable housing and early care/education
 - City council approved this about a 45 million project
 - All of the group has been meeting with their legislatures because this is the first time there will be capital funds available for early learning and how they can make sure this shovel ready project will get some of this funding
 - Will keep the group posted on how it turns out

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- HB 3198 and HB 3454 is scheduled for a hearing on March 13th in the Senate Committee on Education.
- SB8919 students on IEPs or IFSPs or 504 plans and there will be a whole lot more attention on their reporting
 - This will pass and just trying to get a form that is implementable
- Childcare Sector Strategist and Quality Care Connection Update (Cheryl/Holly)
 - Seeding Justice Grant application closed its priority round of applications for culturally and linguistically specific care that identify as BIPOC as well as care for children with disabilities
 - This grant opportunity will be open for all providers on March 20th
 - Looking at what a broader community ask may look like
 - There is a fast track program at LCC next weekend where you can get all prerequisite needs done in a weekend to be able to then be in a classroom and get ongoing training and professional support
 - https://www.kezi.com/news/two-local-groups-partnering-to-provide-a-free-child-care-training-session/article_2bdb2992-bef8-11ed-91f4-db763ae0f3fd.html
 - If you know anyone interested them send them over to Cheryl
 - Cheryl is working with the Small Business Development Center to replicate what central Oregon has done for its childcare accelerator program
 - Series that matches small business development support with all the requirements from the childcare division on how to start and sustain a childcare business
 - Grant for an Early Childhood apprenticeship was not approved that provides stipends, tuition and housing to push expertise in the field and build a new pipeline for the field
 - Working with LCC on other ways to support this program
 - RFP out that was just closed for a media campaign that with the intent to amplify the need for early learning and care
 - Creating a toolkit
 - Launched in Lane County and then will be pushed state wide
- KITS
 - Received a YARG foundation grant to have virtual parent group, KITS At Home, for school districts that do not offer KITS. If you are interested please let Michelle know.
- UWLC Literacy events
 - United Way will be hosting four literacy events across the county and bringing 2-3 experts on literacy
 - A more informal event to bring information to these communities on what is happening around literacy
 - The will be in Florence, Eugene, Springfield and Cottage Grove
 - More information will be sent out to the group as more of the events are scheduled so please be on the lookout for those

X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:28pm.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, April 14, 2023, 3:00 – 4:30 PM