

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

June 10, 2022

3:00-4:30pm

Virtual Meeting

NOTES

Present:

Adrian Pollut, Parent Representative
Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County
Brian K Johnson, Lane County Public Health
Cheryl Henderson, Lane Community College
Jacob Fox, Homes For Good
Jeanine Taylor, Early Childhood CARES
John Lively, Oregon State Representative
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES
Kraig Sproles, Bethel School District
Leslie Cooper Parsons, Head Start of Lane County
Leslie Finlay, Relief Nursery
Marian Blankenship, Pacific Source Health Plans
Noreen Dunnells, United Way of Lane County
Sheila Wegener, Department of Human Services
Tony Scurto, Lane Education Service District

Absent:

Melissa Ibarra, Eugene 4J School District
Reta Doland, Oakridge School District
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District
Todd Hamilton, Springfield Public Schools
Nina Watkins, Parent Representative
Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan

UWLC/ELA Staff:

Claire Hambly, Dir ELA, *meeting facilitator*
**Adriana Medina Garcia, Bilingual Family
Engagement Coordinator**
**Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, Dir Early Learning
Strat.**
Emily Reiter, Education Program Coordinator
**Michelle Hjelm, Preschool Promise Enrollment
Manager**
Christie Costello, Marketing
**Yajaira Guzman, Preschool Promise Enrollment
Coordinator**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 PM.

II. Welcome and Introductions

III. Public Comment

No comments were made.

IV. Consent Agenda

Approval of the April 8, 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, Annie Soto, Brian K Johnson, Cheryl Henderson, Jacob Fox, Jeanine Taylor, John Lively, John Stapleton, Judy Newman, Leslie Cooper Parsons, Leslie Finlay, Marian Blankenship, Noreen Dunnells, Sheila Wegener, Tony Scurto

Nays: None; **Abstentions:** None

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V. Family Leadership Council report

The FLC met on June 9, 2022

The June FLC Agenda included:

- How to support parents/caretakers to create letters of concern in a package to state legislature
- Whether or not the FLC has lobbied before and if not how to start that up
- Regional Stewardship Council looking for help to represent underrepresented racial and ethnic groups in the area
- Started planning FLC end of year celebration

VI. Family Preservation Funds

Background:

- Title IV B2 Waiver Funds that are allocated in the Hub contract traditionally given under the umbrella of family support services, which usually are used to support family support resource centers, which is now broken up into two different streams.
- One stream is for \$75,000 and is allocated as Family Preservation; Family preservation, respite, reunification, and preventative services for families of kids aged 0-6, who are currently facing separation or have been separated.
- The discussion became about how to allocate these funds to places that are already providing these services and three agencies were located:
 - o Family Relief Nursery
 - o Relief Nursery
 - o Pearl Buck
- Discussion has been made about what the usage of funds and the impact would be. All agencies would use funds to support therapeutic classrooms and other intensive family support services.
- Claire Hambly proposes to split the funds (\$75,000) into three equal awards of about \$25,000 each for each of these three agencies.
- There is no indication if the award will continue in the next biennium, so this vote would just be for the remainder of this cycle.

Group Discussion

- There was no discussion about how many children would this money support specifically because it would be a hard number to quantify for what the ask is
- The thought behind the decision was for simplicity reasons due to the nature of the money and an uncertainty of if it will be available again.
- The deciding committee thought that an RFA process or creation of a scale for the funds were unnecessary.
- This money would fund Relief Nurseries' core program, which is considered therapeutic and consists of outreach, home visits, parenting education and therapeutic relief programs
- Leslie Finlay describes that their program is wraparound so the money that would be given would be able to fully help one and a half children if children and parents utilize all services available
- Noreen clarifies that United Way continues to fund annual community support grants including Pearl Buck and Relief Nurseries, and that United Way will be distributing coalition grants soon with Family relief nursery and Cottage Grove in Southern Lane County
- These three agencies have capacity needs and this would aid in that

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Action requested: Motion to approve, Family Preservation Funds, of around \$75,000, being split into equal parts to support three different agencies; Family Relief Nursery, Relief Nursery, Pearl Buck.

Motion: Judy Newman motioned to approve the split of funds equally to support the three agencies.

Support: John Lively seconded the motion to approve the split of funds equally to support the three agencies.

Ayes: Adrian Pollut, Annie Soto, Brian K Johnson, Cheryl Henderson, Jacob Fox, Jeanine Taylor, John Lively, John Stapleton, Judy Newman, Leslie Cooper Parsons, Marian Blankenship, Noreen Dunnells, Sheila Wegener, Tony Scurto

Nays: None; **Abstentions:** Leslie Finlay

VII. Preschool Promise Selection Criteria Change

Background

- Preschool Promise is a free state-funded high quality Preschool program for children who are 3 or 4 years old in Oregon. There is an income requirement that the family is below 200% or below the federal poverty level. There is currently 190 slots in the county, with a hope to increase the number of slots by 260
- As part of the process to place, families within a preschool there are selection criteria that are used. Selection criteria are based on a list of priority populations stated by the state as well as populations identified by each hub.
- The Early Learning Division told the regional stewardship committee, to adjust the selection criteria as needed through the use of data and implement their findings in the following program year.
- At the time the Early Learning Division reached out to the Regional Stewardship Committee, they had already convened twice and knew that with the deadlines in place there may not be enough time to create new selection criteria. They instead used the already in place selection criteria and sent it to an attorney, under the advisement of the ELD.
- Regional Stewardship Committee will reconvene this fall to create better-established selection criteria for the following Preschool Promise program year.

Current Order of Selection includes:

1. Transfer Students
 2. Conversion Students
 3. Siblings of Children already enrolled in PSP
 4. For school-based PSP programs, children living within a catchment area
 5. Children who are a member of one or more of our priority populations (Children of Color, Emerging language learners, special needs, children in rural or geographically isolated areas, children living in socially complex families (children of teen parents/incarcerated parents/parents who have cognitive limitations, student parents)
 6. All other children
- Because PSP is federally funded, it is subject to Title VI which states that PSP is prohibited to discriminate based on race
 - PSP cannot factor race to prioritize families so Order of Selection 5 cannot be used
 - Recommendations/options given from the attorney include
 - o Going forward with the use of race and understanding the risk that goes along with it
 - o Remove "Children of color" from the priority population
 - Other hubs create lotteries and Order of Selections differently so have not seen this issue
 - Data was used to find other trends to get BIPOC children all fall under

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- One trend was a that if a parent/guardian speaks a language other than English this was about 80 out of 130 BIPOC children

Group Discussion

- Question presented for the group was: Has anyone else come across this or any thoughts on how PSP could change the selection process to better serve underrepresented or historically marginalized communities of color
- Potential ways to reach these communities include outreach and recruitment and relationship building to help more marginalized community members sign up for PSP since they are no longer prioritized
- Brian Johnson discusses the potential use of zip codes or census blocks for those with more BIPOC communities or more impoverish communities
- Judy Newman discusses potentially adding more data in the application process to see if there are additional identifying factors or using a focus group of people that get accepted in the upcoming program year
- Noreen discusses potential works in policy and advocacy to help create change for the 2023-2024 fiscal year
- Other hubs have talked about potentially asking for additional funding to help to support more children
- Annie Soto talks about a better representation within the Preschools to help make sure that children can look at the staff and see themselves, or their community
- Other hubs have culturally specific providers, so their selection process is different depending on the providers
- Kraig Sproles agrees that the most important thing is to create an open and inclusive area for kids and to look at faith based organizations or other organizations to be the target for outreach.
- Michelle Hjelm says "We also will continue to place large amounts of energy on prioritizing outreach to communities of color in terms of seeking feedback about enrollment process and marketing materials so that we can make sure to be breaking down barriers to increase future access"
- The change is to include the parent's language as other than English, rather than just the children who speak a different language.
- Christie states that "I imagine one challenge is there's only so much in-person outreach staff can do-- glad you're looking at the materials themselves, and the process"
- Adrianna Medina Garcia suggests the prioritization of families involved in supporting organizations for BIPOC communities such as NAACP

VIII. LaneKids 2022-23 Selected Programs

Claire Hambly discussed an overview of the parenting education and support programs selected for funding from LaneKids from 2022-2023

- Funding Sources for Year 12
 - o OPEC – Oregon Community Foundation: \$50,000
 - o OPEC – Oregon Department of Human Services: \$59,722
 - o OPEC – Early Learning Division (Student Success Act): \$102,000
 - o Lane Co Public Health: \$40,000
 - o Total being granted to support parenting ed.: \$169,200
- Awardees for Year 12 of funding:
 - o The Child Center
 - o Fern Ridge SD
 - o Family Relief Nursery
 - o Relief Nursery
 - o Pearl Buck
 - o Willamette Family
 - o South Lane SD
 - o First Place Kids
 - o Lift Every Voice
 - o 90x30
 - o Nurturely

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- Additional Awardees
 - o Options Counseling
 - o Oregon Community Programs
- Other Investments
 - o \$15,000 for universal access to Triple P Online
 - o \$10,000 for parenting support group in conjunction with UWL Workplace Campaign this fall

IX. Updates & Announcements

- Early Learning Alliance/LaneKids rebranding
 - o The ELA and LaneKids will be merging
 - o The name is complete just figuring out the logo
 - o The plan is to launch in early July
- ELD – Early Learning Hub Regional Assessment Process
 - o The first coaching call is next week to determine the more concrete steps to take
 - o Looking to find the local, regional, and state-wide systems barriers to affordable early care and education
 - o All hubs across the state will be working on this question
 - o Would like to work with local organizations to compile data in an aligned way
 - o Judy Newman would like to look at the effects of Portland’s Universal Preschool Act to see if this has been working to potentially implement in our area
- ELD/DELIC ask – Mission, Vision, Values survey open until 6/21
 - o In the move the ELD is taking to become the DELIC they have asked that would like hub, governmental, and community partners to review their Mission Vision and Values
 - o Will be open until the 21st of June
- Individual GC check-ins with Michelle S-P and Claire – coming soon
 - o Michelle and Claire would like to connect with all members of the Governance Consortium over the summer to get to know everyone and have members sign/resign their MOU

X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:12 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, August 12, 2022, 3:00 – 4:30 PM