

**Lane Early Learning Alliance
Early Learning Stakeholders Meeting
Thursday, April 28, 2022
3:00-5:00 pm**

NOTES

1. Welcome and Introductions

- **In attendance:** Krystal Sanchez, Migrant Ed Program; Tricia Merrick, ODHS; Sarai Barrera, Looking Glass; Ayanna Moriguchi, UWLC; Emily Reiter, UWLC; Kristen Helton, QCC; Ilana Jakubowski, First Place Kids; Kendall Sebold, Family Relief Nursery; Miriam Touchton, Eugene Public Library; Kristi Wedmore, Maternal Child Health; Michelle Hjelm, UWLC; Lise Schellman, Pearl Buck Center; Ariana, Willamette Family; Petty Whalen, Family Relief Nursery; Lidia Kensler, Family Relief Nursery; Yajaira Guzman, UWLC; Mindy Linder, Springfield Public Library; Drea Smith, Lift Every Voice; Claire Hambly, UWLC

2. Early Learning Alliance Updates

- Governance Consortium Update
 - Michelle and Claire presented Early Learning Hub budget, it was approved
 - Discussed what to do with Family Preservation Funds; convened subcommittee to do some thinking around how best to use those funds
- Social/Emotional Health CCO Metric
 - New metric over next 3 years (s/e aspects of Kinder readiness), both CCOs required to participate; peds will do s/e screening at or before 5 years
 - First need to make sure s/e services are available for referring families
 - What is currently available? How are families accessing these? Barriers to access?
 - CCOs will come up with funding and resources for staff person on UWLC/ELA team to organize this project
 - If you are particularly interested in this conversation, reach out to Claire (chambly@unitedwaylane.org)
- Program Updates/Announcements:
 - Staff Transitions & Open Positions
 - UWLC is hiring
 - <https://www.unitedwaylane.org/job-opps>
 - Black Early Learning
 - Are starting playgroups in May! Emerald and Amazon Park
 - LaneKids-
 - Branding Update
 - In the process of rebranding LaneKids; will be combining ELA and LaneKids; will be rolling out new name and logo in the next few weeks
 - Parenting Ed Community of Practice

- First meeting of LaneKids mini-grantees, desire to get together and discuss work; strong core group attended though not very many
- TPOL- free for all Lane Co Families!
 - LaneTripleP.org; available in English and Spanish
- Preschool Promise
 - Currently in year 21-22, coming to a close in June. Enrollment closes on May 20th for this year.
 - Upcoming year 22-23, will have expansion of up to 250 more slots, locations TBD; ELD has said they will release provider application in the Spring- seeking new providers! Please spread the word and direct them to Quality Care Connections
 - Interested families can join the 22-23 Family Interest List if they are interested in receiving the application when it comes out
 - In the process of finalizing new digital platform for applications and registration; hoping to lower lots of barriers; the process will still be the same
 - Any questions, contact Michelle Hjelm (mhjelm@unitedwaylane.org)

3. Early Learning Stakeholders Meeting Review

- What do we value about this time and space? What would like this group to be/do?
 - Possibility of periodically utilizing affinity groups/breakout rooms
 - Lidia: new to this group so looking to see what programs/resources are in the community
 - Ilana: *It would be great to have some time set aside periodically for everyone to do little mini elevator pitches about the programs that their agencies offer, as well as the focus clientele.*
 - Peggy: lots of change-over, would be helpful to hear what folks do periodically
 - Michelle: *I love the updates; I think it would be neat if there was some space for collaboration between agencies present. Perhaps a brainstorming of ways to collaborate and then space to do so*
 - Lots of overlap between clientele served; making space for reaching shared populations
 - Tricia: I love the updates
 - Lise: format is good, UW has been responsive to what folks are interested in; presentations are relevant
 - Mindy: *I'd love a master list of contacts with: name, org, contact (email/phone), brief description; I've found the networking and awareness to be a huge value. I'm not sure if this list would be best online or in a Google doc or....*
 - Ilana: *I appreciate learning about the macro level policy/funding work that United Way is engaged with.*
 - Funding and policy work that's applicable to early learning
 - Any other thoughts, please send them to Claire

4. United Way Racial Justice Fund

- Alma Fumiko-Hesus, Director of Individual Giving, and Emily Dale, Community Engagement Coordinator, United Way of Lane Co.
- How to get involved:
 - Attend a listening session
 - Come to our Open House on May 25
 - Talk to the Advisory Council
 - Take the anonymous online survey
 - Sign up for our RJF Newsletter
- Website: <https://www.unitedwaylane.org/racial-justice>
- Email: racialjustice@unitedwaylane.org; Text: 541-357-5803;
- Alma: ahesus@unitedwaylane.org; Emily: edale@unitedwaylane.org
- Questions?
 - Goal is to have funds and later make decisions about how to invest? First round will likely be smaller number of larger awards
 - Drea: Do you work with City of Eugene? Talk around restructuring parks- want ideas but don't want to hire us to do the work; questions around school districts- lack of diversity. What can we do to hire and retain folks? Should be cross-over in these conversations
 - Mindy: *I recommend reaching out Kate Ali, Public Art Manager at the City of Eugene. She is part of Cultural Services (which is part of the Library/Rec/Cultural Services team. kali@eugene-or.gov. She could connect you with the right people. She is actively involved in the parks planning process as it relates to public art -- and is at the table for a lot of these (challenging...) conversations.*
- Alma: Please let us know where else we could be engaging with communities
- Sarai: regarding engagement, especially with Indigenous folks- what conversations are happening?
 - Trust-building doesn't happen within a finite timeline, building connections; looking to expand council, partners at UofO, LCC; starting with council members first and being intentional
 - Michelle: at the starting point as far as engaging Indigenous communities; haven't received feedback yet

5. Lift Every Voice

- Drea Smith, Owner/Founder
- Started LEV about a year ago; started working with parents
- Work directly with parents, taught parenting series through LaneKids and then Daisy CHAIN; one series targets BIPOC families and the other is open to all families
- Now, focusing on parent coaching/mentoring; sometimes just parents, just children, sometimes both
- www.lifteveryvoiceeugene.com; bipocwellness541@gmail.com
- Questions?

- Eligibility requirements? Age range birth to six (for parents); no age range for the children
- For families who have wide range of ages? Haven't encountered this yet
- Trainings for early learning professionals? Kristen will reach out
- Cost? Sliding scale starting at \$25, folks pay what they can; discount for BIPOC families (on website)

6. Agency Updates

- Looking Glass
 - Have waitlist for Spanish speakers; just hired bilingual mental health therapist
 - Hiring Mental Health Therapists
 - Groups for LGBTQIA families
 - Funding for 10 free sessions who don't have insurance
 - sarai.barrera@lookingglass.us
- Pearl Buck Center
 - Work with families where parent has cognitive limitation; often agencies don't realize this is what's going on with a family, happy to do presentations for organization- how to recognize, strategies to use; if child is 0-6, can work in outreach program; have preschool for ages 2-5, need to be in Eugene/Springfield area or have transportation
 - Hiring
 - What services do you offer to families? Provide full package for adults with cognitive disabilities- offshoot for parents; do home visits (crisis mgmt, food boxes, behavior issues)- broad spectrum of services
 - Referral process? Contact Lise, have conversation to see if family falls into demographic
 - Could do presentation in this group - how to recognize parents with cognitive challenges
 - Does PB offer bilingual services? Just lost bilingual person so would need to use translators; funded through grants- wages are very low
 - lise.schellman@pearlbuckcenter.com
- Springfield Public Library & History Museum
 - Expanded storytimes: <https://wheremindsgrow.org/events/storytimes>
 - Condensed English and Spanish storytimes into bilingual storytime! Every Wednesday at 10 am and Saturdays at 11 am
 - Baby/toddler storytime on Tuesdays at 11
 - Want to host something at the library or have library come to you, reach out to Mindy (mlinder@springfield-or.gov) 541-744-3388
- First Place Kids
 - First Place Kids serves children and families who are actively unhoused with a free, therapeutic preschool and weekly family support activities including parent education. We are housed within St. Vincent de Paul's First Place Family Center, who also administered an overnight family shelter program. Our main update is that we are hiring a Preschool Teacher! Please contact me at (541)

650-4218 or ilana.jakubowski@svdp.us with any questions or leads on candidates ☐

- Quality Care Connections
 - Taking over for Debra
 - Just announced scholarship program- open until May 20th; can apply for \$100 towards classes, 1 credit class in early childhood education at Lane
 - English application: <https://forms.gle/6NtbvqSZiHq2zYo19>
 - Spanish application: <https://forms.gle/2hWyN17mXJH38sZC7>
 - Hiring for Quality Improvement Specialists (2) and Training Coordinator/Specialist
 - Trying to do more outreach to community; tabling, can speak to clients, attend events; how parents can find childcare, how to recognize quality care; also folks who might be interested in opening child care in home or working in child care center
 - Friday is Provider Appreciation Day! Bumper stickers sent to UW; posters available for parents/community members how they can show providers their appreciation
 - Kristen Helton (heltonk@lanecc.edu)
- ODHS
 - Approved for May for emergency allotment- will get max amount of benefits for SNAP
 - Family Coaches are doing in-person visits again
- Family Relief Nursery
 - Several new hires, continuing to hire
 - Lidia: excited to have new teacher, will be able to expand services (lidiak@frncg.org)
- Migrant Education Program
 - Been in position for 1 month, eager to connect and collaborate
 - Home visits, getting ready for summer program
 - Provide services for 3-21 year olds
- Eugene Public Library
 - Going fully fine free starting May 1!
 - Starting new round of storytimes in May (Washington Park Thursday mornings at 10:30, family storytime 10:30 on Sat at Amazon Park, pajama storytime)
 - Book giveaway happening now through May 8 at all 3 locations
 - Giving away baby bags at 3 locations (tote, book, plush puppet, shaker egg)
 - Summer reading starting in June- giving away books
 - A few Spanish storytimes coming up in May and June
 - <https://www.eugene-or.gov/calendar.aspx?CID=30&showPastEvents=false>
 - Mindy (mtouchton@eugene-or.gov)

NEXT MEETING: May 26, 2022