

**Lane Early Learning Alliance  
Family Leadership Council  
September 8th, 2022  
6:00 - 7:30 pm  
Zoom Meeting**

**Notes**

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

- In attendance: Jaycob Nolte, Adriana Medina Garcia, Adrian Pollut, Sol, Amy Trieu, Heidi Johnson, Mariela German, Jen Cisneros, Kathryn Dumas, Judy Newman, Megan Miller, Ethiopia, Cassedea, Dan Lombardi, Tiffany, Susana Salinas, Teresa Leon

**2. FLC Celebration**

- Thank you all for your dedication to the FLC and for all your hard work. Your feedback and participation is so incredibly valuable and we wanted to show our appreciation to you all.
- Adriana will be reaching out to those who didn't attend to send a gift of appreciation

**3. Writing Letter of Concern to Lawmakers.**

- At the last meeting there was discussion around writing letters to Lawmakers
- It might be a good time to take some time to educate ourselves on the lawmaking and legislative process in the area
- Let us take a few steps back and assess what "Writing to Your Legislature" entails. To help with this project we have Amy Trieu joining us.

**4. Amy Trieu Early Childhood Coalition's Parent Voice & Leadership**

- Amy is based in Portland and used to work in schools and now works at the Children's institute helping with early childhood advocacy to push for funding and more programs for children prenatal to age 5
- For this meeting they would like to use the FLC's voices to help show what parents and families around Oregon need
- Judy Newman from the Eugene School Board also joined to help and learn from all of the parents
- The main purpose of the activity is to learn how we can bring lawmakers and communities closer together in decision-making
- The feedback shared at this meeting will be used for community organizations to create more events or resources for families and community members to get involved in making change. We recognize that we also need to get lawmakers involved in talking directly with communities. It's a two-way street.
- The main questions asked within the different breakout groups are:
  - Everyone here has a story about advocating for children. Where do you want your story shared? What kind of change or impact do you want from sharing your story?

- Problems with secretary's. they are the head of the school. for them to better help in this case Spanish speaking families. Perhaps culture clashing.
  - Have the power to use our voice as parents for our children. For example, know it is their right to receive services (ex. speech therapy, IEP,). All parents should be educated of their rights.
  - They hear us but they do not listen to us. They do not act.
  - School systems are not inclusive of families of color and who speak another language. They are not invited and valued.
  - Rights for migrant workers. Inform parents of the children's process, benefits, IEP, education, especially school.
  - I want to use the power of my story for free early childhood education for every kid in Lane County.
  - I want to know that people hear me and take it seriously and care about the kids in our county - and that they see the value of early childhood education.
  - Lots of problems between Headstart and PSP in South Lane. Headstart need to move rooms to make room for PSP slots. It's great to receive funds, but there is a real displacement of kiddos and adults involved. Worry of PSP taking over South Lane. Possible loss of jobs.
- Advocacy, or pushing for change, can happen in a lot of places: at schools, in neighborhoods, and in political spaces. What is your experience pushing for change in these places? What makes you more or less interested in pushing for change in these various spaces?
    - At my school district
    - Would love to get involved in early childhood advocacy, but it's tough to find time while taking care of a preschooler
    - In higher education advocacy. There is a gap with higher education and early childhood access to change
  - If you have any more thoughts or comments that you would like to share about either question please feel free to email Adriana at [amedina@unitedwaylane.org](mailto:amedina@unitedwaylane.org)
  - In the future Amy will let us know how the information shared today was used and what the next steps are, if any

## **5. Announcements or other news/good for the order**

- Preschool Promise will have second lottery coming up in the next few weeks. New providers will be added from rural locations in McKenzie, Mapleton, and Pleasant Hill, along with expansions of providers in Eugene, Springfield, and South Lane (Cottage Grove/Creswell)
- OPEC has hired 2 positions surrounding advocacy and will try and join a future meeting to be able to connect and communicate with the group and they hope to provide a training for parents on how to become an advocate
- We will hold off on writing the letters themselves until after the OPEC training at the end of the year and write the letters just before legislative session.
- There is also an Early Childhood Lobby Day before the legislative session as well.
- The feedback given from the FLC from the last year is being used in helping shape these conversations and activities to help further the group

**Next Meeting: October 13, 2022**