

**Lane Early Learning Alliance
Family Leadership Council
November 10, 2022
6:00 - 7:30 pm
Zoom Meeting**

Notes

1. Welcome & Introductions

- In attendance: Adriana Medina, UWLC; Amy Trieu, Children's Institute; Claire Hambly, UWLC; Jen Cisneros; Kathryn Dumas; Megan Miller; Brenda; Sol; Ethiopia;

2. Claire Hambly United Way

- United Way's Early Learning Alliance is working to ensure that families have better access to high quality, affordable childcare in Lane County. To make this happen, United Way is seeking parent opinion and input. Today, too many barriers to childcare exist, services are much too expensive, and not enough childcare and early learning providers are available. Parent opinions and input are vital to improving the current situation.
- For these reasons, our parents are invited to participate in a one-time 90-minute focus group conversation. The interview will be led by University of Oregon staff, in partnership with United Way. No preparation is needed on your part – just bring your observations, insights, experiences, and opinions. Your participation is voluntary and anonymous. Your name will not be used in any reports.
 - The interview will happen over Zoom and will be available in English and Spanish. United Way will provide a \$40.00 gift card for your time and contribution
- Survey Links:
 - English – <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/lanepreschool2022>
 - Spanish – <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/guarderiaslane2022>
- Group Discussion:
 - Can others outside of Lane County take the survey
 - Yes, while the survey is designed for those families in Lane county, if you know people outside of the county who would like to take it you can send it to them
 - Adriana has talked with Jeff, who will be running the group sessions, about doing sessions in both English and Spanish and using values from this group to circle back the information, let you all know what is going on and making sure that you are a part of the process
 - What dates work for the group?
 - Thursday Dec 1st evening was suggested
 - Adriana will send out a doodle poll to figure out a time
 - This work is coming from the Hub
 - South Lane is also developing a survey and Creswell is developing something for a Free Preschool Pilot program

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

- As a recap from last session the FLC showed interest in
 - Learning Advocacy Skills and applying them in different contexts

- Meeting other parent groups and organizations that are doing different types of advocacy
- Exploring how we want to use our voice, curious about legislative advocacy
- Wanted to get some next steps started
 - Would the FLC like to meet with different Parent Groups:
 - Multnomah Parent Accountability Council to discuss free preschool for all and other action they've taken
 - Marion Polk Parent Advisory Council
 - Warm Springs Parent Group
 - State Representative Andrea Valderrama
 - Dr. Ben Hoffman a pediatrician
 - Adriana and Amy will work on getting meetings with most/all of these groups sprinkled throughout the year and will CC the FLC
 - Understanding the Basics of advocacy training
 - Amy created a training on the Basics of advocacy for the Marion Polk PAC and can adjust it to fit our needs
 - Link to training outline: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KBB0iBsQ0BLEKyKqRlg5Tr_yBcr6B81XSXo4bTyEbog/edit
 - Amy will send the link to Adriana and have it translated to get feedback from the group on what might be most important in a training like this
 - The Children's Institute organizes an Early Childhood Lobby Day
 - If we are interested Amy can organize a trip for us to go to Salem or plan an event in Lane county and ask the legislators to come to us
 - May be easier logistically to meet virtually or have a legislator come to Eugene/springfield area
 - Would also level the playing field as a neutral space
 - Can have interpretation more easier available if virtual or in Eugene/Springfield
 - In the planning for Lobbying making sure it is a group effort, and acknowledging that some parents need to advocate for direct service needs as well.
 - Additional information about the direct service advocacy was sent out in last meetings notes.
 - If you do feel that legislative lobbying is too big or are feeling wary about it, please reach out to Adriana to voice your opinion
 - Advocating during IEP meetings
 - FACT Oregon is a non profit who work statewide to help parents work through disability justice and advocate
 - They also provide trainings on what to expect in an IEP meeting, what are the laws and rights you need to be aware of
 - Have materials in English and Spanish
 - Have handouts, workshops
 - Capacities Leadership Institute
 - Does training for how to advocate at the school board level

- Group Discussion
 - What do representatives do when an email is sent to them?
 - It is different for every office, it could be tallied for the end of the year so that they know what their constituents want to see or it may just be clicked through
 - If we can meet with Rep Andrea Valderrama we can take it as an opportunity to ask what happens in her office
 - What about the power dynamic, are we supposed to treat representatives and legislatures as higher or do we try and shift the power dynamic?
 - It depends on the group, if the FLC decides that they want to bring in the humanity of the person rather than their position we will need to agree on that beforehand and how to go about it
 - Advocating with government officials can be tricky because you want them to vote a certain way, they have the power of the vote. You have to decide, knowing what you know about a legislator, impact the approach of how to conduct the meeting
 - Adriana suggested doing a round of introductions with each parent stating their name and their children's age to show where we are all coming from
 - Is there a window of time that is best to talk to legislature?
 - Timing is very important
 - The window the Children's Institute is planning is mid-March to time it around the budget season
 - Certain Bills and Budgets will move at their own pace
 - If we plan a meeting, how will we know if we will actually meet with the legislator?
 - You don't always know, but sometimes their staff member will hold a lot of influence and be able to show the legislator what you talked about
 - The most important step with these meetings, especially when it is just a staff member, is the accountability email afterwards.
 - Thanking them for their time and summarizing what was at the meeting and asking for a response.

4. Announcements or other news/good for the order

- United Way has a new Preschool Promise Manager – Jessie Daher

Next Meeting: December 8, 2022