

## Lane Early Learning Alliance

3171 Gateway Loop  
Springfield, OR 97477  
tel 541.741.6000  
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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

April 9, 2021  
3:00-5:00pm  
Virtual Meeting

#### NOTES

##### Present:

Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan  
Reta Doland, Oakridge School District  
Tony Scurto, Lane Education Service District  
Jeanine Taylor, Early Childhood CARES  
Noreen Dunnells, United Way of Lane County  
Adrian Pollut, Parent Representative  
Nina Watkins, Parent Representative  
Jacob Fox, Homes For Good  
Theya Joslin, Quality Care Connections  
Chris Parra, Bethel School District  
Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County  
Leslie Finlay, Relief Nursery  
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District  
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture  
Cheryl Henderson, Lane Community College  
Marian Blankenship, Pacific Source Health Plans  
Todd Hamilton, Springfield Public Schools  
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES

Sheila Wegener, Department of Human Services

##### Absent:

John Lively, Oregon State Representative  
George Russell, Community Leader  
Karen Gaffney, Lane County  
Jocelyn Warren, Lane County Health & Human Services

##### Guest:

Holly Mar Conte, United Way of Lane County

##### UWLC/ELA Staff:

Ayanna Moriguchi, Early Learning Specialist  
Bess Jayme, Director of Education, **meeting facilitator**  
Kori Rodley, Director Equity and Engagement  
Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, Ed Program Mgr.

#### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM.

#### II. Welcome and Introductions

Welcomed new member Adrian Pollut, Parent Representative from the ELA Parent Advisory Council.

#### III. Public Comment

No comments were made.

#### IV. Consent Agenda

Approval of the March 12, 2021 meeting notes. Acknowledge receipt of written reports from Advisory Groups and Innovation Teams, Preschool Promise, KITS, LaneKids, and Imagination Library.

**Action requested:** Motion to approve, accept or ratify items listed on consent agenda as submitted.

**Motion:** Chris Parra motioned to approve the consent agenda.

**Support:** Debi Farr seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

**Ayes:** Reta Doland, Tony Scurto, Jeanine Taylor, Noreen Dunnells, Adrian Pollut, Nina Watkins, Jacob Fox, Theya Joslin, Annie Soto, Leslie Finlay, Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, John Stapleton, and Cheryl Henderson,

**Nays:** None; **Abstentions:** None

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### V. Community Project Funding (Federal funding opportunity)

Holly Mar Conte, UWLC's VP of Community Impact, presented an opportunity for United Way to submit appropriation requests for community projects to Rep. DeFazio. Project funding is similar to applying for a federal grant but it's not a competitive process. Rep. DeFazio's office is looking for projects that meet an important need and have widespread support throughout the community. UW has been working with partners to understand who is interested in applying for what. This funding would start September 2021 through September 2022. Possibly would propose a package for KITS to sustain or scale the program, and increase access in summer of 2022. Could also look to this funding as a COVID education recovery package that addresses learning loss.

Questions:

- Funding range? \$20K to \$1.5 million. UW looking for something in the realm of \$500K.
- Can we do summer KITS and then also pilot the school year model in more schools/districts? Yes. Some districts in their ELA/KITS check-ins have been interested in the Fall model.
- Funding could be used to address the barriers to access, such as providing transportation/gas stipends.

Need letters of support from the community. Holly will send a template to fill in the blanks. Proposal is due April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### VI. 2021-23 Hub Coordination Budget Draft Preview & Discussion

Bess reviewed the hub coordination 2021-23 draft budget line items. For 2019-2021 budgeted \$384K annually. Because of the change in funding formula, the ELA is now anticipating \$427K annually for '21-'23 biennium.

Will revisit again with Governance Consortium once hubs have received their final funding numbers from the state. If we have more funding than expected can have a discussion about replenishing some of the Community Funding that will be lost.

### VII. Early Childhood Mental Health

In previous meeting discussed statewide plan, [Raise Up Oregon](#), and new priorities for next biennium. Early childhood mental health was a big piece of that plan. The upstream nature of early childhood mental health, and prevention, working on early childhood mental health is critical for our youth. Early childhood mental health means working on the parent-child relationship. The amount of effort that is required to change in response to an adverse event is so much smaller when you are younger, so you have an opportunity in early childhood to do some positive intervening early on.

**What has happened locally, lessons learned, promising practices, and things the hub can do to lower barriers to access infant/toddler mental health care:**

- Head Start has had many collaborations including:
  - o Had a therapeutic classroom with 6 children paid for by Lane County Mental Health, with Early Childhood CARES. Kerry Holmes would be able to speak more about this.
  - o Current mental health consultation model with South Lane Mental Health, Options and individual therapists. The consultant is part of meetings to build behavior plan, placements, in conversation with parents, and helps staff.
- Early Head Start:
  - o have a curriculum, working with parents through home visits, a lot of 1 on 1 with families, calling in mental health professionals as needed.
  - o Dr. Ed Feil at Oregon Research Institute developed an online program ([MOM-Net](#)) that is self-directed training and is being disseminated across other Head Start programs. Have a family support person that checks-in with parents.
- Relief Nursery –
  - o Mental Health Consultation that was provided to Home Visitors. Model was specific to spending time with Home Visitors to talk through their work with families and process what was coming up for them. When we support the mental health needs of our staff, that will impact outcomes for families. Pilot project had good outcomes. But, there were barriers to the project. Eligible

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- programs needed to be considered evidence based. Not accessible to all agencies that are serving families in early childhood, since not all were providing evidence based programs.
- Work with Early Childhood CARES and initially Trillium, to create specific classrooms for children with higher mental health needs. Thinking about the opportunity to have mental health providers embedded in the places where we have families showing up. If we want families to feel comfortable accessing services, they need to get to know providers and see them interacting with kids in their natural environment. And through those informal interactions parents are more likely to engage in getting support. A way to move forward is thinking about how to embed therapists in places that families are and make them accessible. Doing things like playgroups or parent coaching, to soften the approach. A lot of the models that are accessible for families, are expensive.
  - LCC Child and Family Center – Curious about the comprehensive nature of what [Oregon Community Programs](#) (OCP) is doing, they had a case manager that would visit families at home and in the classroom, provide parenting groups, daily check-in calls with parents. While expensive, the parent can now relate to the provider because they are in the child care center and doing home visits.
  - By embedding a clinician in places that children are, parents are going to have a positive perception of the program, and will spread the word.
  - Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) incentivized metric around early childhood mental health, what is status of proposed new metric for 2022?
    - The metric is still under development. There was a Social/Emotional pilot that we participated in. There is some forward movement in getting a metric in the next year or two.
      - Worry about incentivizing it as a metric because it reinforces the fee for service model.
  - Early Learning Division (ELD) had early childhood mental health consultation panel in April.
    - Presented models from other states, but not a lot new that came out of it. These programs won't be transformational until we figure out how to fund it.
  - Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) – interested in looking more at early intervention and would like to participate with partners around this.
  - Lane Community Health Council has focused on behavioral health broadly with a subgroup working on youth mental health.
  - Early Childhood Mental Health Committee is convened by Lane County.

If this focus is in a way to keep expulsion from happening later on, and that boys of color are the ones being expelled at a higher rate, do we have the resources we need to serve families of color that is culturally responsive?

- Head Start –
  - believe we have Latinx providers in South Lane.
  - National Head Start program has trainings to provide strategies to work with families from specific cultural backgrounds. A lot of the strategies are around developing relationships with families, because you need a relationship with the parent to talk about behavioral health. Not sure of how this is implemented locally.
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) – there is a cultural companion document that is used with the pyramid model

Will hear more about this from the ELD and resources should be available, would like our hub to be ready to help with next steps.

### VIII. Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

In an effort to build connection and communication between the PAC and Governance Consortium, would like to have space for the parent representatives to share what's happening. Parent representatives Nina Watkins & Adrian Pollut provided a recap of the April meeting:

- Had a great conversation discussing Preschool Promise eligibility, enrollment, recruitment. Identified a lot of barriers for families. Looked at materials created and gave feedback. Discussed different equity issues. Ways to make information about the program more available, and where doing outreach and advertising.

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- Would like to see coordination for state funded early learning program that lets parents complete one application.
- One parent said that in gathering information from people applying to a program, need to be cognizant of the types of questions asked because some parents may be undocumented and be scared off.

### IX. Updates & Announcements

- Family Engagement Coordinator – in process of interviewing and will conduct second round of interviews in next few weeks. This Coordinator will facilitate PAC meeting and support coordinated enrollment for Preschool Promise. All candidates are Spanish speaking and bicultural.
- Legislative session updates – Early Learning Authority bill, Summer Learning Package, and Joint Committee on Ways & Means “virtual road show” opportunity – Thurs, 4/22, 5:30 – 7:30 pm.

### X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 pm.