

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

August 13, 2021
3:00-5:00pm
Virtual Meeting

NOTES

Present:

Adrian Pollut, Parent Representative
Nina Watkins, Parent Representative
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District
Todd Hamilton, Springfield Public Schools
Noreen Dunnells, United Way of Lane County
Kraig Sproles, Bethel School District
Sheila Wegener, Department of Human Services
Jeanine Taylor, Early Childhood CARES
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES
Tony Scurto, Lane Education Service District
Marian Blankenship, Pacific Source Health Plans
Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County
Karen Gaffney, Lane County

Absent:

John Lively, Oregon State Representative

Jacob Fox, Homes For Good
George Russell, Community Leader
Reta Doland, Oakridge School District
Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan
Leslie Finlay, Relief Nursery
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture
Cheryl Henderson, Lane Community College
Jocelyn Warren, Lane County Health & Human Services

Guest:

Katherine Pears, Oregon Social Learning Center

UWLC/ELA Staff:

Bess Jayme, Director of Education, **meeting facilitator**
Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, Ed Program Mgr.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 PM.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Bess welcome Kraig Sproles, new Bethel School District Superintendent. Theya Joslin is now with the LCC Foundation and Cheryl Henderson will act as interim Director of QCC.

III. Public Comment

No comments were made.

IV. Consent Agenda

Approval of the June 11, 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: Tony Scurto motioned to approve the consent agenda.

Support: Todd Hamilton seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

Ayes: Adrian Pollut, Nina Watkins, Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Noreen Dunnells, Kraig Sproles, Sheila Wegener, Jeanine Taylor, Judy Newman, Marian Blankenship, Annie Soto, Karen Gaffney.

Nays: None; **Abstentions:** None

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V. Kids In Transition to School (KITS) Program

Katherine Pears provided an overview of KITS in the last year. KITS is a school readiness program developed at Oregon Social Learning Center (OSLC). In 2010, OSLC worked with United Way to help pilot the program in two Lane County neighborhoods. The program was developed and tested initially for foster children and subsequently tested with Early Childhood CARES families. The program consists of 24 lessons for children focused on school readiness (early literacy, social skills), 10 parent groups to provide positive behavior support, and training/coaching of staff.

KITS At Home/KITS en Casa:

- In spring of 2020 developed KITS At Home/KITS en Casa to provide parents with the support they needed to do KITS lessons and support skill building at home with their child. The Spanish version consisted of cultural adaptations based on feedback from KITS Spanish advisory board.
- 8 weeks of programming in the summer, served families throughout the county. Had good attendance for the virtual groups. Collected data from parents and overall families felt it helped them prepare their child for school, they saw changes in their child and their parenting. Offered this again in the fall of 2020 to help families with the transition to school.
- Currently, have an “at-large” KITS en Casa group that consists of Spanish speaking families around the county who are participating in the virtual program.
- We have learned we can pivot, we can try to help parents when we can’t meet with kids in person, we can make what we do in the classroom adaptable to COVID restrictions. The year gave us the chance to develop KITS at Home and a deep dive into the parent curriculum and think intentionally about that.

2021 Implementation

- In Bethel started in 2019 to move KITS curriculum into the kindergarten classroom in the first 12 weeks of fall. Piloted 8 weeks of programming at kinder entry. In Spring of 2021 offered it at three schools. Planning in the fall to again be in 3 Bethel schools and at Chavez in 4J.
 - Kindergarten model allows districts to leverage what already paying for in the school year to not add to out of pocket costs.
 - For KITS kindergarten model, what training do those teachers get?
 - In 2019 we felt it would be best to provide that training close to the start of the school year, and did that in late August. This year, with all of the PD requirements for staff, the staff went to the June training and will get a quick refresher in August.
- Summer of 2021 offered in-person program, with modifications to adjust for COVID restrictions. Many of the district teams have come back from previous years of providing the program. Every group is full and there were waitlists in many districts. Provided wireless hotspots for those families that needed help with connectivity for the virtual Parent Group sessions.
- A district in Maryland is now implementing KITS.

Funding

- ELA received additional funding through Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation Funds (KPI) to help with summer KITS this year. Which means our entire 21-23 biennium funding will be able to go fully towards programs in 2022 and 2023.
- Put in a request for \$500K for the congressional funds, to Merkley. Made the initial cut.
- School Readiness funding was wrapped into Hub Coordination funding, so the increase in KPI funding will help us be sustained moving forward.
- Could ESSER 1, 2, 3 funds (used to mitigate the impact of COVID), be a resource to support 1st graders and 2nd graders?
 - Katherine talked with districts at beginning of summer but were hamstrung with KPI funding because it is only about kids transitioning to school and not for kids in school. Have talked about the possibility of offering it to kids in 1st and 2nd. The social skills lessons can be used for these kids, and the literacy components could be amped up for children on the brink of reading.
- KPI funding and advocacy for KITS statewide

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- Still thinking about how to advocate for a statewide program and how it could be the accepted transition program for all districts.

VI. 2021 Legislative Recap

See Early Learning Division Legislative recap document for a summary of legislation passed this session and its impact on early learning programs and services.

- For Preschool Expansion this will provide 2000 more slots statewide, but with staffing and facilities shortage this brings a level of challenges to the child care system.
- Restoring hub funding will provide some additional funding, tbd, to the ELA.
- EI/ECSE was fully funded in the General Fund and SIA fund.
- New Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) –Alyssa Chatterjee appointed Director.

VII. 2021-23 Hub Goals & Scope of Work

Reviewed Hub goals & current strategies and activities Power Point.

- Will come back to GC with a revised budget, most likely in October. Draft Scope of Work to show where moving for next biennium.
- Received hub coordination, KPI, Preschool Promise (PSP) coordinated enrollment, School Readiness (SR) funding. The SR funding went away to help with PSP enrollment so unrestricted funding could go back to the hubs. Have some significant deliverables coming down the pike.

Review 2021-23 Hub Scope of Work and discuss priorities for 2021-22 as well as opportunities for better parent, community, and governance engagement in our work (see Power Point).

- Have a set of deliverables that we will need to work on over the next year.
- Will map out the work, and bring this forward to the group in the coming months.

VIII. Updates & Announcements

- 2021-22 Preschool Promise Enrollment:
 - Have 325 slots for this year. Did first round of selection, and have staggered selection dates. 125 new families, 125 returning children, and 75 slots left to fill for kids yet to apply.
 - Question: Can families that don't want to do kindergarten access the program? Children need to be 3 or 4 by September 1, 2021.
- Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD) grant for Florence-area child care providers:
 - For equipment, facilities, supplies and ready their program to serve more kids. Sarah Moehrke, Florence Economic Development Catalyst, who joined GC's last meeting in June, is pulling together regional stakeholders to talk about how municipalities can support the development of child care.
 - Want Siuslaw SD to be a part of this conversation. How do we get someone from the district here talking about this? There are no resources to help with the transition to kindergarten, the homeschool numbers are increasing and doesn't seem that families feel the district is invested in them. They need to be building the bridge between childcare, transition to school, and school district. Who would we connect with?
 - Rep. Wright is new to legislature, was the Superintendent at Mapleton and a teacher.
 - Lisa Utz, Special Services Director from Siuslaw School District.
- ELD-hosted Learning Collaborative with Hubs, CCR&Rs, Head Start/OPK, EI/ECSE, & Tribes focused on Building the Supply of Childcare in Oregon:
 - Great information from all around the state and a lot of drive on how to build the supply of child care. Would have liked to hear what is going on around the country. Workforce affordability, facilities are still at a crisis as we work to expand the supply in Lane County.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, September 10, 2021, 3:00 – 5:00 PM