

Lane Early Learning Alliance

3171 Gateway Loop
Springfield, OR 97477
tel 541.741.6000
fax 541.726.4150

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

January 14, 2022

3:00-4:00pm

Virtual Meeting

NOTES

Present:

John Lively, Oregon State Representative
Noreen Dunnells, United Way of Lane County
Nina Watkins, Parent Representative
Adrian Pollut, Parent Representative
Cheryl Henderson, Lane Community College
Leslie Finlay, Relief Nursery
Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County
Sheila Wegener, Department of Human Services
Jeanine Taylor, Early Childhood CARES
Marian Blankenship, Pacific Source Health Plans
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture
Todd Hamilton, Springfield Public Schools
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES
Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan
Melissa Ibarra, Eugene 4J School District

Absent:

Reta Doland, Oakridge School District
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District
Kraig Sproles, Bethel School District

Jacob Fox, Homes For Good
Tony Scurto, Lane Education Service District
Karen Gaffney, Lane County
George Russell, Community Leader
Jocelyn Warren, Lane County Health & Human Services

UWLC/ELA Staff:

Claire Hambly, Ed Program Mgr.
Michelle Hjelm, Preschool Promise Enrollment Coordinator
Bess Jayme, Director of Education, **meeting facilitator**
Holly Mar Conte, Chief Strategy Officer
Adriana Medina Garcia, Bilingual Family Engagement Coordinator
Kori Rodley, Chief Experience Officer
Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, Ed Program Mgr.

Guest:

Chelsea Whitney, LCPH

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 PM.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Members shared their well wishes and appreciation for Bess as she transitions to a new role with PacificSource.

III. Public Comment

No comments were made.

IV. Consent Agenda

Approval of the December 10, 2021 meeting notes. Acknowledge receipt of written reports from ELA Advisory Groups and Innovation Teams, Lane AABSS, Preschool Promise, KITS, and LaneKids.

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

Motion: Noreen Dunnells motioned to approve the consent agenda.

Support: John Lively seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

Ayes: Nina Watkins, Adrian Pollut, Cheryl Henderson, Leslie Finlay, Annie Soto, Sheila Wegener, Jeanine Taylor, Marian Blankenship, John Stapleton, Todd Hamilton, Judy Newman, Debi Farr, Melissa Ibarra.

Nays: None; **Abstentions:** None

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V. Early Learning Division & Legislative Update

This is a 35-day short session. Some child care funding requests are coming in, including from the Early Childhood Coalition, led by the Children's Institute, which includes 40+ member orgs from across the state. Have put a policy package together for a \$150-\$200M ask, [Child Care for Oregon](#):

- Increase subsidy rates for ERDC to 90th percentile (\$30 million). Currently at the 75th percentile.
- New provider start-up grants (\$TBD). Considering providing this funding to foundations and non-profits so this money does not get caught up in the slow procurement process of the state.
- Wage enhancements for providers (\$TBD)
- Maybe: funding to serve more families, avoid waitlist

Early Learning Division/Governor's Office priorities:

- Additional funding to launch DELC (<\$20 million)
- Facilities investment through regional solutions (\$50 million)

Rep. Lively – all of the things on the list are critical. We have over \$2 billion in request for funds. The focus for me of the short session is what can we do now that will make a difference now (like early learning and mental health), vs longer term investments that will pay off down the road but not as critical.

Build Back Better is still alive at the Federal level, childcare is a part of that conversation and there may be federal funds that come to states if that bill is passed. In Lane County, have cities that want to make investments in childcare. Eugene, Springfield, Florence and County level around what type of public investment can help childcare. Facilities is a great place to think of how those types of dollars could be allocated. They have building zoning people that could help with what's possible.

Locally, efforts include regional conversations led by Holly at United Way (UW), South Lane meetings with Be Your Best around supply and access, and cross-sector conversations with representatives from economic development and philanthropy. As the situation evolves the Education Team and Cheryl with Quality Care Connections (QCC) will keep you updated.

VI. UWLC Education Team Changes

Bess will be stepping down from her role as the ELA Director, her last day will be Friday 1/21. UW will reconfigure the Director role, which has grown over the last 4 years and is too big for one person. Michelle Sheng-Palmisano and Claire Hambly will act as interim Directors.

Claire will be the interim Hub Director and lead the Governance Consortium, advisory teams, and LaneKids. Michelle will join these meetings in a greater support role, and will oversee the ELA's programmatic and Family Engagement work. UW will be finalizing the two Director positions and provide an update to the Governance Consortium during the February meeting. Claire and Michelle shared information about the work they oversee.

Claire Hambly:

- FRC - contracting, workplans, convening of Coordinators.
- Early Learning Stakeholders and Pediatric Advisory Team meetings - coordination and facilitation.
- LaneKids - oversee reapplication and funding process, working with network of parenting educator providers around training and services.
- Triple P - implementation across the county.

Michelle Sheng-Palmisano:

- KITS Program - RFP process with subgrantees and evaluator, convenings, reporting to funders, contracts.
- LaneKids – event calendar, updating backend of the website, tabling, responsive to parent requests through development of specific pages, monthly newsletter.
- BookFest – helped develop the model, work with partners to coordinate with school districts and volunteers around distribution.

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- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library – helped launch affiliate, outreach, enrolling families, customer service, monthly reporting and monitoring, quarterly newsletter, working internally and externally with DPIL partners around future funding.
- Home Visiting Innovation Team – admin support, event coordination

Other staff changes: Michelle Hjelm is currently the Preschool Promise (PSP) Enrollment Coordinator and will be elevated to Manager. In process of hiring a PSP Enrollment Specialist for her to oversee.

VII. Updates & Announcements

George Russell joined the Governance Consortium at its inception in 2014. He has announced his plans to retire from the committee. **Thank you, George, for your commitment and service to Lane County families!**

Hub Grant Agreement update: ELA grant agreement has not arrived yet, being reviewed by DOJ and should see mid-January. No other info about the PSP Expansion RFA, ELD is putting together a report the legislature has requested.

Early Learning Professional Development Consortium RFA:

Cheryl shared about an RFA coming out modeled on work in Southern Oregon: Early Learning Professional Development Consortium. 4-6-week turnaround that Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) and Hubs will be a part of around educating early childhood providers.

- The purpose is to form collaborative partnerships in regions involving higher education, CCR&Rs and community based organizations to develop higher education pathways for early learning educators, provide flexibility in meeting needs of existing early learning workforce, and establish pathways that are culturally and linguistically responsive.
- Current model exists in two regions consisting of partners across higher education, early learning hubs, and private funders.
- Through the Student Success Act there are funds available through 6/30/23 for scholarships, capacity building, to fund existing models to continue operations and be mentors and consultants of a new consortia, and 2 levels of RFAs for communities to apply for:
 - Planning Grants (6 at \$10K-\$20K; max amount \$120K)
 - Expansion of similar projects (4 up to \$200K; max amount \$800K)
- These funds could be used to have someone in a Navigator position to hold the hands of people currently in the field or interested in the field to walk them through the pathways of getting an ECE degree and fill the needs in our community. We are set up in our county to make this happen in coordination with QCC and some of you. In one community they have a hotline where people can call for help with this. Could work with the Pathways program at Lane. Hoping can pull together many of you once we get the RFA to make this happen in Lane County.
- Tangential to this RFA opportunity, UW is having conversations with community funders and other groups about funding a position to be a liaison to employers to get childcare running. That person would not live at UW. This conversation is happening across the state and is creating opportunities to learn from what others are doing and ways to approach this issue.

VIII. Parent Advisory Council report

Judy Newman joined the January meeting to field questions and concerns about schools, COVID, and communication with schools. Cassandra Ferder from the Early Learning Division (ELD) talked about the future of Family Leadership Councils (FLC), funding from the state that will support this work and best practices from other FLCs. Our council gave feedback to her, including recommended compensation amounts. We have officially changed the name to FLC to match the ELD's terminology.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:01 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, February 14, 2022, 3:00 – 4:30 PM