

# Early Childhood Hub of Lane County

3171 Gateway Loop  
Springfield, OR 97477  
tel 541.741.6000  
fax 541.726.4150

earlychildhoodlane.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.



## Early Childhood Hub of Lane County Governance Consortium December 09, 2022 3:00-4:30pm Virtual Meeting

### NOTES

#### Present:

Adrian Pollut, Parent Representative  
Brian K Johnson, Lane County Public Health  
Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County  
Leslie Cooper Parsons, Head Start of Lane County  
Leslie Finlay, Relief Nursery  
Noreen Dunnells, United Way of Lane County  
Cheryl Henderson, Lane Community College  
Jacob Fox, Homes For Good  
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES  
Sheila Wegener, Department of Human Services  
Todd Hamilton, Springfield Public Schools  
Melissa Ibarra, Eugene 4J School District  
Kraig Sproles, Bethel School District  
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District  
Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan  
Ilana Jakubowski, First Place Kids

#### Absent:

Reta Doland, Oakridge School District  
Nicole Desch, Onward Eugene  
Nina Watkins, Parent Representative  
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture  
Sue Wilson, Superintendent of Maple  
Kim Giansante, Early Childhood Cares  
Jeanine Taylor, Early Childhood CARES  
Marian Blankenship, Pacific Source Health Plan  
Tony Scurto, Lane Education Service District  
Amy Davidson, Trillium Community Health Plan  
Kellie DeVore, PacificSource Health Plan  
John Lively, Oregon State Representative

#### UWLC/ELA Staff:

Claire Hambly, Dir Early Learning, *meeting facilitator*  
Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, Dir Early Learning Strat  
Jaycob Nolte, Impact Program Coordinator  
Adriana Medina, Bilingual Family Engagement  
Coordinator  
Emily Reiter, Education Program Coordinator  
Janice Reynolds, Director of Human Resources

#### I. Call to Order

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

#### II. Welcome and Introductions

#### III. Public Comment

#### IV. Consent Agenda

Approval of the October 14, 2022 meeting notes.

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

**Motion:** Jacob Fox motioned to approve the consent agenda.

**Support:** Noreen Dunnells seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

**Ayes:** Adrian P, Brian J, Annie S, Leslie CP, Leslie F, Cheryl H, Judy N, Sheila W, Todd H, Melissa I, Kraig S, Tina G-S, Debi F, Ilana J **Nays:** None; **Abstentions:** None

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### V. Family Leadership Council Report

- Parent representative Adrian Pollut discussed the most recent Family Leadership Council meeting
- Kellie DeVore from Pacificsource and others from Trillium came to the group to get their feedback on the current system for social and emotional health for children aged 0-5
- There were two groups one English speaking and one Spanish speaking to have availability in whatever language the group members are more comfortable in
- Some main thoughts from the English group was surrounding insurance and how people are often treated if they have or do not have OHP and that there are currently not enough providers as most of the time you are put on a waitlist
- In the Spanish speaking group a lot of the discussion was around the parents aren't well informed about these issues and there are not enough providers that are able to speak their language so often times understanding gets lost
- Yessy Medina from the University of Oregon also attended and shared an opportunity for BIPOC and Bilingual families to be in a study with children accessing ECE with a compensation of \$250-500 for participating

### VI. Hub Re-Brand & Website Review

- The hub has officially rebranded to combine both the parenting education and early learning hubs in Lane county into the Early Childhood Hub of Lane County
- The new website is up at <https://www.earlychildhoodlane.org/>
- In the bottom right hand corner there is an accessibility box where you can change the language of the page and utilize other accessibility options
- Some of the next steps for the rebrand include:
  - Creating a new set of physical fliers and additional items to hand out when tabling or at other events
  - United Way is asking that all of our partners who are currently hosting a link to one of our old websites to please update that URL with the new one
  - United Way will be hosting a Launch party for the new hub name, details TBD

### VII. Early Childhood Hub Strategic Planning: Part III – Funding Streams and Programs, Deeper Dive

- Before the meeting a copy of the current Programs and Funding Streams were sent out to the Governance Consortium detailing what projects the Hub is currently working on, where the funds come from and what they are, and recommendations from the education team as to potentially rehomeing or doing away with certain projects
- The spreadsheet is divided into three colors
  - Orange programs are central to UW's role as the hub either early learning or parenting education and are the most prescriptive where we have to do it the way the state tells us to do it
  - Yellow programs are still central to our identity but the hub has some flexibility in how those dollars are spent
  - Green programs are not core functions but the hub has picked up along the way because they have aligned in some way or had no other place to go

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- There were five programs in total that the education team had identified as potential shifts for the Hub
- Dolly Parton Imagination Library:
  - The main question is that if we are unable to fully fund this project we need to explore who in the community may be able to continue administering this program
  - The needed amount to keep this program going is about \$50,000, we currently have a donation that will help fund it through the next three years
  - Noreen is currently trying to move forward the effort to get State level funding for all Imagination Libraries to make sure all children aged 0-4 can receive books.
    - This would be a partnership with the state where they would
- Book Fest
  - Historically this program has been done in coordination with United Way and Connected Lane County and United Way would like to keep it but the education team does not have the capacity
  - UW's Resource Development team will take ownership of program from the hub staff to keep UW's involvement in the process
- Triple P
  - This program is funded by Lane County Public Health Prevention from the CCOs
  - It has one of the longest and strongest histories of evidence based practice in parenting education
  - The hub currently administers the program through an implementation team with partners throughout the community
    - Parenting Now, Cornerstone Community Housing, Oregon Research Institute, and some UW staff
  - The recommendation is that the hub looks to rehome this with one of their current partners because administratively it is a lot of time and comparatively when we look at other agencies who have a direct relationship with families it might make more sense for it to be housed there to increase access
  - This would also free up the hub's staff time to work on other projects or to better administer projects that currently they do not have capacity for
  - The hub would still like to be a partner on this project with helping with funds to make Triple P online free to all families, social media, and blog support
  - Potential Next Steps:
    - Have a conversation with the funders to see what might be possible and then bring that to the implementation team and see what they think and if any of them are ready and willing to take this project on
  - Discussion:
    - It would make a lot of sense to transfer to a place that is a direct provider because they are actively seeing what is going on in the community
    - Would the hub still do mini grant funding?
      - a. The funds do come out of the Triple P grants so it would just have to be a conversation if or when this project is rehomed
      - b. It would make sense that the new holder of Triple P would administer these grants
    - No one in the GC see this as a bad idea
- Family Resource Centers
  - There are two funding streams that get used to create funding for Family Resource Centers: Family Supports and Stable, Health & Attached Families
  - Historically these funds have gone to Lane County School Districts to help fund Resource Centers

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- The hub would like to retool how these funds are distributed and utilized
- There has been work in previous years to try and reimagine the funding structure or strategy to:
  - Serve more kids affectively
  - To get districts to invest more meaningfully or fully in their FRC's or let us know if it isn't their priority or they want to take a different approach
- The largest awards given out through these means is \$15,000 and is usually \$10,000-\$15,000
- The thinking was that these FRC funds could be an early bridge between the school district and families to create positive connections
- Would like to determine a way to invest these funds in a more meaningful way to do what they were made for, social and emotional stuff, connect families with resources, and continue building that bridge between families and school districts
- What the hub would like to do is to redesign it as more of a competitive process and open it up to other Community agencies that are already doing these services
  - Fewer awards with a more money to help grow already existing programs and district efforts
- Discussion:
  - Wondering if you have talked about the option of distributing differently but staying only in the FRCs instead of opening it up
    - a. Yes there has been a couple of different ways the funding has been imagined and there hasn't been a lot of change
  - Many of them Community Based Agencies have grant writers on staff, and it may shift the money will move away from FRCs
    - a. The hub would like to see some of the funding still remaining in FRCs through a priority matrix or scoring for this funding to make sure the funds are distributed equitable
  - Having come from other districts and counties the Lane network of Community Based Organizations (CBO) and providers isn't very rich if we can build them up to have an opportunity it could benefit both school districts and the community in the short and long run
    - a. Some CBOs need support building a foundation in being able to utilize grants like this and evaluation and impact could be harder to measure in certain CBOs as they do not have a foundation that some districts do
    - b. If you could go to the districts and let them know and see if they could find other funding for the FRCs to be able to supplement some funding while also being able to build up ones that may not have that chance and CBOs alongside them
    - c. Access on the grants and infrastructure support are some key needs that will need to be looked at
  - Some CBOs find it difficult to find funding because they don't fit into big ticket grants and also don't fit into to school district funding
  - Can hopefully not be an either or and have funding for both FRCs in districts and CBOs
  - Next Steps for this item
    - a. Creating a small sub-committee from the GC to determine what some next steps might be, how this process may look, and what communication to existing FRCs look like
    - b. Claire, Michelle, and Noreen will discuss how to create this committee and will most likely reach out to folks individually

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- Preschool Promise
  - The state is currently working on doing some revamping to the Preschool Promise process but currently have no timeline in place
  - One of the main updating will be working on the timelines for PSP to make them more logical and helpful to both hubs and providers so that they are not trying to start a program before funding has been released
  - The state is going to bring together a cross partner group to think about how coordinated enrollment can change in the future and work towards next steps
  - The hub will also continue changing the process on their end to help make it easier locally for families while also still adhering to the rules set in place by the state
  - Eligibility is 200% of the FPL (For a family of 4 that is \$55,500 yearly income)
  - Affect these programs and their livelihood as they may

### VIII. Updates & Announcements

- Childcare Sector Strategist and Quality Care Connection update
  - State wide providers have heard about the expansion grants through the ELD, 15 providers in Lane County have received funds
  - There is a different stream of funds through Seeding Justice ELD asked to distribute the funds to BIPOC Providers, Culturally specific organizations
    - These funds can go to anyone but has to have these focuses
    - There are a couple providers in Lane county that meet these qualifications to see if they would be interested in expanding or opening a second location
    - They are meeting with different communities about these funds to make sure people know that they are out there
    - There are \$22 Million for the whole state
    - If you know or hear about anything please contact Cheryl
  - Starting January 3<sup>rd</sup> letters of intent can be sent for locations dealing with these priority populations
  - Stating March 6<sup>th</sup> take letter of intent for ideas on expansion and startups that are not specific to priority populations
- RSA and ECSA Update
  - As a hub it is something we are charged with compiling information and reporting it to the state
    - How are programs in our county doing in availability of slots
    - Collecting data to understand what families are wanting and needing in early care to identify gaps
  - There was a survey that went out to gather information from families
    - About 500 English responses and around 80 Spanish responses
    - 90by30 will be doing the analysis for this
  - Focus groups are also being done as smaller gatherings to hear anecdotally barriers that families are facing
  - Additionally for the RSA there will be focus groups with employers and HR directors to determine what they are doing in terms of child care access in January
  - There is a survey going out to employers to see a baseline of what they are currently doing and what they expect to do in the coming years
  - There is also a toolkit that was developed for employers to provide support and guidance
  - QCC did a provider survey so we will use that data to see what they are needing and what parents are saying about accessing early care
  - From there we will identify a couple barriers to work to overcome in the coming year

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- Hub Co-Director Position
  - First round of interviews unfortunately did not work out and they are currently working on finding a new Co-Director for the Hub as Claire Hambly will be leaving at the end of the year
  - A transition plan is being set for how this may look depending on overlap of time with Claire and the new co-director
  - Time was set aside to recognize Claire Hambly as this is her last meeting in her current role
- Thank you, Annie!
  - Time was set aside to recognize Annie Soto retiring from her position at Head Start with over 40 years of experience at Head Start and with the community

### IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:26pm.

***NEXT MEETING: Friday, January 13, 2023, 3:00 – 4:30 PM***