

## 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

December 10, 2021

3:00-4:30pm

Virtual Meeting

#### NOTES

##### Present:

Adrian Pollut, Parent Representative  
John Lively, Oregon State Representative  
Jeanine Taylor, Early Childhood CARES  
Reta Doland, Oakridge School District  
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District  
Marian Blankenship, Pacific Source Health Plans  
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES  
Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan  
Kraig Sproles, Bethel School District  
Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County  
Jacob Fox, Homes For Good  
Todd Hamilton, Springfield Public Schools  
Melissa Ibarra, Eugene 4J School District  
Sheila Wegener, Department of Human Services  
Leslie Finlay, Relief Nursery

##### Absent:

Tony Scurto, Lane Education Service District

Cheryl Henderson, Lane Community College  
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture  
Noreen Dunnells, United Way of Lane County  
Nina Watkins, Parent Representative  
Karen Gaffney, Lane County  
George Russell, Community Leader  
Jocelyn Warren, Lane County Health & Human Services

##### UWLC/ELA Staff:

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  
Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, Ed Program Mgr.

#### I. Call to Order

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

#### II. Welcome and Introductions

#### III. Public Comment

No comments were made.

#### IV. Consent Agenda

Approval of the October 8, 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:** Debi Farr motioned to approve the consent agenda.

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

**Ayes:** Adrian Pollut, John Lively, Jeanine Taylor, Reta Doland, Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Marian Blankenship, Judy Newman, Kraig Sproles, Annie Soto, Jacob Fox, Melissa Ibarra.

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

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### V. Parent Advisory Council report

Parent representative Adrian Pollut reported on the November Parent Advisory Council meeting where parents were asked what was most on their mind, which included:

- Communication with teachers was a big one now that kids are back in in the classroom. Feels like it's harder to connect with teachers and hear how their child is doing. Parents want to hear from school district staff to discuss their concerns. Judy Newman will join the January meeting to answer questions.
- One specific need that came up is that teachers are spread thin and it feels like their child that needs a one-on-one aid is not getting the attention necessary to grow in school.
- Mental health support for parents and children as we navigate covid. Feeling anxious about what is happening with access to school and preschool. There is work being done for early childhood mental health services, but feels like a work in progress.
- Parents expressed interest in Parent Cafes.

### VI. P-3 (Prenatal to Grade 3) Alignment

P-3 alignment work is within the Early Childhood Systems Theory of Change. Overall, the intent of the early learning system work is to support families, stabilize them and keep them attached. Thinking of the impact P-3 alignment has on the system, building that bridge between early learning and K-12 is incredibly important.

ELA coordinated a P-3 workgroup that was project specific. BookFest came from this, and hosted a conference around the Oregon Early Learning Kindergarten Guidelines (OELKG) for early learning and elementary staff. When the ECE Sector Planning came about this group was paused, but are now thinking about bringing new life to this. Who do want to bring to the table to bring alignment from early learning to K-3? One barrier is around shared development and when can that happen because K-3 and early learning schedules do not align. Additionally, how do we best serve families as they work through that transition.

Ideas and thinking on what can be most effective around building this community of practice and meeting the needs of families:

- Judy - Sponsor trainings for Home Visits for Kinder teachers: [Parent Teacher Home Visits](#). How does HV land with districts:
  - o Oakridge – were talking about this pre-COVID and would be interested in training and implementation.
  - o Bethel - Something I've done in other districts successfully. Would require collaboration with the labor union to incorporate considerations around the conditions of those visits. Most districts are bargaining this year and would need a little run way time and logistics to work through.
  - o 4J – at start of 2020 school year ODE put in place parameters for connecting with families. Set up conferences with families in September and could continue to explore if we don't yet get to HVs.
  - o The home visiting conversation/training is also relevant to our school counselors, family navigators, etc..
- Annie – using virtual trainings and developing platforms we have to make them more effective. If we talk about the resources that different groups have there are opportunities to coordinate.
- Kraig – hearing staff saying we can't devote more time to PD, but have so many brand-new staff also saying we need training. Is important, but don't think staff have capacity now.
- Todd – P3 is a priority. If you think about what the work would be or specific ask of the district we are happy to be a place to share these ideas and find a few internal experts to be involved. But, if it's a large number of staff, then not something we can take on now.
- Jeanine – thinking of kinder transition we are open to learning what would work better for districts. We would love for transitions to happen in early Spring and continue to serve kids in the summer. Would like to know who their kinder teacher is in the Spring so we could do a joint home visit to prepare the child and family for kinder. Would be happy to have contact with kinder teachers for kids we have served in the past

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and there hasn't been a mechanism for this to happen. Assisting that bridge between the different levels would be helpful.

- Joint training on HVs with Kinder or a joint home visit with Kinder teacher.
- KITS – potential for getting this program in Head Start or Preschool Promise classrooms?
- Jeanine -understanding school wide expectations. Build continuity between school expectations so parents know what they look like in preschool and kinder.
- Leslie – our staff would be happy to join a HV and bring our family and do a warm handoff to their new school. For families that are going to be more hesitant to take that leap into the school system we can help build that relationship. This could even be once the school year starts.
  - Think through what would be needed to make that happen and communication channels that need to be opened so families know this in advance.
- Melissa – open to having further conversations about what this could look like and how do we strengthen that home to school connection initially.

### VII. Building the Supply of Child Care

UWLC and the ELA continue to work with partners to build the supply of childcare in Lane County. Challenges include workforce shortages for childcare are at a crisis, providers are still recovering from the shut downs, access for families continues to be challenging, but also have programs that are not full. In September convened a group of people focused on workforce and economic development, and will reconvene in 2022 to discuss next steps. Hearing about what other hubs are doing across the state and talking with community funders to understand where to utilize resources to bring solutions to the table.

Holly Mar Conte recapped efforts locally to build the supply include the Tykeson Family Foundation's investment which was leveraged by City of Eugene and Florence CARES Act funding. Have convened funders who want to know how they can invest. Also talking with others around how they are investing in child care to develop an asset map of where resources are going so we can try to align and coordinate investments.

South Lane is working on doing a Community Needs Assessment because there isn't much in the way of infant/toddler care and trying to resurrect their CTE ECE program. The needs assessment could be replicated across the county and pulled into the Community Health Needs Assessment. There is a lot coming down the line around the CCO metric on social emotional health. UWLC has a donor that contributed funding earmarked to something in child care.

Other Early Learning hubs are hiring a Child Care Accelerator to help connect employers with the chamber of commerce to come up with solutions and lower barriers to establish care or a shared service facility.

John – what is current enrollment and what are the challenges to filling programs?

- Head Start: it's a complex answer. Directly related to COVID, there are a lot of people that don't want their child to be exposed.
- Preschool Promise – under enrollment reasons that are not COVID related are that some of our vacancies is due to a lack of transportation being available for families that need it. Limited hours of the provider and they don't match work hours for parents. Location is another barrier, hearing a lot from families in need of services in Florence and Springfield.

Adrian – for folks who may not qualify for free methods of childcare they just need a subsidy to afford care.

Sheila – Employment Related Day Care (ERDC): The subsidy has improved but families may not know about this resource. Our staff have had less contact with families as well that we aren't able to have conversations and let them know what is available to them.

### Preschool Promise RFA

The Early Learning Division (ELD) is planning to expand Preschool Promise (PSP) in 2022, with up to 260 more slots for our county. The amount allocated to Lane County is dependent on local interest and capacity. The ELD has released a brief interest survey before the application is released early 2022. Staff at Quality

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Care Connections (QCC) can help interested providers with questions about the survey. Survey is available in English and Spanish: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/4405c68dbbbf43b68edbe69e70a2e0db>

Bess will do outreach to districts that do not have PSP so they are aware of this. Current providers are also asked to complete this survey.

Annie - Would be great for districts to see where Head Start is in their community.

John – does the response to this interest survey have to indicate they have the staff needed? No, it doesn't drill down to that level of specificity. But, assume that the RFA most likely would.

### VIII. Updates & Announcements

- [LETRS](#) training – ELA was recipient of grant to support districts with early lit and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading. Have had conversation with 4J, Springfield, Bethel, and LESD around supporting staff with this asynchronous training.
  - “There is a Right Way to Teach Reading, and Mississippi Knows It.”  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/05/opinion/mississippi-schools-naep.html>
- Child Care Stabilization Grants – funding from the Office of Childcare to childcare providers, needs to be spent by June. Can be up to \$150K for a larger provider. 20% goes to increasing salaries for staff.

### IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 pm.

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