

## 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 February 10, 2023 3:00 - 4:30pm Virtual Meeting

#### NOTES

##### Present:

Adrian Pollut, Parent Representative  
Charleen Strauch, 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  
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District  
Holly Mar-Conte, Childcare Sector Strategist  
Amy Davidson, Trillium Community Health Plan  
Nicole Desch, Onward Eugene  
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture  
Lane Tompkins, McKenzie School District  
Sheila Wegener, Department of Human Services  
Kraig Sproles, Bethel School District  
Ilana Jakubowski, First Place Kids  
Todd Hamilton, Springfield Public Schools  
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES

##### Absent:

Reta Doland, Oakridge School District  
Nina Watkins, Parent Representative  
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  
Kellie DeVore, PacificSource Health Plan  
Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan  
John Lively, Oregon State Representative  
Jacob Fox, Homes For Good  
Melissa Ibarra, Eugene 4J School District  
Brian K Johnson, Lane County Public Health

##### UWLC/ELA Staff:

Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, Co-Dir Early Learning,  
*meeting facilitator*  
Kris Coomes, Co-Dir Dir Early Learning  
Jaycob Nolte, Impact Program Coordinator

#### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 PM.

#### II. Welcome and Introductions

#### III. Public Comment

#### IV. Consent Agenda

Approval of the December 9, 2022 meeting notes.

**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:** Nicole Desch seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

**Ayes:** Adrian Pollut, Charleen Strauch, Leslie Cooper Parsons, Leslie Finlay, Cheryl Henderson, Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Holly, Amy Davidson, John Stapleton, Lane Tompkins, Shelia Wegener, Kraig Sproles, Ilana Jakubowski **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
- Dana Hepper from the Children's institute came and discussed strategies on talking with legislators and how to draft your own personal story to advocate.
  - The group is starting to plan ways in which they can meet with legislators that would be most effective for them

### VI. Early Childhood Hub Strategic Planning: Updates

- Triple P
  - Emily has been talking with Jacquelyn Moreno so she can put out an RFP for Triple P so that when the Hub's contract ends someone else will be able to take over for Lane County
  - Out hope is that Triple P would be better held at a direct service provider
    - UWLC would still hold the part that allows those families not on OHP to gain access to Triple P online
  - Planning is still ongoing so expect further updates in the coming months
- FRC
  - Kris is currently looking at the FRC structure as well as past FRC applications
  - She will start working towards site visits and looking into what sites are doing to assure that they are working within the guidelines set by the hub
  - This will further inform our future planning on FRC works

### VII. Raise UP Oregon (RUO): Second Edition Update (PPT is attached)

- RUO is a 5 year plan to have coordination across sectors to meet system goals:
  - Children arrive ready to Kindergarten
  - Children are raised in healthy, stable, and attached families
  - The Early Learning System is aligned, coordinated, and family-centered
- The initial 5 year plan (2019-2023) is currently ending its cycle this year, and in preparation for the next 5 year cycle hubs are being asked to participate in community engagement around a specific sector
  - This work is specifically to evaluate where the plan is at currently to reimagine and further develop strategies
- Sectors within these plans include: Oregon Department of Human Services, Oregon Department of Education, Early Learning Division, Oregon Health Authority, and Oregon Housing and Community Services
- Early Learning hubs are assigned housing as the sector to invite listening sessions to hear feedback on the housing/early childhood goals identified in RUO's draft 2<sup>nd</sup> edition
  - Our process will be to bring these strategies to a diverse group of families and caregivers as well as people who work in the field to really understand if this is the direction that we should go in
  - We have received a toolkit to develop outreach and engagement between 10-30 families and 10-30 professionals and providers to then submit by April, 14 for review to update the next RUO plan

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- Some of these strategies within the plan are in the old plan and some of them have been reimaged
- Goal 1: The early childhood system is equitable, integrated, scaled, and family-centered
  - Objective 1. Multi-agency partnerships are developed at the state and local levels to systematically support improved, equitable outcomes and streamlined access for young children and their families.
    - Strategy 1.1 Co-locate affordable housing and early childhood programs (OHCS, DELC, ODHS, OHA)
    - Strategy 1.3 Increase access to One Eligibility to other programs serving young children and their families (ODHS, DELC, OHCS)
    - Strategy 1.6 Implement expanded housing, food and climate supports as part of [1115 Medicaid waiver](#) (OHA, OHCS, ODHS)
  - Objective 4. Honor and recognize the sovereignty of the none federally recognized Tribes within Oregon's borders and ensure strong government-to-government relationships to benefit Tribal communities
    - Strategy 4.2 Bring together all Tribal Affairs Coordinators across state agencies to coordinate work and align engagement strategies (HECC, OHA, ODE, ODHS, OHCS, DELC)
- Goal 2: All families with young children are supported to ensure their well-being.
  - Objective 5. Families with young children are supported to ensure their well-being
    - Strategy 5.2 Expand navigators/coordinators across the early childhood system (HECC, OHA, ODE, ODHS, OHCS, DELC)
    - Strategy 5.3 Promote co-location of services as a one-stop local strategy for service information and access (HECC, OHA, ODE, ODHS, OHCS, DELC)
  - Objective 6. Families with young children have increased access to economic supports
    - Strategy 6.3 Support implementation of paid family leave and [state EITC](#) (HECC, OHA, ODE, ODHS, OHCS, DELC)
  - Objective 9. Affordable housing is available statewide for families with young children.
    - Strategy 9.1 Incorporate preferences through the [Qualified Allocation Plan](#) (QAP) and other affordable housing funding program frameworks for developers to build and provide units, spaces, and services required by families with young children (OHCS)
    - Strategy 9.2 Incentivize developers in rural and other underserved areas to prioritize and work towards meeting the need for affordable housing for local families with young children (OHCS)
    - Strategy 9.3 Identify and modify state and local regulations that are not related to safety and barriers to co-locating affordable housing with services and resources that help families with young children thrive (OHCS, DELC)
- Goal 3: All children are thriving in early childhood and beyond
  - Objective 14. Families have access to high-quality (culturally responsive, inclusive, developmentally appropriate) affordable early learning and care that meets their needs.
    - Strategy 14.1 Expand the supply of early learning and care, including workforce and facilities (DELC, OHCE, HECC)

### Group Discussion

- This is a two part discussion focusing on various groups involved in this sector, this includes providers who are delivering services and providing supports and families who are experiencing these issues as they are part of the system.

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- For Providers: Who from the housing sector is working with families with young children (prenatal-5) and should be interviewed? This can be specific organizations, specific roles within an organization, specific programs?
- Locations discussed include:
  - SVDP – has a co-located early childhood program within their services and can offer both provider perspective as well as a place to talk with families who are actively unhoused
  - Cornerstone Community Housing provides support across the county and would be another good place to look at both providers and community members- Noreen is happy to reach out to Darcy to connect these bridges
  - New position at HSLC the Housing Specialist who works with families affected by housing would be a good contact
  - Homes for Good
  - McKinney Vento Liaisons may have access to children who are in the PreK age
  - DevNW? Not sure if they work with children and families
  - What about the mission, the women and children side
  - Maybe the folks at First Step Family Transitional housing?
  - Willamette Family Treatment
  - Pearl Buck
  - CAC – maybe for information
  - Catholic Community Services; particularly G Street Oasis
- John asked: How can we convene with providers and people who are already doing this work in a way that is manageable and can give the RUO committee aligned advice surrounding this issue
  - Could we follow-up with a short workgroup to figure out a group who is actively working toward Lane County solutions as opposed to just interviewing folks who are really close to this and are experiencing this, which we should do, but have it guided by what is already possible
  - If we could align the work in a way to assist projects that are currently underway instead of looking to new projects and take advantage of that background to not have to start at square 1
  - The challenge with working with the state is that sometimes they do give us work that is a sort of check the box work, which can make the work lose sight of the overall strategic vision
  - This work is definitely more at a state level to inform the Raise Up Oregon plan and we can use it in Lane County to continue to build relationships and connections across the county to continue the work already being done
- Families: Specific Communities, regions, demographics, specific housing programs for families, etc we should be engaging?
  - Young Parents in particular because they are more often experiencing housing insecurity, not entirely sure how to reach that demographic but it is one that would benefit from help
  - ShelterCare
  - Connect with families who are unhoused through SVDP, Eugene Mission, Catholic Community Services, McKinney Vento. Connect with families who are low-income through Head Start, Preschool Promise, Relief Nurseries
  - Leslie Cooper Parsons discussed when working with HS full day programs the city was working on transportation questions when families were picking up to ask and gather input HS from families and was a successful strategy that could be used in this work as well

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- Next steps
  - We will take all of the input
  - We have 10,000 to work on this and data collection and stipends for family
  - Main purpose of this chat was to gather the who and the why this process is happening and will develop strategies to complete this
  - Amy is a little concerned with the scope of how much, would like to really make sure that in the feedback that there is a variety with cultural and diverse populations
    - Making sure we are translating materials in other languages and going to more rural areas to make sure that all voices of Lane county are served
    - Make sure we are connecting with the families who are in the most need
- Both HS and PSP have questions regarding unhoused individuals

### VIII. Funding Requests to the hub

- Discussion around clarification of process to decide funding requests to hub
  - The Hub Currently does not have a way to review and make funding decisions when we receive a direct request for funding
  - We have processes when funding is awarded by other entities (ie Mini Grants proposal process) but not when someone comes directly for us for one-time funding
  - The Hub has recently received a request for funding and we wanted to bring it to the group to determine our next steps
- In 2019 two funding requests were brought to the hub outside of usual grant processes
  - At the same time, the hub had a funding “cushion” due to unspent Hub Coordination dollars
  - From May – August 2019 the Governance Consortium discussed an appropriate use for this “cushion” as well as how to make a decision around specific funding requests brought forward
  - In August – October 2019 hub staff convened a subcommittee to develop criteria to score requests and an Initial draft of this criteria exists but no final version was recoverable
  - In October 2019 criteria was brought to the Governance Consortium and the two requests were scored/reviewed based on the criteria. One was funded and the other was not approved.
  - What is the process we can give people specific funding
  - Would it be possible just to use the previously created criteria? Why do we need to create new criteria?
    - We don't currently have the most recent criteria
    - Should we wait to hear the funding request
- These direct funding requests would use extra money that the funds have as a one-time funding and would not be an ongoing fund distribution
- Next steps:
  - Create this process and make it available going forward for a one-hour meeting to develop and revise the drafts
  - Make sure to set the criteria before we set a proposal and make sure to keep transparency about the funds that get requested as a one-time thing and are available to request but not guaranteed
  - How would agencies know that this funding was available was a big part of the discussion previously, and sense the amount of funding is not that big as a hub, it seemed like making it a competitive process was not the right fit

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- Making it transparent that occasionally the Hub has extra funding to expend and it is a onetime funding and you can submit proposals they are dependent on the criteria as well as funding availability.
  - We can add to the Hub website for more transparency
- The following people would like to be on the committee: Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, Judy Newman, Todd Hamilton, Kris Coomes, and Ilana Jakubowski
- We will have 2 part email going out before the next meeting. The first as a draft of the criteria for questions and the second releasing the final criteria along with the proposal for final vote on the funding request to expedite the process for the March meeting to hold a vote

### IX. Updates & Announcements

- Relevant and Related Early Childhood Legislation
  - Brief overview of the priorities this session for early childhood
    - Not really any cuts that were amended
    - Increases
      - a. Budget support on children with disabilities
      - b. Help with transportation
      - c. Increases to employment childcare related programs to increase supply and help for parents navigating the system
      - d. Increase for educators to help with tuition to help get degrees
      - e. Increases surrounding facilities, upgrades and building out new areas which is separate from the co-location of housing and education
      - f. Universal home visiting expansions
      - g. Increases in cost per child for HS and PSP like programs
    - Hubs are a part of an association and have a lobbyist who provides regular and ongoing support and information around upcoming and current bills
    - Potentially will have a day to lobby with legislators to talk specifically about the hubs
  - Childcare Sector Strategist and Quality Care Connection Update
    - Working on
      - Groups in Florence to do a targeted focus in Florence of licensed exempt providers
      - Working with Peace Health in Florence for space
      - Business Accelerator Program to license exempt providers to help increase their capacities
      - Fast track to childcare jobs scheduled for March 18th
        - a. After the day of training you would be ready to be hired as an aid in the childcare system
      - Working with three providers applying to the seeding justice grant
      - An RFP sent out on Monday for PR/marketing design forms for a media campaign for the purpose to highlight importance of early learning and early care
        - a. Would be developed in Lane county and launch it with the intent that it could be scaled to other areas
        - b. Looking to get the proposals by the end of the month
      - Working with Be your Best in cottage grove
      - Submitted 3 grants last week
        - a. Apprenticeship grant within ECE and funding for planning that

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- b. Consortium grant with the goal to be with anyone interested with a degree in ECE debt free just for planning
    - c. Submitted a grant to United way for childcare referrals
  - o Shared out an employer survey
    - o Goal is to get a baseline of what providers are doing for childcare and what businesses want to know and want help on to potentially increase childcare policies in their organization
    - o Link to survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LZH6PDN>
    - o Hosting event on March 10<sup>th</sup> 9-12 with QCC and the hub talking about what are the opportunities and possibilities for employers
      - o With speakers across the state who have successfully implemented childcare strategies in their businesses
  - Early Childhood Systems Analysis (ECSA)/Regional System Assessment (RSA) Update
    - o Currently collecting and analyzing data and in April we will bring something to the GC and Family Leadership Council to give a high level framework as to what the barriers are

### X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:23pm.

**NEXT MEETING: Friday, March 10, 2023, 3:00 – 4:30 PM**