

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

April 8, 2022
3:00-4:30pm
Virtual Meeting

NOTES

Present:

Chelsea Whitney, Lane County Public Health
Noreen Dunnells, United Way of Lane County
Adrian Pollut, Parent Representative
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES
Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County
Leslie Finlay, Relief Nursery
Sheila Wegener, Department of Human Services
Marian Blankenship, Pacific Source Health Plans
Jacob Fox, Homes For Good
Tony Scurto, Lane Education Service District
Kraig Sproles, Bethel School District

Absent:

Melissa Ibarra, Eugene 4J School District
Reta Doland, Oakridge School District
Karen Gaffney, Lane County
Jocelyn Warren, Lane County Health & Human Services
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District
Todd Hamilton, Springfield Public Schools

John Lively, Oregon State Representative
Cheryl Henderson, Lane Community College
Nina Watkins, Parent Representative
Jeanine Taylor, Early Childhood CARES
Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture

UWLC/ELA Staff:

Claire Hambly, Dir ELA, *meeting facilitator*
Adriana Medina Garcia, Bilingual Family Engagement Coordinator
Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, Dir Early Learning Strat.
Emily Reiter, Education Program Coordinator
Yajaira Guzman, Preschool Promise Coordinated Enrollment Specialist
Cathi McNutt, Chief Financial Officer
Michelle Hjelm, Preschool Promise Enrollment Manager
Holly Mar Conte, Chief Strategy Officer

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 PM.

II. Welcome and Introductions

III. Public Comment

No comments were made.

IV. Consent Agenda

Approval of the March 11, 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: Judy Newman seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

Ayes: Chelsea Whitney, Noreen Dunnells, Adrian Pollut, Annie Soto, Leslie Finlay, Sheila Wegener, Marian Blankenship, Tony Scurto

Nays: None; **Abstentions:** None

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V. Family Leadership Council report

The FLC will meet on April 14, 2022.

Adriana Medina Garcia (amedina@unitedwaylane.org) will be co-facilitating the Bethel Early Literacy Project FLC. They are seeking more caregivers to join. The goal is to learn from families about increasing awareness of early literacy in Bethel (i.e. Expanding library access, community book mobile)

- Noreen: have been talking about literacy in Bethel for some time, Imagination Library books don't cover all Bethel zip codes; PeaceHealth is supporting and will be able to serve more children.

VI. 2021-23 Hub Coordination Budget Review & Discussion

Cathi McNutt, UWLC's CFO, reviewed the 2021-23 budget.

- Budget document available with the notes
- Didn't get contract from state until March 9- don't have a good set of financials at this time because we're still making adjustments
- Expenditures
 - o First 3 items are direct expenses: i.e.: language interpretation
 - o Salaries show 4.5 FTE (doesn't include indirect time)
 - o A couple of placeholders: additional admin support
 - o Connected Lane County funding has not changed
- Bottom half: general and admin; difference in under budget comes from bridge funding that increases in the second year.
- Much better set of financials coming soon
- Contact Cathi (cmcnutt@unitedwaylane.org) for any questions on the budget
- Cushion/carryover: because we haven't had any revenue, number is low (\$150,000 carryover- probably more in actuality); ELA is in sound condition, money available in case something comes up.

VII. Hub Work Plan for 2021-2023

Claire Hambly presented the hub work plan for review. This document is available with the notes.

- RUO = Raise Up Oregon (the state's early learning plan)
- Trying to capture the things that we're responsible for but also the other work we're involved in; trying to pull those things in without taking credit (open to feedback about how this should look). The agencies listed are those that the ELA is working directly with to support these programs
- The work that relates to this group:
 - o Parenting education
 - Outcome 1, strategy 1 (1.1): Goal to make parenting ed available and target culturally specific populations
 - 2.7; 8; 9.2 (Lane County Public Health Prevention for Triple P and other community-based groups)
 - o FRC work in 9.2
 - Need to make plan for Family Preservation Funds
 - o KITS and other transition work in 6.1
 - o Preschool Promise and other child care work
 - Located throughout the plan
 - 2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 3.2, 3.3, 13.1 (convening community conversation – collaborating with UWLC RD to develop parenting groups during campaign)
 - o Health aspects embedded throughout the plan
 - 7.2 (projects with mental health agencies)
 - Objective 5 (EC CARES is responsible for serving those kids and we are coordinating, identifying barriers)
 - Objective 4 – huge goals, how do we align with others
 - o Family Leadership Council
 - 10.2 (how to streamline existing resource lists to make it easier for parents to navigate)

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- Other pieces of work that didn't fit neatly into the plan
 - Imagination Library
 - Lane AAVSS work
- Data and equity pieces that are aspirational
 - 11.1 (would like to review demographic data collected by us and partners, how to use this info more effectively)
 - 11.2 (doing review of funded projects and partners, what can we improve to get funding to agencies serving priority populations?)

Group Discussion

The intent is for the work plan to be a living document, update it regularly.

Jacob: The work plan is very logical and easy to follow.

Judy: understandably dense, hope that we can all see our own work represented and how all of these pieces are necessary.

Kraig: Some objectives seem more measurable than others- what's the idea for keeping track of data/monitoring?

- Michelle and Claire still working on that piece; the state isn't clear on what the monitoring process is either. Claire and Michelle met with data person from the state. Will keep this group updated, a regional assessment process is coming- communication has not been very transparent.
- Kraig: something like "increase %" is measurable; monitoring could be overwhelming for a plan like this; I like the plan, agree with keeping the focus on what we directly support.
- Judy: We've never had to report on actual outcome measures (doesn't mean we shouldn't). The things we can actually get measures on, what we have ownership of, should get good metrics.
- Holly: the ELD has struggled to identify what those measure would be; has shifted to hub-lead
- Holly: RUO was pushed to find metrics that cut across sectors

Kraig: we're starting to see the impacts of the pandemic in K-12; there are 50 days of school left to think about gaps in learning, struggles with s/e, the way kinders showed up this year was very different, failed to make gains- don't see a ton of this plan being responsive to where we're at emerging from the pandemic

- Having this conversation with lots of partners, would need to think about how to better represent that
- Judy: the hub is the convener, not direct service provider but the programs we work with are seeing the same thing; the hub could be a convener for how we develop and share resources.
- Noreen: new social/emotional metrics that CCOs will be responsible for; might be a place to represent some of those challenges; 1st and 2nd grade teachers are now trying to accommodate challenges
- Claire: don't know how much it will be called out but will be part of that work; need to acknowledge the need for increased supports
- Marian: absolutely a place where Pacific Source is going to lean in- health aspects of kinder readiness. First focus area is around data, asset mapping, community engagement; first year or two focused on behavioral health opportunities and resources. Bess Jayme in her new role will be helping to support this work, also Connect Oregon- will build a bridge between hub work and partners
- Judy: potentially exciting moment. Developmental screening was the first time the CCOs, early learning, and health had the same goals and we made progress. This is another potentially effective way to work together; current legislation around s/e pilots, hopefully more creative ways for s/e supports

Will submit to the state next week and update as needed

VIII. Updates & Announcements

- Claire pulled together a Governance Consortium subcommittee to discuss how best to utilize Family Preservation Funds. The funds are more prescriptive this year than they've been in the past. The funds are for families at risk, actively in crisis, pre-placement; can be used for respite care, infant safe haven programs. The subcommittee decided that funds should go to RN, FRN, and Pearl Buck but it's not a huge amount of funding so we don't necessarily want to split the funds. What is the best way to decide who gets the funding? Ask agencies to outline what they would do with a portion or all of the funding?
 - Leslie: \$84,000 for the biennium but it's really just for one year because the first year is almost over.
 - If it was on-going funding, we could create something new but it's not clear if it will be available next biennium
 - Appears that the funds could go to individual families within an agency.

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- Chelsea: agencies would be the best ones to identify families for tailored assistance.
- Claire can reach out to these agencies and bring it back to this group
- Kraig: Bethel is making a push to re-engage school-aged children in school. We're down 32,000 kids across the state, particularly for K-2. They are spreading the word about Kinder registration, schools are open for families to tour; getting the word out that we're ready to engage.
 - Adrian: a lot of parents are feeling uncertain about schools during COVID. Lots of parents don't have a plan for schooling, are distrustful of public schools, don't have a plan for when their child turns 5 (possible topic for the FLC).
 - Sheila: is there a flyer or plan for promoting this? We talk about PSP but don't talk about schools, could add this to the conversation.
 - Michelle Hjelm: *Our Free Child Care & Family Supports new (in the works) marketing push (PSA video) will have a bit about the benefits of seeking services! Not related to k-12, but younger kiddos who can be reached and then helped with transition to kinder after once they are age elig.*
 - Claire: need a community-wide PSA about this in general that could encompass all districts
- LaneKids/ELA are currently undertaking a rebrand with Verb Marketing. This is exciting but also scary and daunting, will take some time.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, May 13, 2022, 3:00 – 4:30 PM