

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

August 12, 2022

3:00-4:30pm

Virtual Meeting

NOTES

Present:

Adrian Pollut, Parent Representative
Brian K Johnson, Lane County Public Health
Jacob Fox, Homes For Good
John Lively, Oregon State Representative
Annie Soto, Head Start of Lane County
Nicole Desch, Onward Eugene
Noreen Dunnells, United Way of Lane County
Sheila Wegener, Department of Human Services
Tony Scurto, Lane Education Service District
Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES
Marian Blankenship, Pacific Source Health Plan
Jeanine Taylor, Early Childhood CARES
Leslie Finlay, Relief Nursery
Sue Wilson, Superintendent of Maple
Matt Sayre, Onward Eugene

Absent:

Melissa Ibarra, Eugene 4J School District
Reta Doland, Oakridge School District
Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, Bethel School District
Todd Hamilton, Springfield Public Schools
Nina Watkins, Parent Representative
Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan
Cheryl Henderson, Lane Community College
John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture
Kraig Sproles, Bethel School District
Leslie Cooper Parsons, Head Start of Lane County

UWLC/ELA Staff:

Claire Hambly, Dir ELA, meeting facilitator
Jaycob Nolte, Impact Program Coordinator
Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, Dir Early Learning Strat.
Yajaira Guzman, Preschool Promise Coordinator

I. Call to Order

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

II. Welcome and Introductions

III. Public Comment

No comments were made.

IV. Consent Agenda

Approval of the June 10, 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: **Tony Scurto** seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

Ayes: Adrian Pollut, Brain Johnson, John Lively, Annie Soto, Nicole Desch, Noreen Dunnells, Sheila Wegener, Judy Newman. Marian Blankenship, Jeanine Taylor, Leslie Finlay, Sue Wilson

Nays: None; **Abstentions:** None

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V. Regional System Assessment

- The Hub will conduct an assessment of, and all hub regions in the state will also look into, “the conditions hindering and helping access to high-quality (culturally responsive, inclusive, developmentally appropriate), affordable early care and education that meets their needs”. Results will inform local & state level strategies aimed at moving toward universal access.
- The process is still in development as the first round of Assessments are being developed
- This first year all hubs are doing same objectives after that each hub will choose a different objective
- There is already some historic and anecdotal knowledge of barriers affecting this objective that a smaller group has already gotten together and developed but there could be others that are unknown throughout the community which is what the assessment hopes to find
- The Governance Consortium is asked to look into their different sectors, especially those that may not be immediately involved in child care, to look and see if their staff//themselves have had barriers affecting their childcare
- Discussion questions were included in the agenda and a Jamboard through Google was conducted to elicit information surrounding the Assessment’s objective

Group Discussion Following the Jamboard:

Questions Asked:

What are the needs and barriers you are hearing in your sector from employees/families/the community?
How would your sector/staff/org overall benefit if childcare were more accessible?

- Marian Blankenship and Pacific Source Health plan had asked employees at the beginning of the pandemic about their childcare needs
- All other information she has received is word of mouth/anecdotal
- Noreen states that this time of year United Way meets with Corporate leaders of the community and these issues of childcare tend to always come up across all sectors
- Judy states that the issue of childcare and affordability is something that is not new and has been tracked in the ALICE report, it was already moving towards a crisis point and the pandemic shifted it creating she is hoping that shift will end up being a good thing because the crisis became more intense and exemplified the issues forcing a need of change
- Jeanine brings up families with children with specific needs and the childcare services provided to the child are not adequate for their needs showing the need for a trained and skilled workforce
- Oregon Social Learning Center did a survey of child care providers across the state and they found very high levels of anxiety with children with special needs
- It was asked how everyone is responding/addressing the need in their places of work currently, in the past, or historically
- Michelle Sheng-Palmisano experienced flexibility within United way when distance learning started happening she was able to work from home
- Noreen says UW has implemented an infant at work policy two years ago for infants at least up to 6 months of age and depending on circumstances could be longer
- Nicole discusses flexibility being a big part of Onward Eugene as well, and states that Onward Eugene is lucky that they have jobs that have the capability to work remotely because others may not be in that same boat
- Pacific Source Health have recognized the impact of inflation on their employees and has done readjustment of wage levels

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- In the past Peace Health had a childcare network where they worked with the CCRNR at the time to have a network of providers that they can refer out to in the area
- U of O has a place where they can help you find childcare in HR if not able to get into the on site childcare
 - o Also a list/google doc/spreadsheet of staff that need childcare to be matched with students who are available to provide childcare
- Jeanine discusses that the Forest Service in Oakridge was looking at partnering options in the community to ensure their employees had child care. There was discussion around opening a site, or providing stipends but Judy and Jeanine do not know if it came to fruition
- McKenzie Bridge had a similar situation where they were looking do open a childcare site for families in the area but age groups change so quickly that in order to keep the childcare stable it is difficult
- Sue states that she “applied for Preschool Promise in order to expand our hours (from 4 to 6.5) in Mapleton - rural opportunity. We are blending funding to ensure every family has free preschool even if they do not meet PP income qualification. We hope to include an early learning/education pathway starting next year in order to increase work pipeline.”
- Jeanine says that “one more thing Early Childhood CARES is doing is to allow new parents who want it a period of time with reduced FTE when they have a new baby.”
- Leslie Finlay talked about how Relief Nursery allows babies at work for up to a year
- Sue talks about their ESD Migrant Education program Early Learning Specialist would also be a good partner for learning the unique needs of our Migrant communities on the topic of discussion groups
- Discussion took place around getting together a group of HR representatives from different businesses around the area to see what policies are in place for childcare or parental leave.
- What will be done with this information?
 - o Design focus groups with evaluation partners focusing on families and caregivers (specific to priority populations), providers, and businesses to better understand all perspectives of the situation
 - o Data will be synthesized and brought back to the group for discussion on to see what can be done to help create solutions for the major barriers that are identified
 - o Also determine where the accountability for some of these barrier is to better fix or regulate those functions whether that be at state or local levels
- Noreen discusses a possible look into Homes For Good Families to get a focus group set up

VI. Updates & Announcements

- Early Learning Alliance/LaneKids rebranding
 - o The new logo was shown to the Governance Consortium and details of the website and rebranding will be finalized and pushed out to the public in mid-September pending no issues or further delays
- Childcare Sector Strategist Position <https://bit.ly/3zQbjC1>
 - o A position within Onward Eugene, local regional economic development organization, went live this week for a childcare sector strategist to help with business expansion and retention
 - o Onward Eugene has joined forces with United Way and other pro-community groups to collaborate around a sector specific focus using collective impact strategies
 - o United way will be funding this position for a year
- United Way Board of Directors presentation
 - o Claire and Michelle did a deep dive about the work that the Education team at United Way does to the UW Board of Directors and will be presenting it to the Governance Consortium at the next meeting

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- The following meeting after the presentation will focus on rich dynamic work surrounding decisions and projects that we believe are driving our mission and goals and possibly scale back or rehome other projects if they are not currently working in our dynamic
- Social-Emotional Kinder Readiness Metric
 - Last week there was the first community kickoff for the social-emotional kinder readiness metric with trillium and pacific source on how they will roll out the assessment
 - It was stated there needs to be some slow down in this process at the meeting to really look at the community needs and make sure the work is being intentional

VII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:16pm.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, September 9, 2022, 3:00 – 4:30 PM