

# Monthly Director's Report

## March 2017



On February 21, our Hub was the first of the sixteen Early Learning Hubs to participate in the Monitoring and Evaluation process with the Early Learning Division (ELD). The ELD was here to determine if the Hub was meeting three distinct goals with this process: accountability for state dollars, productivity indicators (metrics), and self-guided continuous improvement.

The ELD representatives arrived at LBCC in the morning and we sat down to review documents and discuss the activities that the Hub has participated in since the biennium. For lunch we travelled to the LBL-Education Service District offices in Albany and met with members of the Hub Governing Board, Committee Chairs from various committees, and funded partners. During lunch, those Hub partners addressed the ELD representatives and discussed their roles in the Hub, their successes, and their concerns. The ELD was extremely impressed that with no prompting from Hub staff, members of the Hub could speak confidently and succinctly on a wide range of topics.

In the afternoon we returned to LBCC to reach consensus on our Hub rating, discuss areas for improvement, to guide the development of our quality improvement plan that is anticipated to be presented to the Governing Board for feedback and suggestions at our April meeting.

-- Kristi May, Hub Director

## Baby Blast!

The Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital “Baby Blast” event was held on February 23. Hub staff attended and handed out Vroom materials and teddy bears to new parents, local agencies from east Linn County, and hospital staff and pediatricians. In addition, the Hub shared tip cards with the local pediatricians to distribute to other families through their practice.



## Legislative Testimony

On February 9, Hub Governing Board Co-Chair Julie Manning was invited to speak before a State Early Childhood and Family Supports Committee to discuss information about the Pollywog Project. The panel focused on the work of five Hubs from across the State, and provided an on-the-ground look at what it means to create a coordinated, aligned system whose work is driven by the community and elevates the voice of parents and families. Julie also discussed our pilot ASQ training in Lincoln County that led to additional funding for Linn and Benton County and our Pollywog Project.



## Family Fun Day

This year makes the 40th Annual Family Fun Day at Linn-Benton Community College, being held on March 11, 2017, from 10-2:00pm at the LBCC Activity Center in Albany. Each year nearly 2,000 parents access LBCC parenting education classes so that they can be the best parents possible. LBCC is committed to finding ways to raise funds to provide scholarships so that no family is unable to participate. Last year LBCC helped 47 families with tuition assistance; the past two terms along they have assisted 43 families with tuition grants totaling over \$2,000. The need in our area for financial assistance is high.



# Hub Work Groups Update



**WORK GROUP DAY:** Hub Work Groups were very busy during the month of February. Work Group Day was held on February 9th at the Oregon Coast Community College in Lincoln County. The half-day meeting included updates from all work groups, updates on Vroom and the Pollywog Project, and discussion on the Governor's Budget in regards to funding for Early Learning.



**DATA & EVALUATION WORK GROUP:** A joint meeting was held with the Health Care Integration Work Group participants to discuss the final results of the ASQ training held in Lincoln County, the latest PowToon from Anna Menon (our intern), some infographics created for data distribution to the Hub stakeholders, and a possible summit on social-emotional research and data.



**HEALTH CARE INTEGRATION WORK GROUP:** The group met to discuss the implementation of our ASQ training plan with the CCO grant and the new Pollywog Specialist, Cathy Corkery, was introduced to partners.



**EARLY CHILDHOOD COORDINATING COUNCIL:** Group members received an overview of the new Pollywog website and spent time discussing current services for families in Lincoln County. Further discussion is needed with more Lincoln County partners present to get a true sense of the need, where there may be gaps, and how to better align programs so that all family needs are met. A future meeting will be planned for further discussion.

## Early Learning Hub Mission and Vision Statements:

**Mission:** The Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties brings partners together to increase family stability, improve kindergarten readiness, and ensure service coordination that is equitable and culturally and linguistically competent.

**Vision:** Our communities provide an easily accessible and collaborative system of support and care for families that help children to grow up safe, nurtured, healthy, and ready for school and life.