

Monthly Director's Report

October 2017



Early
Learning **Hub**

of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties



This month's Governing Board Meeting was an exciting and complicated process as we reviewed the subcontracts for the upcoming biennium. As most of you know, Early Learning Hubs across the state were given less operating funds for the coming 2017-2019 term, and there were difficult decisions to be made by the Board because of it. We are very pleased with the response of the Board, as they discussed the effect of funding on our subcontractors, and proposed ways to set aside funding for innovative and responsive funding. We are also grateful to the subcontractors who came to the meeting to answer questions and express their appreciation for prior funding. The meeting was a successful blend of ideas and concerns, and we appreciate our Board for their efforts.

We are also excited by a number of projects that are coming to fruition here in the next few months, and we look forward to sharing the details with you. This Early Learning Hub has so many moving parts, and often those parts link together to form wonderful new projects! We also have a lovely new Pollywog Project Specialist that we can't wait to introduce you to!

And finally, I am pleased to announce that my new email address has finally been approved and you may now get a hold of me at: kristi.collins@linnbenton.edu. My prior email address will continue to work for a period of time, but you should start seeing my new name on all Hub materials and communications.

**Thank you for all of your continued good work,
Kristi Collins, EL Hub Director**

EL Hub Conference to Commence Soon

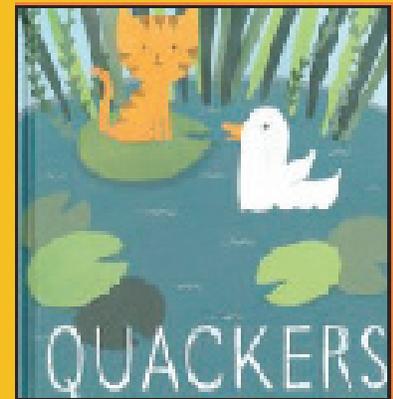
As the First Annual Early Learning Hub Conference draws closer, our department is a flurry of activity! There are SO many details that need to be addressed, and we are grateful for the help of people like the LBCC Public Safety department that stepped up to offer reserved parking for our event, signage, and a Security Officer in the parking lot to direct traffic. We also appreciate the Culinary School planning to serve something extra-wonderful the day of the event, and the LBCC IT department working with us to iron out any technology problems before the day of the conference!

We currently have over 150 people who have rsvp'd for the event, and we hope that you are also planning to join us at Linn-Benton Community College on Friday, October 20, from 9:30-3:30pm. This is a free event, and is currently open to everyone in the state. Please hurry to sign up if you haven't done so already. We look forward to seeing you at this wonderful event!

Distribution of Jump-Start Materials Begins

The JumpStart "Read for the Record" event will be happening on Thursday, October 19, 2017, and the providers that have signed up are pouring into our offices to pick up their packets of books, certificates and activity sheets. If you haven't picked yours up yet, please come over as soon as possible!

To date 34 local agencies have signed up to read on October 19th, with about 1600 children participating. If you would like to participate, you can still sign up by [clicking here](#), and we will contact you as soon as possible. Please remember that we need to know the number of children (English and Spanish) that will be participating!



Welcome Day at LBCC

On September 20th, the Hub Staff participated in LBCC's Welcome Day, introducing incoming students to life on campus. Our staff set up a Vroom display table and spent three hours talking to students and staff about the Vroom Initiative and what benefits Vroom could offer to their children. Many frisbees and tip cards were distributed!



Pollywog Updates

On September 20th, Kristi Collins and Le-Anne Trask traveled to Portland to take part in the Oregon and SW Washington Early Learning Funders Collaborative. Only four groups from around the state were invited to give a presentation about their project and it's overlap with the OPEC Hub and their CCO. It was a big honor to be selected, and our team gave three back-to-back presentations about the Pollywog Project. The 40+ funders in attendance asked lots of questions, and congratulated us on the innovation and potential of our project.

The Pollywog Project is pleased to announce that we have hired a new Pollywog Project Specialist, Cheryl French. Cheryl comes to us with an extensive legal background, and years spent serving the community as an artist in resident at the Corvallis Arts Center. Please make Cheryl feel welcome when you are introduced!

Hub Work Group Updates:



WORK GROUP DAY: The next Hub Work Group Day is scheduled for Thursday, November 9, 2017, at the Newport Public Library. Please plan on attending.



DATA & EVALUATION WORK GROUP: The Data & Evaluation Work Group met on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, and was introduced to our new Epidemiologist Intern, Liudmyla “Lucy” Kozii, and then a review of our region’s “Targeted Funds Equity Assessment Tracking” by Anna Menon, a review of the new Hub Roles and Responsibilities, and more updates and work on the EL Hub Conference scheduled for October 20.



HEALTH CARE INTEGRATION WORK GROUP: The Health Care Integration Work Group met on Wednesday, September 27, 2017. The group discussed filling the Co-Chair position (being vacated by the departure of MaiKia Moua), the status of the ASQ Training and Tracking Initiative, a Technical Assistance report from ORPRN, revisions to the OPIP Medical Decision Tree, and the Assessment Feedback Information Exchange (AFI/X) regarding immunization planning.



EARLY CHILDHOOD COORDINATING COUNCIL: The Early Childhood Coordinating Council met on Tuesday, September 12, 2017. The group discussed new co-chairs from Linn and Benton Counties, heard an update from the subcommittee working on joint preschool applications (HB 3106), and a review of the new EL Hub Roles and Responsibilities.



PARENT ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE: The Parenting Engagement Committee met on Tuesday, September 26, 2017. The group discussed absenteeism materials for parents and the Focus Group questionnaire, and the proposed partnership with DHS around their upcoming grant to stem absenteeism with DHS parents.

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.