

# Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties

## Pre-K/K-12 Alignment Work Group Meeting Minutes

<b>MEETING COMMENCED</b>	9:30am, August 20, 2015 Old Mill Center, Corvallis
<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	Kristi May
<b>WORK GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	Shelley Paeth, Julia Young-Lorion, Bettina Schempf, Alison Myers, Lynn Hall, Tab Dansby, Kristi May, Cindy Bond, Rebecca Austen, Renee Smith, Cyrel Gable, Norma O'Mara, Paul Smith, Lisa Hengren, Alicia Larson, Sonya Hart, Peik-Kuan Lim, Edie Moro (remotely)
<b>VERSION</b>	Final

### Agenda topics

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Welcome and Introductions
	Lots of new faces today.
	Still looking for a second Co-Chair for this Work Group. Please let us know if you are interested.

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	New Hub Metrics
	The State of Oregon has given us a new set of metrics to implement into our Work Plan and Strategic Plan.
	Explanation of the three State hand-outs (Hub Metrics Guidance, Hub Logic Model, Baselines, Targets & Benchmarks), and how the Hub will be rated on those new standards.
	On the Hub Logic Model: rearranging of the three goals (our previous "outcomes), State hiring a mixed-delivery person to help the Hubs distribute those funds, the mixed-delivery funding will only be available to 4 & 5-star QRIS child care providers (and according to Family Connections, there are only 5 providers in the three counties that will qualify for those funds).
	The Hub Logic Model now shows which resources are available for each goal, and which agencies are eligible for those funds.
	In the State of Oregon, Kindergarten attendance is not required; so our goal is to get them registered in and attending Kindergarten ahead of the start of the school start.
	ESD systems show the registration date for ALL children as the first day of school, regardless of when they registered. This is going to be a problem for data collection and for our Hub metric that wants us to register as many children as possible before the start of school. Contradiction of systems.
	Is there a demographics modifier for this metric? Some of our areas have a down-swing in the number of entering Kindergarteners, and this will affect our numbers.
	We need to let the State know immediately that we have a problem with this particular metric.
	We are very lucky to have only one ESD serving all three counties.

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Hub Funding
	Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation funds (KPI):
	Specifically align to one of our metrics: shared professional development. Creative Curriculum, Common Core, preschool environment vs kindergarten class, Learning Communities, etc. are all options for this kind of professional development.

Kindergarten transitions: getting parents to register kids early, and make it a seamless process. Family engagement in that process, and in their child's education.
Funds will flow through the Hub, and allows us to target the funds towards our metrics, towards poverty hot spots, free and reduced lunch kids, title schools, etc. Lots of data helping us to use the KPI funds effectively.
Need to start with our partners who are READY to work in this area, and bring the others along later.
Having a meeting with the School Superintendents (through ESD) and telling them about the new KPI funds, and offering them the opportunity to participate.
Can't use the funds for facilities, but can be used to purchase furnishings and school materials. No capital expenditures.
Can't supplant state or federal funds, but can be added to them to help finish a project.
Mixed Delivery Preschool:
Funding approved through the legislative session.
Don't have much information about it now, but will pass it along as soon as we can get it.

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Co-Located Preschools Inventory
Need to look at elementary schools that have no preschools directly available to them.	
Handed out inventory and asked the Pre-K group to review the list and help us to figure out where the gaps are and what we can do about them.	

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Current Transition Projects
Hand-out of what Lauren Sigman was able to gather.	
Please review and let us know if there are more projects that we should be aware of.	

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	School Projects
Albany K-2 program helping kids to get ready to go back to school. MANY more children showed up than was expected, so next year they may have to scale the program back to K-1.	
LBCC Cooperative Preschool thriving in Philomath.	
Strengthening Rural Families is looking at adding a preschool to the Blodgett area.	
P-3 Program is having a coffee and breakfast meeting with child care providers in Philomath to get a conversation started. Trying to identify all the private and public providers in Philomath and get them involved. Grant written by Strengthening Rural Families for the Philomath School District, but the District is actually running the program.	
Family Tree Relief Nursery is working with parents who didn't have good school experiences who now have anxiety about sending their own children to school. Helping the parents to develop a strategy for making the experience positive and rewarding for their children.	
Old Mill is running a similar program, and would be happy to share the program that they have set up with any other groups.	
Kidco has 1/3 of our families as preschoolers--and receives most of the funding--but has not been coming to our meetings when we really need to them to participate.	
Harrisburg has a new Superintendent and is looking at ways to transition the kids into kindergarten. He has been encouraged to come in and read with the preschoolers. He agreed that it might be a good opportunity for him to help relieve anxiety for preschool parents.	
LBCC has a "Ready Together" class for English and Spanish to help parents and kids get ready for kindergarten. "You have a new kindergartener! Come learn how to help them get the most out of it."	

Kindergarten teachers will be coming and adding two weeks of literacy training. Would be happy to partner with anyone else who wants them to be put on at their facility.

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Oregon "Starting Strong" Conference
Very informative conference held on 8/19/15 in Eugene.	
Many members of our group attended, and were pleased with what they have learned.	
Play is how children learn to read, so all the fantasy play that preschools do is a precursor to that.	
It's going to be very difficult for children that didn't go to any preschool	
Discussion of critical thinking schools was very good. Eye-opening information. Representative from the Corvallis Public Library spoke about getting parents to actually talk to their children to inspire their curiosity and learning. Kids with college-educated parents know more words because their parents speak to them more, more than just directional speaking (sit, eat, go to bed).	
Overview of education in Oregon was also very interesting, and there was a lot of interest in what was happening in preschool.	
Educators in Oregon need to figure out where the gaps are and what we need to do to correct them.	
System change is important, but it's more important for individuals to work toward change.	

<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	Thursday, September 3, 2015, from 9:30-10:30am.
Meeting will be held at the Newport Public Library.	
<b>MEETING ADJOURNED</b>	10:37am