

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	2:00pm, October 22, 2015 Linn-Benton Community College, Albany
MEETING CALLED BY	Julie Manning
GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	Stephany Koehne, Mary McKay, Rebecca Cohen, Paula Grace, Anne Peltier, Guadalupe Diaz, Paul Smith, Tony Lewis, Jeff Davis, Jennifer Moore, Bettina Schempf
VERSION	Final
RECORDED	No

Agenda topics

ROLL CALL	October 22, 2015 Governing Board Meeting
Took silent roll of Board Members present.	

SPECIAL PRESENTATION	Imagination Library
<p>Greg Roe, of Linn County United Way, made a presentation about the Imagination Library and what the benefits would be for the three counties. Handed out a summary of the Kindergarten Readiness scores in our area, and pointed out how low our scores are, compared to the rest of the state. Greg explained how the program is being funded, but could use more funding in order to reach full capacity. Program is free to every child, at a cost of \$25/year per child.</p>	

COORDINATOR'S REPORT	Kristi May
<p>We have received our contract extension from the State on September 28, 2015, and our funded partners are in the process of submitting their information in order to get their individual contracts.</p>	
<p>NW Health Foundation grant application was submitted on October 9, 2015. We'll hear if we got the funding in December. This grant meets a large number of our indicators, and this would be a big help to us, if we get it.</p>	
<p>Work Group Day was held a little differently this month in order to get help from our partners preparing our 2016 Work Plan. Participants were divided into seven teams each focusing on a specific indicator. Special thanks to Kidco Head Start for sending multiple representatives and add their perspective to the Work Plan.</p>	
<p>Participated in the Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, along with partner, Lauren Sigman, also was able to participate on the panel.</p>	
<p>Today was Jumpstart Read for the Record, which the Governing Board voted to fund at least month's meeting. During this morning's Retreat, we had the opportunity to walk down to the Periwinkle Child Development Center and help read to the children, and see the results of their funding choice. Approximately 1,133 children are participating in today's event at twenty-six different partner agencies and childcare facilities in the three counties.</p>	
<p>In November there will be a Health & Early Learning Forum which is focusing on a new collaboration between LBCC Parenting Education and the Samaritan Hospitals in the three counties. The collaboration involves LBCC becoming more involved in the registration of new parents in the hospital classes and then</p>	

steering these same parents into the early childhood classes. This will allow us to catch and keep these families, and hopefully set them on the path to continued family education throughout their children’s formative years. The CCO is in full agreement and has even offered to help with grant money to aid in the technology issues that this collaboration will need to resolve.

COMMITTEE REPORTS		Fiscal Oversight Committee													
A supplemental budget is being created and will need Board approval. The 4-month approval was given by the Board, but the State changed it to a 6-month budget, and it will require another approval from the Board. The November reports will reflect new line-items for items authorized with the start of the new contract period.															
CONCLUSIONS															
Motion to Accept: Paul Smith															
Motion to Second: Anne Peltier															
Vote of the Group: Unanimous															
VOTING RESULTS		Individual Votes cast by Board Members (Yes, No, Abstain)													
B. Wilcox	Y	N	A	J. Golden	Y	N	A	M. Thielman	Y	N	A	J. Davis	Y	N	A
D. Morgan	Y	N	A	A. Hernandez	Y	N	A	G. Diaz	Y	N	A	J. Manning	Y	N	A
L. Wood	Y	N	A	A. Peltier	Y	N	A	C. Amador	Y	N	A	M. McKay	Y	N	A
J. Moore	Y	N	A	T. Lewis	Y	N	A	P. Grace	Y	N	A	D. Brown	Y	N	A
B. Hall	Y	N	A	J. Sneddon	Y	N	A	B. Schempf	Y	N	A	M. Benavides	Y	N	A
R. Cohen	Y	N	A	S. Koehne	Y	N	A	P. Smith	Y	N	A				

CONSENT ITEM		Approval of September Minutes													
The Minutes from the September Governing Meeting were posted on Basecamp and the Website for Board Member review.															
CONCLUSIONS															
Motion to Accept: Guadalupe Diaz															
Motion to Second: Jeff Davis															
Vote of the Group: Unanimous															
VOTING RESULTS		Individual Votes cast by Board Members (Yes, No, Abstain)													
B. Wilcox	Y	N	A	J. Golden	Y	N	A	M. Thielman	Y	N	A	J. Davis	Y	N	A
D. Morgan	Y	N	A	A. Hernandez	Y	N	A	G. Diaz	Y	N	A	J. Manning	Y	N	A
L. Wood	Y	N	A	A. Peltier	Y	N	A	C. Amador	Y	N	A	M. McKay	Y	N	A
J. Moore	Y	N	A	T. Lewis	Y	N	A	P. Grace	Y	N	A	D. Brown	Y	N	A
B. Hall	Y	N	A	J. Sneddon	Y	N	A	B. Schempf	Y	N	A	M. Benavides	Y	N	A
R. Cohen	Y	N	A	S. Koehne	Y	N	A	P. Smith	Y	N	A				

DISCUSSION ITEM		Approval of draft Strategic Plan & Work Plan											
Jennifer Moore – Make an addition to Core Strategy 1, under Goal 1, page 5: adding the language “among providers and other stakeholders” that improves the quality...													

Mary McKay– Rephrase K-12 Connection Strategy to read: “Work collaboratively with K-12 schools to develop multiple pathways to reach and engage parents of preschool children in kindergarten transition efforts”. Language change.

CONCLUSIONS

Motion to Accept: Rebecca Cohen

Motion to Second: Paul Smith

Vote of the Group: Unanimous

VOTING RESULTS

Individual Votes cast by Board Members (Yes, No, Abstain)

B. Wilcox	Y	N	A	J. Golden	Y	N	A	M. Thielman	Y	N	A	J. Davis	Y	N	A
D. Morgan	Y	N	A	A. Hernandez	Y	N	A	G. Diaz	Y	N	A	J. Manning	Y	N	A
L. Wood	Y	N	A	A. Peltier	Y	N	A	C. Amador	Y	N	A	M. McKay	Y	N	A
J. Moore	Y	N	A	T. Lewis	Y	N	A	P. Grace	Y	N	A	D. Brown	Y	N	A
B. Hall	Y	N	A	J. Sneddon	Y	N	A	B. Schempf	Y	N	A	M. Benavides	Y	N	A
R. Cohen	Y	N	A	S. Koehne	Y	N	A	P. Smith	Y	N	A				

DISCUSSION ITEM

Lincoln County Housing Project

Want to explore a project coming to Lincoln county, increasing housing opportunities.

There is a need for a relief nursery in Lincoln County, and the possibility exists within this project to include a relief nursery, dental clinic, medical clinic, etc. all located within a new low-income housing project. Location and size are to be determined, but will be brought back to the Board as we learn about it. These are additional State dollars, and the legislature requested that this group work with Early Learning Hubs to see where the greatest need is and where the families are. Our goal would be to get a relief nursery included in this project.

We believe that the RFP could be for Hubs—in partnership with other agencies.

Not sure if we want to tell Kristi who she can and can't have discussions with, but we do urge caution in becoming involved with a group that could bring “risk” to our Hub.

Concerned that we are looking at something that will only benefit one county, but we need to look at where the highest need is.

Want to make sure that this work meets our strategic priorities.

We also may need to decide what things we should be discussing in these meetings, and what things we don't.

We are forging out a precedence: where the Board should and shouldn't go.

CONCLUSIONS

Motion to accept: Jeff Davis

Motion to second: Tony Lewis

Unanimous vote

VOTING RESULTS

Individual Votes cast by Board Members (Yes, No, Abstain)

B. Wilcox	Y	N	A	J. Golden	Y	N	A	M. Thielman	Y	N	A	J. Davis	Y	N	A
D. Morgan	Y	N	A	A. Hernandez	Y	N	A	G. Diaz	Y	N	A	J. Manning	Y	N	A
L. Wood	Y	N	A	A. Peltier	Y	N	A	C. Amador	Y	N	A	M. McKay	Y	N	A
J. Moore	Y	N	A	T. Lewis	Y	N	A	P. Grace	Y	N	A	D. Brown	Y	N	A
B. Hall	Y	N	A	J. Sneddon	Y	N	A	B. Schempf	Y	N	A	M. Benavides	Y	N	A
R. Cohen	Y	N	A	S. Koehne	Y	N	A	P. Smith	Y	N	A				

DISCUSSION ITEM	Mixed Delivery Preschool (MDP) (Tab Dansby)
	New MDP will allow about 1,400 more preschoolers to get a quality preschool education.
	“Mixed Delivery” means that preschool will be delivered in a variety of settings.
	Funding will be flowing through the Hubs, partnering with local agencies.
	Looking at lots of opportunity and innovation.
	Children ages 3-4 years old living at 200%-300% of poverty levels will be eligible.
	Agencies will need to be 3- and 4-star rated in order to participate.
	Teachers need Bachelor’s Degrees. Will they also need a license?
	Statewide Salary Scale for teachers? Benefits? Collective bargaining? Are we going to bankrupt some of our agencies by requiring “state-level pay and benefits”?
	How do families access that money? Or does the money go directly the agencies?
	This has become a law, so we need to work out the rules.
	Estimated timeline is fall of next year.
	One priority is going to be facilities. State standards are very stringent: right-sized bathrooms, right-sized kitchens, playgrounds, etc. Lots of rural areas don’t have facilities that meet these requirements. The only way to make it happen is to build whatever you need.
	A “Star-Rating” requires that your organization has been in business for at least 2 years.
	\$27,000,000 has been budgeted by the legislature for this project. (Breaks out to \$20,000/child per year.)
	CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHING:
	What aspect of your community’s culture/family norms are important to acknowledge and understand when designing culturally responsive preschool programs?
	Language
	Family expectations
	Rural versus Urban expectations
	What do we need to know about what children in your community most need to learn and grow? Where must we access that information?
	Opportunities like this are helpful because the State can see our interactions, and understand our perspectives. Focus group information would be helpful. The community advocacy committees are required by the CCO, and that information could be helpful for their discussions.
	Health, food, and other self-needs are all important discussion items that all of our stakeholders are worried about and are trying to address.
	How would you learn about a community’s cultural/family norms in order to understand and design a responsive preschool program?
	Other entities are already doing this work – like the USDA Food program, the Cultural Center (Corvallis), Casa Latino (Corvallis) – and will share their data and explain their data (data whisperers).
	Council of Governments (Cascades) also has a shared database.
	The focus group information that we gathered for the NW Health Foundation Grant asked some of these exact questions.
	What are the behaviors should we expect from culturally responsive adults?
	One-size does not fit all – you’re comparing teachers and students. First we need teachers who have the training and experience, and then they will be able to teach.
	What experiences have you had in your community that you would identify as important in supporting children and families?
	Transportation is a barrier.
	Privatization of enriching behaviors: paying for sports, etc.
	Lack of resources in the rural communities in order to create an appropriate place.
	What does a successful family engagement look like in our community?

Each family is engaged differently, even within local programs.
Give parents the opportunity to grow and become leaders.
What kinds of challenges have you overcome in reaching families?
Very distrustful of organizations, in general. Must build a relationship with them. Ongoing problem.
Families are very transient in low-income areas. Must re-engage each time they move.
Navigator roles are popping up everywhere to try to deal with this problem.
Need to enable parents, who will in turn enable other parents.
How would you characterize the first wave of enrollees in your programs? Where/when are families accessing program information?
130-200% poverty enrollees. Greatest need enrollees appear at the very end of the enrollment period.
Word of mouth.
Convenience. What they can afford. CCR&Rs.
The agency must know who their "audience" is and then advertise to them. Agencies can do that by design.
We must identify non-traditional partners to help us.
HR departments could help because they know the difficulties that their work force is facing.
Bachelor's degree requirements: (GB Members wished to specifically discuss this issue.)
Lots of older teachers available, with lots of experience, but don't have (and don't want) a bachelor's Degree. You're going to lose a lot of very talented individuals if you require a bachelor's degree.
Local agencies can't afford to pay the wages that the State will want them to pay for a teacher with a bachelor's degree.
Maybe implement a two-tier system: one with bachelor's degrees and one without bachelor's degrees.
Teacher's who are fresh out of college and have a bachelor's degree often have no idea how to deal with young children.
Funding for a mentor would be very beneficial. Works in hospitals with nurses, and would work in the preschool program.
What the legislators want might not be workable "on the ground".
What suggestions would you give to the ELD about ways that we can avoid excluding members of the communities that you serve from this process?
Don't worry about numbers.
Preferred qualifications vs minimum qualifications. Look at MQs in the now and PQs in the future.
Bring in some school administrators and talk to them about what is actually happening.
What are the most effective ways that we can provide follow-up information about this event?
Where are we in the rule implementation phase? Where is the process at this time? Are they still accepting input?
What other groups have you talked to? What answers did they give you?
How do you measure the impact of your program?
Developmental testing, before and after.
Interim indicators.

NEXT MEETING	Thursday, December 10, 2015
Meeting will be held from 2-4:00pm at the LBCC Benton Center in Corvallis. Map will be posted on the Website and Basecamp.	

**MEETING
ADJOURNED**

3:12pm