

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties Kindergarten Partnership & Innovation – Strategic Planning Meeting

MEETING COMMENCED	9:00am, November 13, 2015 Linn-Benton Community College, Albany
MEETING CALLED BY	Kristi May
WORK GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Todd Miller, Carol O'Connor, Lisa Schogren, Cindy Golston, Debbie McPheeters, Lauren Sigman, Amy Lesan, Dawn Baker, Tonya Cairo, Brett Walker
VERSION	Final

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	Welcome and Introductions
Lots of new faces today.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Kindergarten Partnership & Innovation Funds
Two separate programs that we don't want to confuse: Mixed Delivery Preschool and Kindergarten Partnership & Innovation Funds	
Mixed Delivery Preschool has \$27,000,000 set aside by the Legislature. 3-5 Hubs will be funded through MDP this year (there are 16 total Hubs that will be vying for the funds).	
Kindergarten Partnership & Innovation Funds have been assigned to our funds, a little over \$500,000, and we will be able to use that money immediately, pending approval of projects.	
Today we will be discussing the Kindergarten Partnership & Innovation Funds:	
Want to do something with each district, but not necessarily each school within the district.	
Three priority areas: shared professional development, family engagement, kindergarten readiness.	
If your plan meets these priorities—and is innovative—you will be funded, pending approval.	
The Hub will have 4% indirect administrative fees, per Linn-Benton Community College guidelines.	
Funding will be available as part of the Hub contract, available in January, following approval of plans.	
Funding is per biennium (18 months).	
Winter/Spring is a good time to plan for the fall's intake of Kindergarteners.	
All funding is reimbursable.	
A "Coordinator" is being looked at to run the program. Someone to focus on the KPI funds specifically.	
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.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Data Requirements (Brett Walker)
Partnership & Innovation program are State General Fund dollars.	
Intended to strengthen partnerships between schools/preschools/parents. Successful transitions and build a more seamless structure.	
Will look different in different communities, but lots of flexibility. The idea is to innovate and come up with new and different approaches.	
Kindergarten Transition – creating opportunities for children who don't have access to preschool. Start out behind and have to catch up.	
Family Engagement – supporting families as they get their kids ready for school. Make it welcoming and relationship-building to partner together.	
Creating Professional Learning Environments – child care providers, early learning instructors, and kindergarten teachers working together. Creating child-level data systems. Let's professionals learn from each other.	
Could we request funding for these professional development opportunities? Yes. These opportunities are tricky because Child Care Providers want to meet nights and weekends, while School personnel want to meet while they are being paid. Summers work better. The logistic side of this is tricky. Curriculum trainings have had great success, especially if we give away the curriculum at the end of training.	
What does high quality instruction look like in a kindergarten class?	
Santiam Canyon School District has no preschools in their communities and are trying to create a preschool in their building on Fridays (they have 4-day school weeks). Would be willing to provide transportation to kids (and parents), and have staff that could run the program. Just need help to set it all up.	
Are transportation funds reimbursable? Unknown at this time.	
Reporting Requirements:	
The idea is to build models and figure out what works and can be replicated.	
No off-the-shelf best practice here. Trial and error.	
Contracted with Portland State University to evaluation models and report to the State.	
Projecting how many children are going to be impacted by these models.	
There will be a quarterly baseline reporting requirement.	
Interim outcome surveys – family engagement work, professional development work, etc.	
There will be some type of qualitative reporting also, but details have not been ironed out.	
Collecting data early is a key piece, as well as collecting antidotal stories from families.	
Able to recycle required reporting from other agencies – cuts amount of labor for staff.	
Portland State is very support and helpful when it comes to reporting.	
Successful Examples:	
Juntos program – early literacy, pseudo preschool, very successful.	
Ready for K – parent training, kindergarten readiness, very successful. Work can be phased into younger children as well. Nine months to one year in length. (Commercial product)	
CCR&R have been very successful in finding kids to fill these programs.	
Parent/Teacher Home Visit Project – teachers are trained to conduct home visits of their students. The idea is to create relationship with teacher and figure out what is going to happen when the child goes to school. Teachers are paid for their time. Voluntary for teachers and families. Strengthens relationships between school and home.	
K Transitions:	
Lots of successful programs going on around the state.	
Oregon Social Learning – conducting rigorous research around this work.	
Focus on social/emotional and literacy skills.	
Early Kindergarten Transition program – giving kids the opportunity to feel what it's like to be in	

Kindergarten. Short program in lieu of a formal pre-school setting. Corvallis did a 4-week program last summer. A few weeks is all that is necessary in these programs.
Health Navigators from the Health Departments are also a huge help in getting families engaged in helping
The LIFT program from Lincoln County is also helping to incorporate families into the preschool class – parents are learning alongside their children. Started as a way to help homeless children, and now is able to help additional children, 25-30 kids in three different locations in Lincoln County.
Funding:
Cannot build facilities with the money, but can be used for almost everything else.
Professional Development:
Meet monthly, talking about specific topics such as “What does math teaching look like?”
Looking for shared values and goals.
Some groups have an actual governance structure to run their P-3 development groups.
Is there a need for a staff person?
Trying to create a shared approach, having someone to coordinate is of great value.
Need someone who knows what’s happening at the local level, someone who is familiar with other agencies and personnel.
Need someone to manage the work at a higher level.
Needs good regional coordination.
Have seen this person working for the ESD in some areas, and for the Hub in other areas. Could be another partner—other than ESD--also.
If this person was from a school district, there would be room for other district work besides the P-3 work.
Need someone who has leadership capabilities.
Need District-level buy-in, but also Principal level buy-in because they control the building and the personnel.
Is the reporting extensive enough that a person will have to be added to handle it? If that’s the case, we’ll probably skip the grant and do this on their own.
P-3 reporting is labor intensive, but we don’t know exactly what the KPI reporting will be like yet. Hoping to streamline the KPI reporting to make it more realistic.
Questions & Expectations:
Want to create a group of options to present to the Superintendents of some KPI uses.
Would like to have some uniform strategies with “tweaks” for the individual districts.
Recommendations from this group would be the most ideal way to create those options for the districts.
Marion/Polk Hub: MOU/form with Districts. Tell us what you’re going to do. Been working on it for a year.
Not necessarily for Title 1 schools, but targeted and focused schools that meet the metrics.
Complimentary goals, not competing goals.
Could the district create a plan and then “scale it up” to meet the mixed delivery requirements later? Yes, but it’s going to take a while for the mixed delivery stuff to get up and running.
Dividing the money up on a “per student” basis, would only give some of the Districts about \$3,500, which is hardly worth the trouble when you factor in reporting. If you divide the money on a per District basis, that’s about \$41,000.
Dividing the money by “average daily membership” might not be the way to go. Districts have much different needs. Equity might not be the way to go.
This funding stream is not intended to reach every corner of your Hub. You are going to have to be selective.
What’s the baseline level of funding? First priority is to decide that.
Different approaches are going to require different strategies to make it work.
Maybe divide the money by how many Title schools each district has?

Maybe divide the money by level of poverty in the district?
Maybe go back to the idea of priority strategies to present to the superintendents?
Lincoln County is talking about adding more LIFT classes in areas that don't have preschools. Expanding into areas where Head Start is maxed out.
The Superintendents were categorically opposed to a regional coordination person – too much of the funds would be eaten up by this person. If each district had their own person with a .2 FTE, could the job be done?
The Philomath School District feels that giving them less than \$20,000 is not going to help because it takes at least that amount to get things off the ground.
The Hub Data & Evaluation Work Group is creating a presentation for the Governing Board of a compilation of data points to decide which schools are going to be targeted for priority funding. Data points include free lunch, kindergarten readiness assessments, etc. Other funding will be used to work on those target schools, not KPI funding.
We don't want to start a program and then not be able to continue funding and have to cancel it. It's worse than never having the program in the first place.
There's a lot of value in using a program like LIFT or Juntos that were developed locally and have been shown to work locally.
LIFT also implemented the Nurturing Parenting curriculum during their time with the parents, so there was an education component for the parents in addition to what the kids were getting.
Juntos also uses the "friends, families and neighbors" dynamic to bring the educational benefits to the caregivers in addition to parents and families.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Recommendations
Could we tell the superintendents next week that we want to set-up a Steering Committee with a member from each district? That person could come to the table with an idea of what they want to accomplish in their district and how much it will cost. They will decide what the distribution will be based on what they need. – This is what the recommendation to the Superintendents will be.	
Some districts may not have a person who is ready to come to this meeting, maybe don't know what they want to accomplish, or maybe so small that they don't have a person to attend.	
Which priority do we start with? We don't want to rush, but would like to see what other areas are doing to use this money.	
Could we use this money to align with Head Start? You could, but it won't add more classroom space for the kids.	
Head Start is also going to a full-day program, which means that they have had to cut half their classroom slots.	
Kidco is using Head Start and Oregon Pre-K funding, so will have more spaces available.	
Need to figure out the needs of the community, and then model your program around those needs.	
Childcare providers got hurt financially by the full-day Kindergarten change, so if the schools are now looking at offering preschool, it's going to create some hostile feelings toward the school districts.	
We will also remove the coordinator from the table at this time. We will try this first year to accomplish our goals without one, but will revisit if we have trouble meeting our goals and timeline.	
We are proposing two half-day Steering Committee Meetings, and they will begin in 2-4 weeks. One meeting before the end of the year, and one after the holidays when everyone gets settled back in.	
Create a Basecamp project for this Steering Committee group.	

NEXT MEETING	Friday, December 11, 2015, 9-1:00pm
MEETING ADJOURNED	12:55pm