

# 2015 Legislative Session – Expanded

Who	Committee(s)	County(ies)	District
<b>Rep. Phil Barnhart</b> Rep.PhilBarnhart@state.or.us	Revenue (Chair), Rules, Tax Credits (Chair)	Lane, Linn	11
<b>Rep. David Gomberg</b> Rep.DavidGomberg@state.or.us	Joint Ways & Means	Lincoln, Polk, Tillamook, Yamhill	10
<b>Rep. Mike Nearman</b> Rep.MikeNearman@state.or.us	Consumer Protection & Government Effectiveness, Higher Education, Innovation, and Workforce Development	Yamhill, Polk, Benton	23
<b>Rep. Andy Olson</b> Rep.AndyOlson@state.or.us	Conduct, Judiciary, Implementing Measure 91, Environment & Natural Resources, Human Services & Early Childhood	Linn	15
<b>Rep. Dan Rayfield</b> Rep.DanRayfield@state.or.us	Joint Ways & Means	Benton	16
<b>Rep. Sherrie Sprenger</b> Rep.SherrieSprenger@state.or.us	Education, Joint WM, Judiciary	Marion & Linn	17
<b>Sen. Lee Beyer</b> Sen.LeeBeyer@state.or.us	Education, Business & Transportation, Rules	Lane, Linn	6
<b>Sen. Brian Boquist</b> Sen.BrianBoquist@state.or.us	Veterans & Emergency Preparedness (Chair), Finance & Revenue, Rules	Benton, Polk, Yamhill	12
<b>Sen. Sara Gelser</b> Sen.SaraGelser@state.or.us	Education, Judiciary, Human Services & Early Childhood, Workforce	Benton, Linn	8
<b>Sen. Fred Girod</b> Sen.FredGirod@state.or.us	Ways & Means, Business & Transportation, Health Insurance Transition, Legislative Administration	Clackamas, Linn, Marion	9
<b>Sen. Arnie Roblan</b> Sen.ArnieRoblan@state.or.us	Education	Lincoln, Coos, Douglas, Lane, Polk, Tillamook, Yamhill	5

# LBL EL Hub March 2015 Updates:

**Memorandum of Understanding between IHN-CCO and LBL EL Hub:** IHN-CCO, annually in the fourth quarter of the year, will take into consideration funds received through its contract with OHA that have been marked for children age 0-6. If 1% of the annualized funds are available, as determined by the IHN-CCO Board of Directors or its delegate, these funds will be set aside in an account for the EL Hub to be distributed through LBCC. IHN-CCO has provided a representative to work with the EL Hub to develop processes and standards related to the distribution of the funds.

Tamatha Tracer, Director of Operations for IHN-CCO will be working with EL Hub staff in regards to approving the use of funds and will be participating in the Health Care Integration Work Group to support the group in developing recommendations that will meet IHN-CCO funding requirements.

For the 2015 calendar year IHN-CCO has allocated \$300,000 to the LBL EL Hub with \$100,000 of those funds being dedicated to our branding and identity project.

**New Hub Orientation and Hub Early Learning Collaborative:** On February 18<sup>th</sup> LBL EL Hub staff attended the Early Learning Hub Orientation in Salem with other new Hub leadership teams and Early Learning Division (ELD) staff. During this orientation we had the opportunity to reflect on what brought us to our roles with the EL Hubs, learn from existing hubs, and receive instruction on the new reporting tools being required by the ELD.

On February 19<sup>th</sup> LBL EL Hub staff attended our first Early Learning Collaborative meeting. These are face-to-face meetings that happen quarterly at varying locations around the state. Each Hub is able to bring up to four participants based on the topics being discussed. The meeting included three Break-Out sessions on each of the following topics: Family Engagement, the Equity Lens, and Hub & CCO Collaborations. The sessions provided us the opportunity to have real conversations about where we are as a Hub on each topic, what our needs are, and what support we need from the ELD. During lunch the ELD gave state updates on the new metrics that are being recommended to the Early Learning Council for the next biennium and Legislative updates.

**Survey of Governing Board Members:** The foundation of a Collective Impact Model is rooted in having a shared vision for change and a common understanding of the problems that we will be attempting to address. For this to happen, the Governing Board will need to begin with a common language and understanding of the Early Childhood system. With such a wonderful and diverse group of professionals serving as Governing Board members for the Linn Benton Lincoln Early Learning Hub I recognized that they all come to that role with varying levels of familiarity with Early Childhood topics and acronyms. In mid-February I sent all Governing Board Members a link to a survey with a list of topic/tools/concepts/programs that are included on the One-Year Work Plan that Governing Board Members may have varying degrees of familiarity with depending on the sector they represent.

I want to thank the Governing Board with their honesty in completing this survey. I will use the data I collected to plan informational presentations as a part of each Governing Board Meeting. As the working groups begin to address task on the One-Year Work Plan and seek guidance from you, as the

Governing Board, I thought it would be helpful for you to have some background information on the concepts that they are addressing.

**Collaboration with K-12 Sector:** EL Hub Coordinator met with a group of School District Superintendents from the three counties to discuss the signing of MOU's and participation in the Pre-K/K-12 Alignment Workgroup. It was a brief meeting to introduce myself as the new EL Hub Coordinator and discuss the work of the EL Hub.

I am beginning to schedule meetings with each individual District Superintendent to learn more about the communities served by their district. I started by meeting with Marc Thielman on Monday in Alsea to welcome him to his new role as a Governing Board member and learn about the families and community that his district serves. I look forward to the opportunity to meet with all the Superintendents and learn more about each distinct community within the LBL EL Hub region.

**ABC House Celebrate Hope Event:** ABC House is the child abuse intervention center serving Benton and Linn Counties. They provide high-quality child abuse assessments for local children when there are concerns of abuse and neglect. Doctors specializing in child abuse medicine give children head-to-toe medical exams and trained child interviewers talk with children about what really happened to them. ABC House also offers individual and family counseling, family support and referrals for other much-needed services. Children and families receive comprehensive services in one safe, child-friendly environment to help lessen the hurt and start on the path toward healing.

*Celebrate Hope* is a mission-focused, "table-hosted" benefit dinner supported by the business community and child abuse partner agencies. The event is on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 5:30 to 8:00 PM. This is the 6th year of this event. The Northwest Health Foundation is a sponsor of this event and has asked the EL Hub to be the host of one of the tables they are sponsoring. If Governing Board Members have an interest in attending as a representative of the LBL EL Hub or would like more information about the event, please let the EL Hub staff know.

**LBLEL Hub Work Group Updates:** The following Work Groups have been assigned tasks in the One-Year Plan. All work groups are open groups and announcements regarding meeting dates are being posted to our website and emailed to our full ListServ:

**Early Childhood Coordinating Council (ECCC):** The ECCC met on March 3<sup>rd</sup>; 17 people attended. This was the second meeting for this group. The group has decided to have a tri-chair leadership model with a chair representing each county. The Council selected the following individuals to represent them: Shelley Paeth (Lincoln County Health & Human Services), Debbie McPheeters (LBL-ESD) from Benton County, and Renee Smith (Family Tree Relief Nursery) from Linn County. During the first meeting it was also decided that the group would like to develop a charter for how the group would function. Using the LBL EL Hub Charter as a framework, the group discussed modifications suited to the function of a work group. The revised draft will be shared with the group during the next meeting on 3/17 for approval. Our goal is to present this Charter to the Governing Board during your April meeting. This group will be meeting on the third Tuesday of each month from 2-4 PM.

**Data and Evaluation:** The work group met on February 27<sup>th</sup>; 11 people attended. We discussed the activities assigned in the One-Year Work Plan. The team from the Benton

County Health Department presented information regarding the Regional Health Assessment. The Work Group would like to get broader representation including: K-12 and the ESD. Julia Young-Lorion agreed to Co-Chair; one more is necessary.

**Funding & Resources:** Meeting still to be re-established.

**Health Care Integration:** The Work Group met on February 25th; 15 people attended. We discussed the activities assigned in the One-year work plan. Many questions were generated regarding ASQ's and we started to formulate a way forward. We selected Co-Chairs: Rebecca Austen (Lincoln County Public Health Division Director) and Bettina Schempf (Old Mill Center for Children and Families Director). The next meeting is TBD.

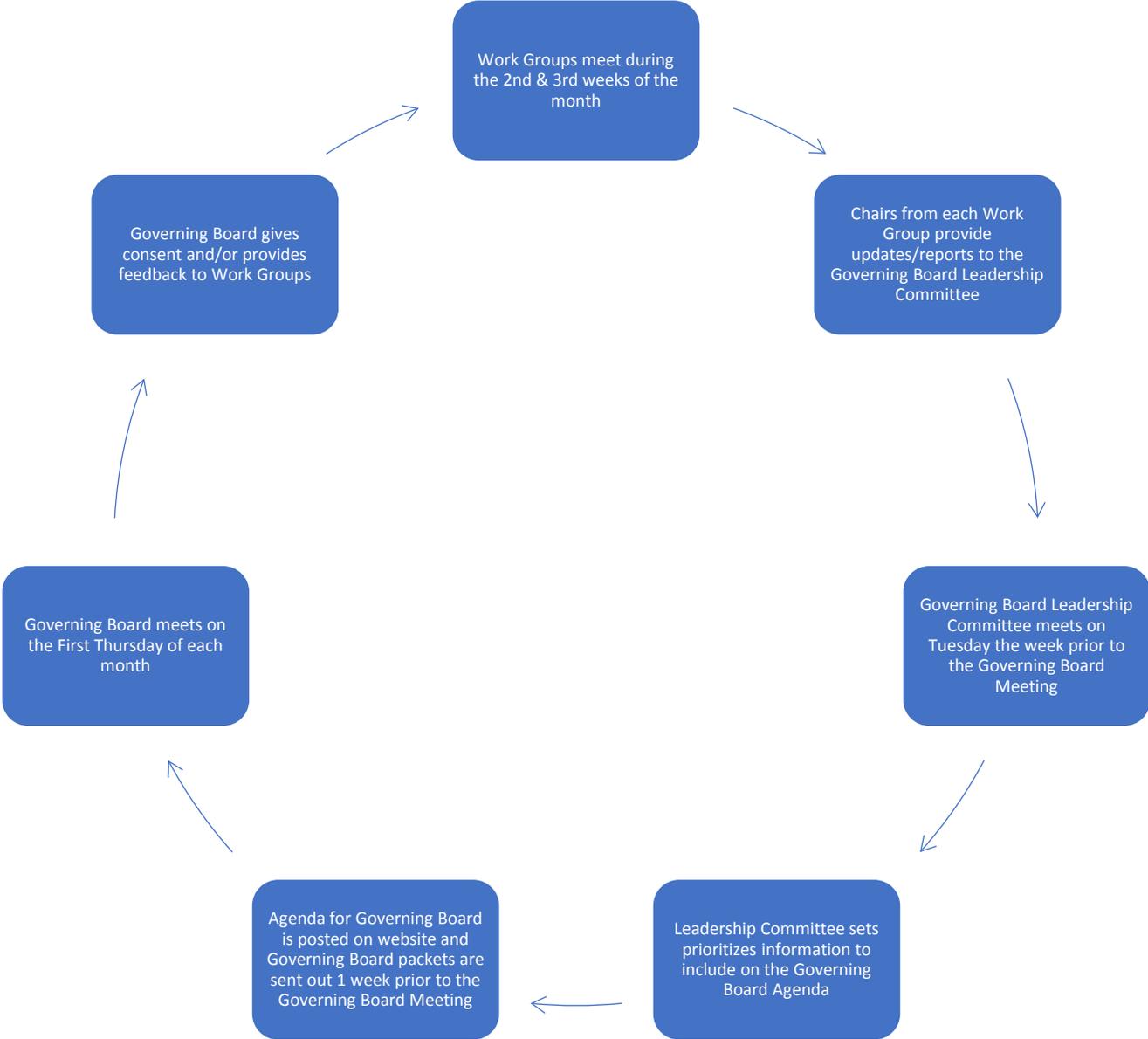
**PreK/K12 Alignment:** Meeting still to be re-established.

**LBL EL Hub Website:** Daily updates and changes are still being made to the Hub website. I recently sent an email to all Governing Board Members asking for a photo and a brief biography to post on our website under the "Who we Are" tab. The three EL Hub staff members have posted their bios and photos to the website to serve as examples, and several members of the Governing Board have also submitted their bios and photos. It is our hope that this information will help us all learn about each other and our diverse backgrounds.

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# LBL EL HUB MEETING TIMELINE

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<b>Who we are</b>	Early Learning Hub, Inc. (ELH) is the early learning hub serving Marion County
<b>Our outcomes</b>	❶ Kindergarten Readiness ❷ Stable and Attached Families ❸ Coordinated and Aligned Services
<b>Why Hubs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Learning Hubs have been designed to translate research about the importance of early learning and development into action in their communities. The Hubs identify the underserved children, assess the needs, and work with cross-sector partners to leverage resources and meet the needs of young children and families.</li> <li>• Early Learning Hubs are designed to <b>make early learning resources and supports more available, more accessible and more effective</b> for children and families that have historically been overrepresented in the opportunity gap and underrepresented in achievement.</li> </ul>
<b>Our population</b>	<p>In Marion County there are <b>32,576 children ages 0 - 6</b>. Approximately <b>70% live in families that are considered at-risk</b> based on poverty, drug abuse, unsafe housing, unmet medical needs, parental mental illness, child abuse and/or neglect. <b>Our hub is currently able to target 25% of these children and families</b> through our demonstration areas.</p> <p>Poverty, kindergarten assessment scores, diversity and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading data were used to identify our demonstration sites.</p>
<b>Our approach</b>	Collective Impact guides our work with a focus on our 3 outcomes. Our Early Learning Hub has brought together leaders in healthcare, education, social services, early childhood and business in partnership with our Parent Advisory Committee to develop strategies for preparing children for Kindergarten. Collective Action Teams and our Parent Advisory Committee guide the work to address the unacceptable achievement gaps among our youngest children.
<b>Our initiatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation – professional development creating alignment between preschool teachers, child care providers and kindergarten teachers; family engagement activities promoting kindergarten readiness and families’ connections to schools.</li> <li>• Reach Out and Read – during well-child appointments, physicians give children age-appropriate books and discuss the importance of reading and literacy.</li> <li>• Focused Family Child Care Networks – providing family child care providers needed supports to be part of the Quality Rating Improvement System.</li> <li>• Developmental Screening – Linking Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) information to medical providers, reducing duplication of the screen and providing continuity of care.</li> <li>• Curriculum alignment – providing training and access to curriculum for family</li> </ul>

child care providers; linking early learning curriculum to kinder curriculum to ensure children arrive at kindergarten with the needed skills.

**Continued need**

It will take increased investments to expand the scope and scale of services. To realize the benefits of these systems changes will require “staying power.” Current investment does not allow us to meet needs and provide access to all children identified at risk.

Investments needed:

- Home visiting, family support and coaching
- Mixed-delivery preschool
- Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation funding
- Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education

**Why invest in Early Learning?**

The future prosperity of Oregon is reliant upon the future prosperity of the people of Oregon. Our children are our future and our investment in them has to start from birth.

“**We believe** that ending disparities and gaps in achievement begin in the delivery of quality Early Learner programs and appropriate parent engagement and support. This is not simply an expansion of services -- it is a recognition that we need to provide services in a way that best meets the needs of our most vulnerable population, 0 to 5 year olds and their families.”

**Does this investment compete with the K-12 budget?**

Schools are at the very core of our work and the foundation of our strategic framework for getting children ready for school and supporting stable families. The benefits of these systems changes require long-term return on investment including the support of our K-12 public school system. Without strong schools and supports for families, our children will not continue to grow into the adults we need them to be for the future.

**For more information, contact Lisa Harnisch, Executive Director 503.967.1185.**

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# GOVERNING BOARD NOMINEES

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## Social and Human Services

- Bettina Schempf  
Executive Director, Old Mill Center
  
- Erlinda Gonzales-Berry  
Executive Director, Casa Latinos Unidos de Benton County
  - Nominated by the Benton County Board of Commissioners
  
- Kathleen McDonnell  
Director, OSU Child Development Center
  
- Vincent Adams  
Corvallis School Board & Rural Communities Explorer, OSU Extension Family & Community Health
  
- Richard Blum  
Vice President of Business Development & Provider Relations, Trillium Family Services

## Business or Social and Human Services

- Paula Grace  
President & CEO, Benton Community Foundation

Hello colleagues

I hope you're all well. I just got important news – Senate Bill 213, the bill to make Hubs permanent, is scheduled for a hearing on March 19<sup>th</sup> in the Senate Human Services and Early Childhood Committee.

I'm writing to request your help in setting up this hearing to succeed. Here is what we need:

- **Supportive written testimony:** We would like to submit as many letters of support as possible. Here's what we are looking for
  - A letter from each Hub, signed by the board chair and executive director.
  - Letters from cross-sector partners from each Hub – from your school district leaders, from your CCOs, from early childhood providers, from DHS partners, etc.
  - Please respond to this email, with Aimee, Lisa and Denise cc'd, by Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> to confirm that you can do this and with the names of partners you will solicit letters from.
  - **Please have letters submitted to me no later than March 13<sup>th</sup>.**
  - If you don't know what to write Aimee can help you – just let us know.
  
- **Potential oral testimony:** Those of you in Hubs that touch the districts that members of this committee live in will be contacted soon by David Mandel to talk about lining up testimony on the day of. This is just one of the first chances to give testimony in person – so if we don't tap you this time, you can rest assured you will very likely get your chance soon.

I look forward to hearing from you. Let me know what questions you have.

**Megan Irwin**

Acting Early Learning System Director

Oregon Early Learning System | Oregon Department of Education

Office: [503.378.2755](tel:503.378.2755) | Cell: [503.507.9462](tel:503.507.9462) | ✉ [megan.irwin@state.or.us](mailto:megan.irwin@state.or.us)

# Oregon home visiting program for families gets \$10.8 million federal grant



Marion County District Attorney Walt Beglau (center) speaks during a December press conference at Family Building Blocks in Salem during which Oregon law enforcement leaders urged the extension of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program to reduce crime. (*The Associated Press*)

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By [Amy Wang](#) | [The Oregonian/OregonLive](#)

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on February 20, 2015 at 8:00 AM, updated February 20, 2015 at 8:01 AM

A program that helps pregnant women and families with young children in Oregon is receiving a \$10.8 million boost from the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell announced the grant Thursday. Nationally, \$386 million is going to the **Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program**.

The Home Visiting Program serves approximately one-third of the counties in the country with high rates of infant mortality, teen births, poverty and low birth weights, according to a press release. In 2014, the Home Visiting Program served 115,000 parents and children nationwide.

The Home Visiting Program is part of President Obama's **Early Learning Initiative**.

In Oregon, the program served 933 families with 6,933 visits in 2014 - an average of about 7.5 visits per family, said Benjamin Hazelton, the Oregon Health Authority's Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting project manager. The visits, which parents sign up for voluntarily, take place in the 13 counties where families with young children have been determined to have the greatest needs: Clatsop, Jackson, Jefferson, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Malheur, Marion, Morrow, Multnomah, Tillamook, Umatilla and Yamhill.

The visits are designed to give parents support and training "to help them become a better parent, understand their children's development, form that solid foundational attachment between parent and child," Hazelton said. The visits also aim to help children develop resilience and build a base for learning, he said.

"For some parents, it's the support that may have been provided in a more sort of familial way previously," Hazelton said.

Hazelton said the visits are carried out by providers such as **Early Head Start, Nurse-Family Partnership** and **Healthy Families America**.

-- Amy Wang

**[awang@oregonian.com](mailto:awang@oregonian.com)**

503-294-5914

**[@ORAmyW](#)**

***Linn Benton Lincoln Early Learning Hub  
is seeking nominations for its Governing Board***

Linn, Benton and Lincoln Early Learning Hub currently have two open Board Positions.

What we need:

- Two individuals representing Benton county
- A person that represents each sector: business and social & human services
- Individuals representing agencies/organizations must hold leadership positions in their organizations

Responsibilities of the Governing Board

- Ensure the vision and mission of the Hub
- Provide fiscal oversight
- Provide work groups oversight
- Foster cross sector alignment and integration
- Oversee the implementation of the strategic plan and monitor and ensuring outcomes
- Manage resource allocations

Meetings: Regular monthly meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month from 2:00 – 4:00 PM. Attendance at meetings may be in person, by call-in or by virtual measures. Meeting locations will rotate between counties. Meetings will be open.

Length of Service: Length of term three years. The initial board will be made up of 1/3 who will serve for 2 year, 1/3 3 years and 1/3 4 years.

Nomination Process:

Please send the following information to Kristi May, [kristi.may@linnbenton.edu](mailto:kristi.may@linnbenton.edu) by 10:00 pm on Friday, February 20, 2015. Board selections will be made during the March Governing Board meeting following the process outlined in the LBL EL Hub Charter.

Name and contact information of Nominee:

Organization or agency nominee represents (if appropriate):

Sector(s) nominee represents: (Business, Social and Human Services)

County (ies) Nominee represents:

Statement that the Nominee acknowledges the meeting schedule and agrees to serve on the LBL Early Learning Hub Governing Board if selected.

### **What is an Early Learning Hub?**

A self-organized community-based coordinating body created to provide a “systems approach” to early childhood education that works to improve efficiency and outcomes for our youngest children.

### **Early Learning Hubs will**

1. Build on existing community resources and assets.
2. Ask tough questions about what could be done differently to get better results, especially for at risk children
3. Communities have the option to define their own strategies and service areas to achieve outcomes
4. Under the community based leadership of Early Learning Hubs, bring public schools, early learning providers, health care, social services and the private sector together around shared outcomes, for the first time in Oregon’s history

### **State Early Learning Goals:**

1. Children ready for kindergarten when they arrive.
2. Children raised in stable and attached families.
3. Services that are integrated and aligned into one early learning system focused on results.

To learn about more about early learning hubs visit: <http://oregonearlylearning.com/other-priorities/community-based-coordinators-of-early-learning-services-hubs/>

To learn more about the LBL Early Learning Hub visit:  
<http://lblearlylearninghub.weebly.com/>

## Sample Email to State Legislators

Dear Senator or Representative \_\_\_\_\_:

[Identify yourself, your participation on the LBL EL Hub, your credentials and/or personal experience that pertain to early childhood.] I am writing to urge your support for early learning systems and strategies to meet the needs of underserved young children and families in Oregon. Research indicates that addressing gaps in early cognitive and social/emotional skills, so critical to a child's future learning, is more effective and less costly before arrival at Kindergarten.

Linn Benton Lincoln Early Learning Hub (LBL EL Hub) was formed to turn the research about the importance of early childhood into action. The LBL EL Hub, including leaders in healthcare, education, social services, early childhood and business partners, developed strategies to prepare children for Kindergarten. We identified approximately 12,884 underserved children. Focusing on data, we determined the areas of highest health and education inequities as a way to reach the highest priority children. The LBL EL Hub is combining public and private funds and discovering new ways to collaborate and leverage resources. Demonstrating a strong commitment to engaging families, parents have played key roles in developing the Hub's original proposal and work plan.

I appreciate your help and ask that you please support our investment in early learning systems. You may contact me with questions regarding the LBL EL Hub formation. You may also contact Kristi May, the new LBL EL Hub Coordinator. Kristi is very interested in meeting with you to discuss the EL Hub. Please contact her at: [kristi.may@linnbenton.edu](mailto:kristi.may@linnbenton.edu) or (541) 917-4908.

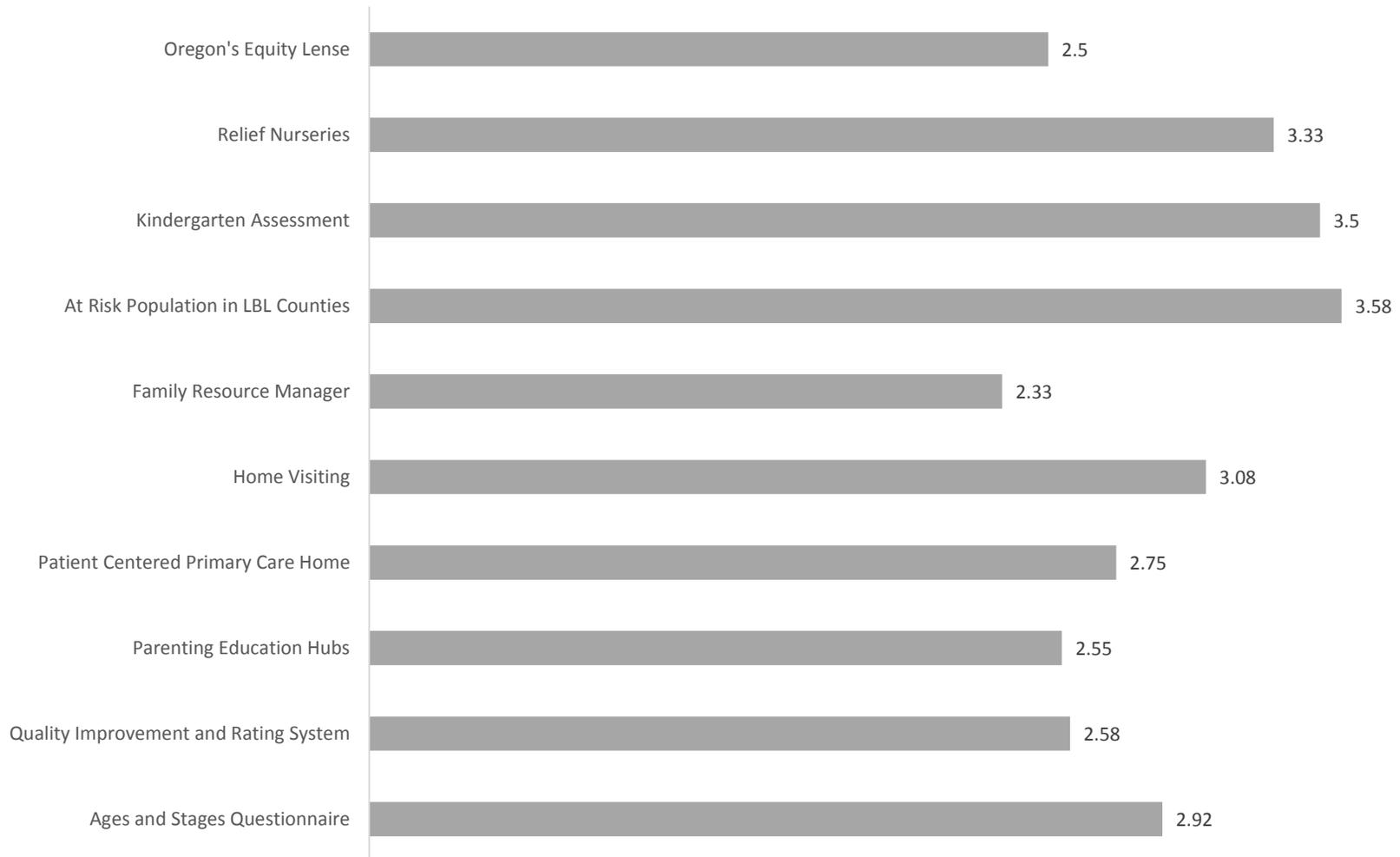
Thank you for your time and considering my request.

Sincerely,

[Insert Your Name]

# EL Hub Topics

■ Governing Board Response



	1 - I have no idea what that is	2 - I've heard of it but know very little	3 - I know some about it but not nearly enough	4 - I can talk about it but would like more information	5 - I am well versed on this topic	Total	Weighted Average
Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)	0.00% 0	41.67% 5	33.33% 4	16.67% 2	8.33% 1	12	2.92
Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)	0.00% 0	58.33% 7	33.33% 4	0.00% 0	8.33% 1	12	2.58
Parenting Education Hubs	9.09% 1	45.45% 5	27.27% 3	18.18% 2	0.00% 0	11	2.55
Patient Centered Primary Care Home (PCPCH)	8.33% 1	33.33% 4	33.33% 4	25.00% 3	0.00% 0	12	2.75
Home Visiting	16.67% 2	16.67% 2	33.33% 4	8.33% 1	25.00% 3	12	3.08
Family Resource Manager	25.00% 3	25.00% 3	41.67% 5	8.33% 1	0.00% 0	12	2.33
At Risk Population in Linn Benton and Lincoln Counties	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	50.00% 6	41.67% 5	8.33% 1	12	3.58
Kindergarten Assessment	0.00% 0	16.67% 2	33.33% 4	33.33% 4	16.67% 2	12	3.50
Relief Nurseries	8.33% 1	8.33% 1	41.67% 5	25.00% 3	16.67% 2	12	3.33
Oregon's Equity Lense	41.67% 5	0.00% 0	33.33% 4	16.67% 2	8.33% 1	12	2.50