

# Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

## Work Group Day Meeting Minutes

<b>MEETING COMMENCED</b>	9:00am, April 14, 2016 Health Education Building, Newport
<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	Kristi May
<b>WORK GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	Barb Dougherty, Lauren Sigman, Jerri Wolfe, Lola Jones, Rebecca Austen, Andrea Daniels, Jaime Williams, Cindy Bond, Sandy Chase, Bettina Schempf, Kim (intern from Old Mill Center), Autumn Belloni, Debbie McPheeters, Nina Petrovich, Amy Lesan, Alicia McWilliams, Cyrel Gable, Renee Smith
<b>VERSION</b>	Final

### Agenda topics

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Hub Meeting Notifications
Explanation of why we have added the Meeting Notification function to our Website, and requested that all partners sign up themselves, or give us permission to do it for you.	

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Data & Evaluation Committee Review (Jerri Wolfe)
Gave a brief description of what the Data & Evaluation Committee's responsibilities are: accumulating and compiling data that can be used to meet our Hub metrics, presentations to the Governing Board of data relevant to their decision-making policies, data for partners to use.	
Powerpoint presentation regarding Oregon's Kindergarten Assessment:	
Documentation from the Early Learning Division to inform parents of what the Kindergarten Assessment is intended to do, and what their child will be asked to do when they participate, including sample questions from the test in each of the three categories.	
Explanation of the Self-Regulation portion of the Kindergarten Assessment (KA). A short interpretive Guide for using as you review KA data.	
Spreadsheets comparing our data with the State's KA data for the past three years, in each of the three categories. This data confirms that the Hub and the State have identical average scores across the board; however, if you look at the individual categories, such as Early Literacy, we are beneath the State's scores in most cases. Are there demographic groups of children within the Hub who are not doing as well as the "norm" of our Hub? Part of the Data & Evaluation Committee work is trying to determine who these children are and present that information to the other committees and the Governing Board for them to take action on those data points.	
Explained to the group how the Governing Board (GB) would like to see their data: top 10% of schools and bottom 10% of schools. Wants to receive data that is "layered" so that the GB can see how multiple pieces of information lead their decision making.	
Jerri suggested that the D&E Committee create trivia questions about early childhood data and send them out to Hub partners as a way of reminding them about data that the Hub has and wants to share. Or creating short PowToon presentations to inform partners about Hub data.	
Amy Lesan pointed out that the KA data is not calibrated well because of the interpretation of the teachers giving the test. She also said that she had requested from the state that they include "0" data so that they would know which children were coming in with absolutely no skills, because those are the children that need the most help.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Kindergarten Partnership & Innovation Funding Updates (Kristi May)
	Three requirements: shared professional development, family engagement activities, and a focus on transitioning to Kindergarten.
	Amy Lesan talked about the Corvallis School District's use of KPI funds: three weeks before school starts they will bring in all of the pre-k's that have no pre-school, special needs, no language, etc. into their local school with a Kindergarten teacher to teach them about what will be happening and what is expected of them. Working for a 7:1 ratio so that the kids got lots of supervision. Emphasis on singing, language skills, and behavioral needs in their home language. Half-day program, partnering with OSU, M-F for the three weeks, and serving the children breakfast and lunch.
	Lauren Sigman talked about the Lincoln County District's use of KPI funds: six-week summer program to help the kids get ready for school, and basically doing the same thing as the Corvallis School District. In addition, they are partnering with LBL-ESD to bring in more special needs children and adding them to the LIFT program. Also working towards more shared professional development with the Kindergarten teachers teaching the Preschool teachers what goes on in Kindergarten and what they can do to help get the children ready for that. 1 <sup>st</sup> grade teachers will also be included in this professional development so that they are made aware of what the children are being taught so that they know what is coming their way.
	The Lebanon School District is using some of their funds to include an additional professional in the kindergarten classroom for the first month of school to help get the kids transitioned more easily. They are also working to co-locate the preschools in some of their elementary schools.
	Santiam Canyon School District is working on holding a preschool by-mail since so many of their families are remotely located. They will mail materials to interested families who will then work with their families, and they will also be holding events at the local schools routinely so that families can come in for those.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Early Childhood Coordinating Council Update (ECCC)
	Held a meeting in March to regroup and work out what they wanted to work on.
	Talked a lot about QRIS and who they should be targeting.
	Talked a lot about ASQs and where that should be headed.
	Hoping to pull in some more child care providers for the May meeting to help with QRIS discussions.
	Jerri Wolfe brought the latest Q1 data from Western Oregon regarding what child care providers there are in our region and what their current QRIS status is, i.e. licensed, 3-star, 4-star, etc. She reviewed the documentation with the group so that we would all understand where our providers are in their work.
	We have also received some additional funding from the state for a second Focused Child Care Network.
	CCR&Rs are looking at professional development gaps in the QRIS program and offering trainings that will help to fill those gaps and move the providers closer to their goals. Working with various providers to help them complete their portfolios and working towards a December deadline for completion.
	There is not much movement on the numbers from month to month, but there is an incredible amount of work going on behind the scenes to get these providers moving towards a star rating.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Health Care Integration Update (HCI)
	Held a meeting recently and working to increase ASQ numbers.
	Working with the CCO to hold a START Training in Lincoln County so that medical providers learn how to properly complete and bill an ASQ.
	The Hub is providing about \$12,700 to help make this training a reality.
	As a star-rated program, providers are required to create an ASQ for each child in their care, and they are delighted to hear that this training is taking place because so many of the medical providers aren't in step with the ASQs. We want the child care providers ASQ data to roll-up to the medical providers.
	Kris Wessel is our new Hub Project Manager for the Family Connections Project, and she will also be acting as a liaison for the HCI Committee with the medical community.

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Vroom Update
On Monday we held an Orientation Training with Kidco Head Start and about 45 members of their staff attended.	
The State is also kicking in more funding to provide tip cards to all of the DHS offices, and the Hub will provide the posters for all of the offices.	
We also met recently with the local Clinic Managers who have asked for posters for all of their clinic exam rooms, about 400 in all.	
We are also going to be holding two webinars, Apr. 22 in the AM, and Apr. 29 in the PM. Please sign-up so that we can provide you with Vroom materials for families in your area.	

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Hub RFA Announcement
On Monday we announced a new Hub RFA funding for kindergarten readiness (2) and family stability funds (2).	
The Funding & Resources Committee created a plan for unallocated funds that are “use it or lose it”.	
We decided to put out an RFA so that we could get ideas from small, local partners and has good ideas about projects that could help accomplish Hub metrics.	
We are looking for letters of inquiry that we can then review and see what they are focusing on and how it applies to our metrics. We will present the letters to the Governing Board for their final approval at our May meeting. (If we don’t have a quorum at the Governing Board meeting, the Board has authorized a separate sub-committee who has the authority to give final approval to the proposed RFAs.)	
Funding runs from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.	
We are hoping to make this a “short and sweet” process so that we can get things moving quickly. It is a short turn-around time, but the Letter of Inquiry section is only 4 pages.	

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Metrics Dashboard
The Governing Board asked the Hub to create a “dashboard” so that we could at a glance how we are doing at accomplishing our metrics. The hand-out that you are reviewing is our current determination of where we are at each metric.	
We also submitted this dashboard to our Hub Facilitator and asked for his feedback. We are hoping that he can tell us if we are actually answering the questions that the state will be asking next year.	
We know that we need to do better with our metric on “engagement with culturally specific organizations”. We are hiring a Parent Engagement Coordinator who will be able to help us to meet that metric. This person will be our representative with these organizations and will talk with them about what we can do for them, rather than trying to get them to come to meetings that we set-up.	

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Partner Sharing
The legislature awarded an additional \$5.9 million in the upcoming biennium to LBL-ESD. That means that they can hire a new speech pathologist for our region. Also, OSU will be doing Kindergarten intakes at Dixie school for their ESD kids.	
DHS has had some huge changes in the TANF program, which helps people to not “fall off a financial cliff” when they start working. When you start a new job, you suddenly lose a lot of benefits, which makes it very difficult to get back on their feet.	
Cyrel Gable is retiring on June 15, so if anyone is interested in applying for her position, the information is listed on the Linn-Benton Community College website. Flexible work hours, awesome job.	
The state is moving child care referral from CCR&R to 211, but has not given many details about how that is going to work. The change will take place at the end of the year.	

The state is requiring that all relief nurseries, healthy families, and all Hubs complete an equity self-assessment to determine whether we have policies and practices in place in regard to race, ethnicity, special needs, etc.

Also, the CCR&R applied for funding for more toddler and infant parenting classes, and we will find out in May whether we got it or not. In addition, we applied for all three counties, so funding will be available for all of our partners.

The Early Learning Council came and held their meetings in Corvallis and the Hub sponsored them, and they got a lot of positive feedback from our parents, partners, and Board members. The ELC is pleased with the relationship we have with our CCO and wanted to know how we made that happen.

The Kings Valley Charter School preschool teacher spoke about the challenges she is facing trying to get QRIS rated and licensed.

<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	Thursday, July 14, 2016, 9-12:00pm
Next meeting will be held at the Old Mill Center, Corvallis.	
<b>MEETING ADJOURNED</b>	11:43am