

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

P-3 Alignment Work Group Meeting Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	11:00am, April 13, 2018 DHS Offices, Albany
MEETING CALLED BY	Kristi Collins
WORK GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Aoife Magee, Kendra Meshnik, Eric Pommier, Stephany Koehne, Lynnette Wynkoop, Jammi Martin, Donna Brown, Kathi Holvey, Jill Irwin, Kathleen McDonnell, Lauren Sigman, Jerri Wolfe, Paul Smith, Laura Lundeen, Lori Romeo, Karina Aguilar, Abby Couture, Darrick Bruns, Nina Petrovich, DeAnn Brown (remotely), Barbara Dougherty (remotely)
VERSION	Final
RECORDED	Yes

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	Gwyn Bachtle, Preschool Promise Program Coordinator
Gwyn presents a PowerPoint presentation on Preschool Promise for the Linn, Benton, and Lincoln provider network.	
Gwyn agrees to research if \$46,500 (average salary for Preschool Promise without benefits) is the average for all teachers or only teachers with bachelor's degrees/teachers with a Step 10 on the Oregon Registry.	
Gwyn opens the floor to questions for the group.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Work Group Question
Question: Are school districts that currently operate exempt programs able to access Preschool Promise through waiver or otherwise?	
School districts can access Preschool Promise funding with a 4-5 star rating through SPARK.	
In the past, this was achieved by obtaining licensing, which put some K-12 facilities in a difficult situation.	
Preschool Promise hopes to offer an alternative method for achieving 4-5 star rating with additional funding.	
In addition, the SPARK standards are posted in draft on the Early Learning Council minutes.	
CCR&Rs prepares their programs for quality related to SPARK indicators.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Work Group Question
Question: Although the Siletz Tribal Head Start and child care center are exempt from state licensing requirements, are they eligible to apply for Preschool Promise funding?	
Preschool Promise considers Tribal Head Start and their child care center under an alternative pathway.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Work Group Question
Question: How do we become Preschool Promise ready should additional funding come available?	

In order to be prepared for Preschool Promise, meet with partners to discuss the regional vision and implementation for Preschool Promise.
Consider a focus on new partners or existing partners.
Consider how Preschool Promise will impact the community (including small and large providers).
This includes infant care centers with mixed-age children due to center-based slots.
Consider expansion under Preschool Promise.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Work Group Question
Question: Does Preschool Promise provide funding for capital improvements?	
Preschool Promise typically considers what Hubs consider “capital investment” as “infrastructure,” allowing for building remodel, fencing, plays scapes, etc.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Lunch
The Work Group breaks for lunch.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Work Group Question
Question: What is the Preschool Promise funding model and requirements for hours in the day?	
Preschool Promise grants funds to the Early Learning Hubs, who then determine appropriate sub-contractors and targeted communities.	
Receiving funding from Preschool Promise can cause tension for the Early Learning Hub fiscal department due to varying backbone agencies.	
Preschool Promise is considering moving Hubs away from contract management and more toward community partnership.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Work Group Question
Question: Please explain Preschool Promise required hours of operation.	
Preschool Promise is considering roadblocks for facilities and parents considering full-time, year-round needs and parent-pay.	
This discussion will help Preschool Promise determine if it’s a program model or a funding stream.	
Children within a blended classroom served by Preschool Promise must meet the legislature requirements of Preschool Promise. Alternatively, children who are not served would follow the requirements of the agency’s requirements. Children might be funded by various funding streams within the same classroom.	
Preschool Promise is currently working on wrap-around care for the Employment-Related Day Care program (ERDC) and Preschool Promise funding. You can’t “double-dip” in separate funding streams for the same in-care hours.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Work Group Questions
Question: Does Preschool Promise mandate a specific assessment tool?	
Preschool Promise doesn’t mandate a specific assessment tool.	
However, about 80% of Preschool Promise providers use TS Gold of their own accord.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Work Group Questions
Question: What are other Preschool Promise reporting requirements?	
Preschool Promise asks providers fiscal information, staff retention, class composition and child-level data, service delivery, etc.	
Preschool Promise is interested in tracking why children received reduction in services or expulsion due to behavioral health needs to unidentified special education needs.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Work Group Questions
Question: If there is an expansion to Preschool Promise, would potential new providers come on a tier system or on par with existing providers?	
the current plan is to focus on quality interaction between the adult and child, and later adds the family engagement piece.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Work Group Questions
Question: Are there questions Preschool Promise has for K-12?	
K-12 finds roadblocks with licensing and fingerprinting, as well as funding.	

NEXT MEETING	TBD
MEETING ADJOURNED	1:10pm