

Monthly Director Report

June 2019



**Early
Learning Hub**

of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties



For us here in Albany, we are enjoying the warm summer. As we begin our next biennium, we are busy wrapping up last year's contracts and preparing to begin new projects. Please remember that our offices are closed on Fridays during July and August.

It is an exciting time for early learning! The Children's Institute projected six key outcomes from the proposed Student Success Act for early childhood, including \$28.1 million to programs for infants and toddlers such as home visiting, Relief Nurseries, Early Head Start, and parenting

\$37.5 million per year to early intervention and early childhood special education programming; \$12.5 million toward professional and workforce development for early childhood workers; and \$10 million toward fostering a new Early Learning Equity Fund to better support children of color and dual language learners.

As we move forward with the Student Success Act, we hope to bring many partners together to discuss community planning and the implementation process. More information is available inside this Director Report.

**Thank you for all of your continued good work,
Kristi Collins, EL Hub Director**

System of Care

Coordinator

Jennifer Schwartz is the new System of Care Coordinator for the Executive Council serving Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties. Jennifer has a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the University of Washington, a Master's degree in Journalism from the University of Georgia, and a Doctoral degree in Communication and Society from the University of Oregon. Over time, she has worked in a number of different roles, including youth tutor, journalist, research assistant, faculty advisor, and instructor. She began on July 1st and is settling into her new office space at LBCC. Please welcome her to our EL Hub team.

Legislative Update

On June 30th at 5:30 PM, the legislature adjourned, just six and a half hours before the constitution mandated the end of session. The final days of the session were relatively smooth, and even the remaining controversial bills were allowed to move. All of the remaining bills related to the Early Childhood Coalition Legislative Agenda passed!

Proposed House Bill 3427 would create a new business tax dedicated to early learning and K-12 education. We are not sure if the bill will refer to vote, but we are closely watching.

If passed, the early learning sector will receive much needed funding that will include dedicated funding for Early Learning Hubs to do the community planning needed for implementation of new and expanding programs.

Family Connects

The Oregon Health Authority selected our Early Learning Hub's application for an "Early Adopter" community for Family Connects, a voluntary, evidence-based, universal home-visiting program for families of newborns. The EL Hub wrote the Letter of Intent in collaboration with Linn, Benton and Lincoln Local Public Health Authorities (LPHAs). Early Adopter Communities receive technical support from the Family Connects International team for planning and community preparation to align and prepare for service delivery.

Engagement will begin in July 2019 and should take about 1 year to progress from planning and preparation to implementation. Our Hub will serve as the regional organizer and each LPHA partner will provide home visiting services at the local level. Lincoln County has been offering FC since 2017 and is the only county in Oregon currently offering FC.

After this Early Adoption Phase, Oregon plans to take lessons learned, using a phased-in approach to implement FC statewide by 2026.

Oregon Community Foundation

Our original proposal to expand into Lincoln County was submitted at roughly \$150K/year for three years to match the CCO investment.

We submitted an amendment for \$100K/year for three years. This amendment looks promising. Our application will go in front of the OCF Board in July.

Hub Work Group Updates:



P-3 ALIGNMENT WORK GROUP: The P-3 Alignment Work Group met on Friday, September 19, 2018. We discussed Baby Promise, child care licensing, KPI project updates, the ELC strategic plan, preschool development grant application, and the COSA conference. We will be holding a KPI contractor meeting on Wednesday, August 13, 2019 that will include many of our P-3 partners.



DATA & EVALUATION WORK GROUP: The Data & Evaluation Work Group celebrated a year of collaborative efforts toward the regional data book and enjoyed a presentation from our epidemiology intern regarding KA/3rd Grade Reading Scores on Thursday, June 13, 2019. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 21, 2019.



HEALTH CARE INTEGRATION WORK GROUP: The Health Care Integration Work Group met on Tuesday, June 11, 2019. The group welcomed a presentation by Capitol Dental, reviewed the InterMountain ESD presentation at the Innovation Cafe, and discussed involvement with dental initiatives in our region. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 13, 2019.



EARLY CHILDHOOD COORDINATING COUNCIL: The Early Childhood Coordinating Council met on Friday, May 17, 2019. We discussed a training alignment subcommittee update, celebrated the Student Success Act passing, and coordinated enrollment. This work group is postponed until after the summer season.



PARENT ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE: The Parent Engagement Committee met on Tuesday, June 25, 2019. We discussed potential parent engagement co-chairs, parent cafe sessions, and future blog topics. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 30, 2019.

Early Learning Hub Mission and Vision Statements:

Mission: The Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties brings partners together to increase family stability, improve kindergarten readiness, and ensure service coordination that is equitable and culturally and linguistically competent.

Vision: Our communities provide an easily accessible and collaborative system of support and care for families that help children to grow up safe, nurtured, healthy, and ready for school and life.