

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	2:00pm, February 6, 2020 LBCC Fireside Room, Albany
MEETING CALLED BY	Julie Manning
WORK GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Jeff Davis, Sarah Dorgan, Don Dorman (for Tonja Everest), Laura Farmer, Rebecka Weinstein, Stephany Koehne, Kelly Locey, Julie Manning, Lorena Reynolds, Bettina Schempf, Lauren Sigman, Paul Smith, Sandy Chase
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Kristi Collins, Shirley Blake, Matt Grams, LeAnne Trask, Connie Adams, Lynn Hall, Jennifer Schwartz
GUESTS PRESENT	Lynnette Winkoop, Katie Berns
VERSION	Final
RECORDED	Yes

Agenda topics

SPECIAL PRESENTATION	System of Care, Jennifer Schwartz
<p>Jennifer Schwartz is the System of Care Coordinator for Linn/Benton/Lincoln. She gave an overview presentation of the history of system of care in Oregon and in the LBL region, including 2019 and 2020 goals. System of Care goals that were met for 2019 include creating a standardized Barrier Submission Form and a reporting template to track barriers. Goals for 2020 include increased communication with groups form at the state level and launching the developed website.</p>	
<p>Board members asked questions regarding the submission form regarding language, including the level of technical wording, availability of other languages, and permission from the submitting party to be contacted for follow-up.</p>	
<p>Further questions were asked regarding who is doing follow-up and what changes have been made. Jennifer stated that specific changes have not happened yet but two barriers were recently escalated to the state steering committee.</p>	
<p>Next steps:</p>	
<p>Julie will invite Jennifer back for updates, and board members were encouraged to email questions directly to Jennifer.</p>	

DIRECTOR'S REPORT	LBL Hub Updates, Kristi Collins
<p>EL Hub Staff Changes: Jenni Hartsock recently resigned from her position as EL Hub Program Assistant to pursue other employment opportunities. Kristi offered an increase in FTE to Connie Adams, currently the Pollywog Program Assistant, from 0.5 FTE to 1.0 FTE as a way to use resources within the Hub to temporarily address the role of a Program Assistant.</p>	
<p>Sector Plan Submitted: Kristi submitted the completed LBL Sector Plan to the ELD early and it was accepted with few requested revisions.</p>	
<p>Build Early: This group is bringing together housing and early learning providers to co-locate these services and address these issues jointly. Oregon is near the bottom for affordability of childcare and housing for families. Opportunities and policy barriers are being addressed in this group, including looking at a similar venture in Multnomah and translating that to more rural areas.</p>	

Board members discussed cost concerns about converting current facilities versus building new structures that will fit specific needs of childcare programs and current plans for this concept in Lebanon.

FISCAL REPORT	Matt Grams
Matt presented the revenue, expenditures, and miscellaneous reports for November and December.	

CONSENT ITEMS	November Meeting Minutes
The Board was asked to approve the November meeting minutes.	
Motion: Bettina Schempf	
2 nd : Rebecka Weinsteiniger	

VOTING RESULTS	Individual Votes cast by Board Members (Yes, No, Abstain)														
Brown	Y	N	A	Gere	Y	N	A	Manning	Y	N	A	Thielman	Y	N	A
Cohen	Y	N	A	Hall	Y	N	A	Reynolds	Y	N	A	Waller	Y	N	A
Davis	Y	N	A	Weinsteiniger	Y	N	A	Schempf	Y	N	A	Chase	Y	N	A
Dorgan	Y	N	A	Hughes	Y	N	A	Sigman	Y	N	A	Open	Y	N	A
Dorman (Everest)	Y	N	A	Koehne	Y	N	A	Smith	Y	N	A	Open	Y	N	A
Farmer	Y	N	A	Locey	Y	N	A	Miller	Y	N	A	Open	Y	N	A
No abstentions															
The Board voted to approve the minutes.															

DISCUSSION ITEM	GoKids Funding and Childcare Accelerator Opportunity – Approval Needed
During the retreat part of the day, prior to the start of the board meeting, the board heard a presentation from Katy Brooks, CEO/President of the Bend Chamber of Commerce, about the creation of a Childcare Accelerator position. Julie shared with the board about meeting with the GoKids Steering Committee last week regarding grant funding, and other funding sources, for a similar position, to be housed at the Hub.	
The project with the former ABC House and the YMCA, discussed at a previous board meeting, is the type of project this position would help to coordinate. Kristi has helped with technical assistance for the YMCA for this facility's renovations and is working with the building owner, Chris Reese, and the city of Albany. They are planning for a summer opening.	

CONSENT ITEM	OCF GoKids Funding and Childcare Accelerator Position
The Board was asked to approve the continued conversation with the OCF regarding GoKids funding for staffing this position, with the EL Hub leading and housing the position.	
Motion: Jeff Davis	
2 nd : Lorena Reynolds	

VOTING RESULTS	Individual Votes cast by Board Members (Yes, No, Abstain)														
Brown	Y	N	A	Gere	Y	N	A	Manning	Y	N	A	Thielman	Y	N	A
Cohen	Y	N	A	Hall	Y	N	A	Reynolds	Y	N	A	Waller	Y	N	A
Davis	Y	N	A	Weinsteiniger	Y	N	A	Schempf	Y	N	A	Chase	Y	N	A
Dorgan	Y	N	A	Hughes	Y	N	A	Sigman	Y	N	A	Open	Y	N	A
Dorman (Everest)	Y	N	A	Koehne	Y	N	A	Smith	Y	N	A	Open	Y	N	A
Farmer	Y	N	A	Locey	Y	N	A	Miller	Y	N	A	Open	Y	N	A
No abstentions															

The Board voted to approve continuing the conversation regarding this concept, and noted that there will be further discussion regarding questions from the board, including improving relationships with the business community, issues regarding affordability of childcare in the region, and the inclusion of equity and inclusion in childcare facilities.

DISCUSSION ITEM | Early Learning Division RFAs, Kristi Collins

Kristi informed the board that the ELD had posted four Requests for Applications (RFA) as of 2/5/2020. They are for Preschool Promise Provider, Preschool Promise Fiscal Agent, Equity Fund, and an Oregon Pre-Kindergarten Expansion. Applications go directly to the ELD and will contract directly with the ELD, but they can request a Fiscal Agent. A Fiscal Agent could work directly with a group of providers to be a culturally specific need. Old Mill Center for Children and Families expressed interest in being a Fiscal Agent, if needed.

The application deadline closes on 4/2/2020. A pre-proposal webinar occurred on 2/10/2020. Questions should be submitted and FAQs have been posted online. An in-person meeting for providers is planned for 2/19/2020, 6:00-8:00pm, at the LBCC Benton Center.

DISCUSSION ITEM | Coordinated Enrollment, Kristi Collins

Kristi stated that the Student Success Act legislated that EL Hubs will lead coordinated enrollment. The state contracted consultants to visit EL Hubs around the state, specifically to speak with hubs that have existing Preschool Promise and hubs that do not have Preschool Promise, as well as speaking with hubs about the sector planning process. Kristi and LeAnne met with the consultants for almost two days. The LBL EL Hub is the outlier because even though Preschool Promise is not currently part of the hub, the Pollywog data system gives LBL the capacity to coordinate enrollment. Coordinated enrollment is happening with prenatal classes and parent education via Pollywog.

Board members discussed aspects of coordinated enrollment, including the concern that a state definition of coordinated enrollment could hurt some agencies that have requirements around enrollment. Board members agreed that agency-to-agency communication was vital to prevent a potential loss in capacity in agencies, and that this communication was essentially an informal coordinated enrollment. Other concerns expressed were potential pressure on the workforce, the short timeframe for application, a lack of facilities or staff for possible slots, and the potential impact on private childcare providers. Kristi said that there is also dedicated funding available for a position in the hubs for coordinated enrollment. It was suggested that the CCR&R might survey local agencies to get information on what is needed in our communities.

DISCUSSION ITEM | Pollywog Update, LeAnne Trask

LeAnne presented January's analytics for Pollywog website and database, as well as information and reach for the parent newsletter, Parent Voice blog, and the Facebook page. She also shared Vistalogic software updates and progress in training Pollywog partners, including 47 DHS family workers and Family Tree Relief Nursery staff.

Next, LeAnne discussed the strong growth of Pollywog in Lincoln County. Jose Hernandez-Rosales has been meeting with families and Sommer McLeish has been planning parent education classes that will start with the Spring term. Pollywog staff are taking calls and enrolling for prenatal classes. LeAnne met with local MCCs and the health department to train and coordinate, and has been meeting with the Children's Development Network monthly.

Julie asked if future Pollywog numbers could be separated by county so that the growth can be measured, and LeAnne will do that for the next board meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEM | Olalla Center, LeAnne Trask

LeAnne was excited to announce that the Olalla Center, in Toledo, was awarded a grant for \$100,000 in the form of a giant check at a recent Blazers game. The money will be used for further expansion and remodeling of this facility.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Family Fun Day, Jeff Davis
Jeff shared information with the board about Family Fun Day, on 2/29/2020, 10:00am-2:00pm, at the LBCC Activity Center in Albany. This annual event is a fundraiser for parent education scholarships and is designed for families with children ages 1-6 years.	
NEXT MEETING	2:00-4:00pm, 3/5/2020 Reynolds Law Firm, Corvallis (Possibly)
MEETING ADJOURNED	3:45pm