

Monthly Director Report

February 2020



Early Learning Hub

of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties



What an exciting time in Oregon for early childhood education. We are thrilled to see the growth and expansion in opportunities for our youngest children, thanks to increased funding from the Student Success Act. The Early Learning Division is accepting Requests for Applications (RFAs) for Preschool Promise providers. The Preschool Promise Program will fund an additional

3800+ preschool spaces state-wide. This is an amazing opportunity for early childhood and education providers to increase the availability of early childhood care in our area. Preschool Promise funding is available for a variety of childcare settings, from public schools and Head Starts to certified family providers. The ELD also has applications available for Preschool Promise Fiscal Agents and an Equity Fund. Applications are due by 4/2/2020.

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

News from the Board

The LBL Early Learning Hub Governing Board met for our annual retreat on February 6, 2020. The first part of the day included a presentation of the work of our OSU epidemiology intern, Katie Berns, followed by an assessment of our strategic priorities to facilitate an update to the Hub's strategic plan.

The afternoon included a presentation from Katy Brooks, CEO/President of the Bend Chamber of Commerce, regarding their region's creation of a childcare accelerator staff position that will act as a liaison between childcare professionals, local businesses looking to support employees who are parents, health organizations, and parents.

Finally, the Governing Board held their regular monthly meeting.

Build Early, Build to Learn

Build Early, a Portland-based group that is working to co-locate housing and early learning services, convened in January. Kristi attended this day-long event to learn about this concept for the LBL Hub region.

Build Early recognizes that children need both a stable home and accessible early childhood education, especially in the crucial early years.

The convening participants worked together to understand challenges and barriers in co-location of services and learned from other professionals and leaders involved, including housing developers and child care providers.

Pollywog in Lincoln Co.

Pollywog has been growing by leaps and bounds on the coast, thanks to the hard work of Pollywog's Coordinator and staff. Jose Hernandez-Rosales has been meeting with families to learn about what Lincoln County communities need, and Sommer McLeish has worked to get parent educators trained and organized parenting education classes that will start this spring. LeAnne Trask met with local hospital MCCs and the county health department to coordinate and train in Pollywog use. Back at LBCC, Sheri Branigan and Juana Estrada have been answering an increasing number of phone calls for registration, and Connie Adams wrote and designed the February Parent Newsletter.

Next month, look for Pollywog numbers by county to see how the work has paid off.

Oregon Collaborative

The LBL Early Learning Hub staff is preparing to host the State of Oregon's Early Learning Division Collaborative at LBCC on February 25-26, 2020. This bi-annual learning conference is hosted by the EL Hubs around the state and is an opportunity for Hub staff members, as well as Hub governing board members, to share ideas and plans.

Expected speakers will cover a variety of important issues that are effecting all EL Hubs right now, like the Student Success Act, the ongoing Request For Applications process, and coordinated enrollment information.

Hub Work Group Updates:



P-3 ALIGNMENT WORK GROUP:

The P-3 Alignment work group has been on hold. It will be reconvening in March.



DATA & EVALUATION WORK GROUP:

The Data and Evaluation Work Group met on January 15, 2020. We discussed changes to be made the information Powtoons made by Katie Berns, our epidemiology intern. We also reviewed expanded analysis of target populations and data book edits. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2020.



HEALTH CARE INTEGRATION WORK GROUP:

The Health Care Integration Work Group met on February 11, 2020. We heard a presentation from Mary Jackson, the MCC at GSRMC, regarding their work towards accreditation as a Baby-Friendly Hospital by Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative.



EARLY CHILDHOOD COORDINATING COUNCIL:

The Early Childhood Coordinating Committee has been on hold. It will reconvene on February 28, 2020.



PARENT ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

The Parent Engagement Committee met on January 28, 2020. We discussed the data in the Family Needs & Preferences Grid in the ECE Sector Plan, focusing gaps that exist between parents and services. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2020.

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.