



# Early Learning Hub

*of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties*

## Director's Report July, 2020



COVID-19 has changed the landscape of our communities and personal lives in countless ways. The campus of LBCC is closed and the Early Learning Hub staff has transitioned to working from home. Much of our work has changed as we adjust to this pandemic, but our work still continues. We are committed to supporting you - our community partners - in your work with families.

In the spirit of that continued work, we are happy to announce that Samaritan Health Services has approved an additional \$50,000 in funding for Pollywog. These funds will help as we continue our growth into Lincoln County, providing parenting education, resources, and referrals to parents. Thank you to Samaritan Health Services for your ongoing support, and thank you to our partners for the important work you do.

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

## **Preschool Promise**

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After delays due to the emergency situation with COVID-19, the Early Learning Division (ELD) has announced the Preschool Promise Grant Awardees. These funds mean the addition of 158 funded preschool slots in our region.

We are excited for our preschool partners and for the new families and children that will be served by this increase in available quality early childhood education in the Linn-Benton-Lincoln region.

According to the [ELD website](#), these awards are only part of the budgeted funds to the Early Learning Account investments, due to the impact of COVID-19 on Oregon's economy and budget. Updates will be shared as we receive them.

## **Weekly Child Care Partners Meetings**

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Alongside staff from Child Care Resource & Referral, Hub staff have been coordinating and participating in weekly outreach meetings to the Hub's child care partners.

These online meetings have been an open opportunity for partners around a variety of topics, including Emergency Child Care information, Preschool Promise applications and grants, and Coordinated Enrollment. They provide a connection not only for partners with Hub staff but also between partners.

Weekly meetings will continue to provide updates to partners as it is received. Please join us if you are interested. The meetings are every Wednesday at 1pm via Zoom. More information is available on [the Hub website](#).

## **Coordinated Enrollment**

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With the announcement of Preschool Promise Grant awards, the Hub will be moving forward with plans for Coordinated Enrollment, beginning with filling the new Preschool Promise slots.

More information is anticipated in the coming weeks from the state. All EL Hubs will work closely with the ELD as the coordinated enrollment process is designed. Because of the delay in the implementation of Coordinated Enrollment due to COVID-19, the timeline has been shortened. Regardless, the Hub and its staff are ready to jump into state-provided training as soon as its received.

Following training, outreach and recruitment will commence, to both existing and new families.

## **Family Connects**

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Work on Family Connects is continuing at a steady pace. Hub staff are meeting regularly online with Family Connects staff at Duke University.

One focus of Family Connects is on community alignment and a community alignment specialist in each county. Our Hub is fortunate to have already done much of this work in the Pollywog program and database. The Pollywog database meets Family Connects criteria as a resource and referral system. We are proud to report that the Pollywog database was referenced as a good example by Family Connects on a national call!

Currently, we are awaiting further directions from OHA regarding staffing and funding for an alignment position within the Pollywog team.



## **Hub Work Group Updates**

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### **Data & Evaluation Work Group**

The Data & Evaluation Work Group met on June 17, 2020 via Zoom. We discussed the analysis of KA Literacy scores and recent Data Book progress. Our next meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2020. We are currently recruiting new members.

Contact: Lynn Hall  
[hall@linnbenton.edu](mailto:hall@linnbenton.edu)

### **Health Care Integration Work Group**

The Health Care Integration Work Group met on June 9, 2020. We discussed community resources and events regarding COVID-19. Our next meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2020.

Contact: LeAnne Trask  
[trask@linnbenton.edu](mailto:trask@linnbenton.edu)

### **Parent Engagement Committee**

The Parent Engagement Committee met on June 30, 2020. We discussed Parent Cafes and ways to collect parent stories. Our next meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2020.

Contact: Shirley Blake  
[blakes@linnbentoned.edu](mailto:blakes@linnbentoned.edu)

### **P-3 Alignment Work Group**

This work group is currently on hold.

### **Early Childhood Coordinating Council**

This work group is currently on hold.

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## **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.

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