



Early Learning Hub

of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

Director Report December 2020



As we finish up this very eventful year and look forward to 2021, the staff of the Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties and I want to say thank all our community partners. Together we have overcome immense challenges this year in our efforts to support the children and families of our communities. We are so grateful for each of you and your contributions.

I want to also acknowledge the Hub staff for all they have done this year for the Hub and our communities. Thank you and best wishes to Shirley Blake, Parent Engagement Coordinator, who left the Hub to be at home with her children, and Lynn Hall, Project Manager, who is retiring from the Hub in January, 2021. While you two cannot be replaced, we look forward to working with new staff members in the new year.

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

Hub Staffing Updates

We have a few ongoing staffing changes and are excited about our growing team.

LBCC posted the job listing for two Program Assistant 2 positions to support Coordinated Enrollment and Parent Engagement. This position requires bilingual skills and we were happy to have three applicants to interview. The new hires will be announced when finalized.

Also posted was the position of Program Assistant 3, which will fulfill the Community Alignment Specialist position within Family Connects. Hiring staff are reviewing the interview evaluation criteria and will hold interviews as soon as possible.

Lastly, the position description for the Child Care Accelerator has been approved and posted on the LBCC website. The Hub has received \$59,000 from the Oregon Community Foundation as partial funding for this role. The Hub hopes to have this position filled in early January. Please share it with your networks.

Spanish-Speaking Child Care Providers Grant

We are excited to announce that the EL Hub has received a grant of \$25,000 from the Oregon Community Foundation to continue the work of supporting bilingual and monolingual Spanish-speaking child care providers.

Hub staff are partnering with CCR&R staff to funnel these funds to community partners for the greatest impact given the needs which have arisen due to COVID-19. Some options being considered are direct stipends to providers and the development of a resource closet for the supplies needed by providers.

Proposed Cuts to EL Hubs

Oregon's Early Learning Hubs received a letter from the Early Learning Division (ELD) regarding Governor Kate Brown's proposed budget. Overall, the proposed budget shows strong support for early learning programs and child care programs.

There is still a cut of \$1.4 million to EL Hubs, as line item veto could not separate out cuts to certain programs over others. This cut to Hub budgets is intended for Hubs' general funds in anticipation of Student Success Act funds via Preschool Promise and Coordinated Enrollment. Further information on the proposed budget cuts will be shared when received.

An addition to the ELD budget is the creation of a Tribal EL Hub that would work with all tribal nations within Oregon's borders. Tribal leaders will design this Hub with the ELD and information will be shared once that process is completed.

We look forward to upcoming conversations about how all Hubs will work together to meet early learning needs in our communities.

System of Care Update

Jennifer Schwartz's transition to independent contractor with the System of Care has left approximately \$4000 in remaining prepaid funds for housing the position within the Hub.

Recently, the System of Care Executive Councils put out an RFA for funds to support system of care work, including a request for matching funds. The Hub will contribute remaining prepaid funds to the matching efforts so as to ensure they continue to support system of care work.



Hub Work Group Updates

Health Care Integration Work Group

The Health Care Integration Work Group met on November 10, 2020. Danielle Brown, from Benton County Behavioral Health, presented information on programs and services which are available to county residents. Updated information from the Oregon Health Authority was also shared. The next work group meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2021.

Contact: LeAnne Trask
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Data & Evaluation Work Group

The Data & Evaluation Work Group is currently working on production of the next edition of the regional Data Book. The next meeting is planned for January. The 2021 Regional Data Book

is scheduled to be released in early February, 2021.

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Parent Engagement Committee

The Parent Engagement Committee is on hold while the Hub interviews and hires new staff to coordinate parent engagement. Updated meeting information will be available in January.

P-3 Alignment Work Group and Early Childhood Coordinating Council

A subset of these work groups has been meeting weekly as the Child Care Partners Updates group in collaboration with Family Connections, our local Child Care Resource & Referral.

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.
