

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

P-3 Alignment Work Group Meeting Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	9:30 am, November 19, 2021 Online via Zoom
MEETING CALLED BY	Kristi Collins
WORK GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Bonnie Dietrich, Kathy Feser, Amy Lesan, Lori Romeo, Kim Roth, Lauren Sigman, Paul Smith
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Kristi Collins, Sam Rounsavell
RECORDED	Yes

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	Welcome and Introductions.
Work Group Members introduced themselves and shared their email addresses so they can be added to the group Basecamp group.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	P-3 Dare to Lead Training
<p>Kristi shared that KPI funds were used to contract with Heidi McGown to facilitate a Dare to Lead training for our P-3 partners. The hope is to have this group take the training and be an advisory group for potentially offering the Dare to Lead training on an ongoing basis to the P-3 Leadership teams. We would work to ensure the training was offered virtually over Zoom. Dare to Lead explores leadership from all levels and helps staff see themselves as leaders, regardless of their role. This training may fulfill required professional development requirements for Work Group members and their teaching staff. Kristi's vision is to offer this training annually similar to the National P-3 Institute our region attended years ago. It would be wonderful to send school leadership teams to this training together so everyone is speaking the same language.</p> <p>In Lincoln County, there has been high staff turnover which has led to new lead staff and classroom aids. They are looking for training to support teachers in becoming confident leaders. The Dare to Lead training sounds like a good fit.</p> <p>The group agreed that they were interested in this training, but substitute availability and staff coverage are big challenges.</p> <p>The group discussed a timeline, and what the time commitment might be. Kristi suggested inviting Heidi McGown to the next meeting to discuss this. We have the flexibility to make a schedule that works best for everyone.</p> <p>It was suggested to include Stephanie Koehne and Corvallis Kidco Head Start in this group. Members were encouraged to invite others to participate in this group.</p>	

DISCUSSION ITEM	KPI Allocations
Kristi discussed 21-22s KPI allocations. The 22-23 allocations will include one more district so funding levels will look different.	
It was clarified that this funding does run on a fiscal year July – June.	
KPI are biennial funds and so they can be carried over until June 30, 2023.	
To apply for KPI funds an agency submits a written narrative on the intended use of funds. Early Learning Hub collects these and includes them in an MOU. If there are changes to the plans, just send us an email with an updated narrative.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	KPI Scope of Work changes & updates to Legislative language
Kristi discussed HB 2054 which is related to KPI. Changes to the legislation are marked in bold. It is now part of legislation that these funds come through Early Learning Hubs.	
<p>House Bill 2054</p> <p>(2) Under the program, the Early Learning Division shall provide grants to Early Learning Hubs based on criteria established by the Early Learning Council by rule. Grants may be used for:</p> <p>(a) Supporting children to successfully transition into kindergarten;</p> <p>(b) Engaging families of children who are zero through five years of age in being partners in the learning and development of their children; or</p> <p>(c) Investing in resources for priority populations and priority geographic areas, as identified in plans developed by Early Learning Hubs to address early care and education</p>	
In response to item c, we identified children living in rural areas as a priority population as part of our sector plan.	
Kristi briefly reviewed our Early Learning Hub KPI contract where there is more detail to define terms and ideas on the appropriate use of the funds. Under each category, there is language that says “with agency approval other activities” which provides some flexibility.	
<p>Group members were invited to share their plans and ideas for KPI funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mill City and Philomath is using funds on 4-5-year olds in a Kindergarten Readiness program • Corvallis is creating a Summer Kindergarten Readiness program • Lincoln County is creating a Summer Kindergarten Readiness program at each elementary school. They are braiding KPI funds with Title funds for transportation and other needs • Lebanon will be using funds for parent enrichment. They will send home packets for parents in 60 families, that include items like zoo phonics, and other materials to encourage parents to help students get ready for kindergarten. A similar program in 2020 was very successful with lots of positive feedback from parents. Also, in 2020, they had a Safety Town program with visits from the Police and Fire department, a train ride, and other activities in a week-long summer event that served 24 students • Scio is considering having some parent education focused on building language skills in kids to get ready for kindergarten. In 2020 they had a two-week Summer Kindergarten Readiness program, and hope to do that again as well 	

- GAPS is planning a Summer Jumpstart to Kindergarten program. They are also considering parenting education and other family supports.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Rules Revision Discussion
<p>When there is a change in legislation there must be a rules revision process. Kristi shared that she and Paul Smith have been invited to be on the Rules Revision Committee. This Work Group was asked to discuss what they believe Kristi and Paul should be advocating for on that committee.</p>	
<p>The group suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocating for a clear vision for the whole system. There are different needs in different communities. Flexibility for different models in different communities is needed. • Flexibility is key in KPI funds. The funds should support communities to be innovative and creative in supporting their Kindergarten Readiness needs. Being able to combine KPI funds with other funding to meet community needs is very important. The needs of rural communities may be different from larger communities. • Flexibility allows us to serve more families. We are struggling with staffing and children who have more behavioral and developmental issues due to Covid isolation. Using funding to meet these needs would be very beneficial. • The Early Learning Division wants to ensure that this funding supports quality programs. Currently, the Preschool Promise model is considered the quality standard. We need to advocate for broadening the lens of what quality looks like. Communities have different needs and need different models to meet those needs. • Sustainability is also very important. As funding requirements change, programs become unsustainable. • Sustainable funding would allow programs to hire and retain quality staff. 	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Future Meetings
<p>The group discussed meeting times for future meetings. It was agreed that Friday mornings once per month work best. Kristi will reach out to LBL ESD and EIESC to set a day and time.</p>	

NEXT MEETING	TBD
MEETING ADJOURNED	10:29am