

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	2:00 pm, December 1, 2022 Online via Zoom
MEETING CALLED BY	Melissa Isavoran
PRESENTER	Michael Couch, Crossroads Communities
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Connie Adams, Kristi Collins, Matt Grams, Antonia Huerta, Jinguang Lin, Sam Rounsavell, Carmen Santacruz, Kelly Schell, Bryan Steinhauser, LeAnne Trask
VERSION	Draft
RECORDED	Yes

Agenda topics

ROLL CALL		Board Members Present or Absent							
	Present	Absent		Present	Absent		Present	Absent	
DeAnn Brown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Claire Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neftali Pizano	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Belit Burke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susan Halliday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chris Reese	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Jeff Davis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Crystal Harris	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bettina Schempf	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Barbara Dougherty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Melissa Isavoran	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lauren Sigman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Karol Elizondo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lola Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paul Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tonja Everest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stephany Koehne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lynette Wynkoop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laura Farmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steve Martinelli	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Open	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

QUORUM

A quorum was present because there are currently 20 members on the Board, and 14 were present at this meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Welcome and Introductions

Board Members introduced themselves.

<p>SPECIAL PRESENTATION</p>	<p>Michael Couch, Crossroads Communities</p> <p>Crossroads Communities is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Lebanon. They were founded in 2017 to address the needs of vulnerable populations in rural Oregon. This organization facilitates affordable housing and coordinating wrap-around social services to Veterans and those facing houselessness, domestic violence, substance abuse, mental illness, and other challenges. The primary objective is to remove barriers to those seeking aid. Michael shared about the coordinated care, support, and advocacy Crossroads can provide to those in rural Linn County.</p> <p>Affordable housing has a turnover rate of 42-48% of apartments yearly. Crossroads is focused on providing support, services, and housing to help those families achieve stability. They started this pilot program in conjunction with Applegate Lending LLC, and in the first year, 85% of people remained housed at Applegate Landing. Having Crossroads onsite, providing coordinated care, providing socialization services, and providing support and advocacy mean that two-thirds of the people who otherwise would have ended up homeless or out of the system can stay where they are. This stability ensures connection to services, connection to one another, and of course, connection for kids who are in school. Michael explained that since they are working with many family units in this program, in the last eight months, Crossroads has contacted program partners that offer programs and services for children. These include mental and physical health services, teen job training opportunities, etc. This is a place where "Do gooders" and "Do Wellers" meet.</p> <p>The Board asked for more detail on the behavioral health room. Michael explained that their focus is on providing the space at Applegate Landing and coordinating program partners who can provide onsite services.</p> <p>The Board asked about the percentage of children under age 5 in their community. Michael responded that there are several single parents with younger children.</p> <p>The Board asked for more information about the funding for this program. Michael's background is in banking, financing, funding credits, project management, and project financing, so he has a business perspective on funding. All of the expansion projects are worked out very carefully before getting to the implementation stage. So, it's leveraging their relationships, showing the benefit to the community, and showing the benefit to potential funders. The Applegate Landing program, over 30 years, will cost just under \$300 million to operate but will save over \$700 million in the community through savings, health care, the improvement of education, and reduced need for additional social services over generations.</p> <p>The Board asked if this program could be replicated in other counties. Michael explained that Oregon Health Authority provided Crossroads with a technical assistance grant that let them reach out to other communities throughout Oregon to talk with them and explain the model and assist them with replicating the program in their communities. Michael explained their process of gathering partners before opening. Once partners were assembled, they listened to what partners needed and tried to provide spaces for those needs in their program. The goal was to expand to eight communities, and within two weeks, there were 19 communities interested, and by the end of three months, that had expanded to 28 communities. That's a lot of expansion opportunities.</p>
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Michael invited Board Members to reach out for a tour or further discussion.
michael.couch@crossroadsc.org

DIRECTOR'S REPORT	LBL Hub Updates
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Kristi, Bryan, and Lynnette attended the Oregon Workforce Board Conference in Bend. Early Learning had a much bigger representation in the agenda and attendees than in pre-pandemic times. It's exciting that the conversation around child care has become so prominent. The second day of this conference was dedicated entirely to Early Learning, and Early Learning supports. All Early Learning Hub directors and CCR&R directors were invited so that Workforce Partners and others in the room could get to know who we are and learn about some of the partnerships already happening around the state. They heard about positions like Bryan's and the work happening in Central Oregon. We learned today that Lane County has hired a similar position to our Business Liaison. Lynnette shared that the variety of workforce perspectives and opportunities for collaboration were appreciated. Lots of follow up is expected this next year for projects in the works, and looking at apprenticeships and national models and how those might apply to our area.

They also attend an information session about the Seeding Justice grant. These were the 22 million allocated during the short session to increase child care capacity. They've been working on what that process would look like and how they will use those funds. That process may include small grants to assist child care providers in expanding and opening. This will be done as a letter of interest and then an invitation to apply. The first round of the letter of interest will be open specifically to BIPOC and Culturally Specific and LBGTQIA providers. Those will open in January, and the funds will be distributed on a rolling basis. March 6th, the second round will be open, and it will be open broadly to any community-based organizations that meet the eligibility criteria to apply for the funds. This funding will likely go very quickly. The Hub must consider how we will partner with organizations within our region. We will work with organizations eligible for the first round to help and support them in their application. And then think about what a bigger proposal might look like beyond that. There will be more to come.

Kristi reminded the Board that LBCC offices would be closed from Dec 23 – Jan 3.

Kristi announced a change in leadership for the Early Learning Hub. Jeff Davis will be retiring from LBCC in January. He will continue on this Board as Dean Emeritus representing the Hub and LBCC in general. The Family Resources and Education Center will be moving under the Dean who oversees early childhood education programs, the degree program here at LBCC to better align our work with the degree pathway.

Jeff thanked the Board members for their work and dedication. The Board wished Jeff a happy retirement.

FISCAL REPORT	Matt Grams
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Matt presented the revenue, expenditures, and miscellaneous reports for October 2022. Matt explained that the budget for Pollywog is not yet finalized but should be by the next meeting.

CONSENT ITEMS	November 2022 Meeting Minutes
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The Board was asked to approve the November 2022 meeting minutes.

Motion: Susan Halliday

2nd: Nef Pizano

	Y	N	A		Y	N	A		Y	N	A
DeAnn Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Claire Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neftali Pizano	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Belit Burke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susan Halliday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chris Reese	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Barbara Dougherty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Melissa Isavoran	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lauren Sigman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Karol Elizondo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lola Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tonja Everest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephany Koehne	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lynette Wynkoop	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Laura Farmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steve Martinelli	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Open	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOTING RESULTS	Individual Votes cast by Board Members (Yes, No, Abstain)
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Abstentions: DeAnn Brown, Barbara Dougherty, Stephany Koehne, Lynnette Wynkoop

The Board voted to approve the November 2022 minutes.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Title IV-B2 Fun Project Proposals
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At last month's meeting, we discussed making the offer to our Relief Nurseries and CASA programs, serving each county within our hub region. Kristi reached out to each organization to ask if they could spend the funds by the deadline and in alignment with the requirements of the funding stream. The total funds available were divided by six, and that dollar amount was offered to the organizations. Linn County CASA declined at this time. Proposals received were:

- CASA-Voices for Children requested \$8940 each for Benton and Lincoln Counties to recruit and supervise additional advocates and to support the creation of drop-in spaces to encourage opportunities for family visitation, meetings with advocates, and other supportive services.
- Family Tree Relief Nursery requested \$8940 to cover salary expenses for a new staff person starting spring 2023 to increase home visiting capacity and begin weekly respite sessions.
- Old Mill Center requested \$8940 for transportation of children, food for classrooms and parenting education classes, and program supplies, including items for the family resource closet.
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- Olalla Center requested \$8940 to support in-home visits and transportation support.

Those proposals have all been included in the Board packet. All align with the requirements of Title IV-B2, which is also included in the Board packet.

DISCUSSION VOTE Title IV-B2 Fund Project Proposals

The Board was asked to approve the presented Title IV-B2 Fun Project Proposals.

Motion: Lynnette Wynkoop

2nd: Paul Smith

	Y	N	A		Y	N	A		Y	N	A
DeAnn Brown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Claire Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neftali Pizano	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Laura Farmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steve Martinelli	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Open	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOTING RESULTS Individual Votes cast by Board Members (Yes, No, Abstain)

Abstentions: Jeff Davis, Bettina Schempf

The Board voted to approve the Title IV-B2 Fun Project Proposals.

WORKGROUP UPDATE Health Care Integration

LeAnne shared information about the Health Care Integration Workgroup (HCI). There was a discussion about Katie Walsh and the Kindergarten Readiness metric. Melissa shared that this project is on track. LeAnne discussed the asset mapping project and the recent presentation to the HCI from Young Roots Oregon. At the next meeting, there will be a presentation from Kimberly Dwyer of Santiam Service Integration. Her program works out of Santiam Hospital with families from east Linn County and Marion County. They are interested in forming partnerships with Linn County service agencies.

WORKGROUP UPDATE P-3 & Early Childhood Coordinating Council

Kristi summarized the workgroup's November meeting, which was held in person at the Philomath School District office. This meeting was solely focused on the work of the Regional Stewardship Committee. There was extensive discussion regarding family needs and preferences for our priority populations and the data for the Early Childhood Service Analysis (formerly the ECE Sector Plan). The next meeting will be in-person at the same location on December 14th to continue working on the ECSA.

WORKGROUP UPDATE	Parent Leadership Council
<p>Antonia shared that Parent Engagement Coordinators are collaborating with the Parenting Success Network and Young Roots Oregon to hold the first pilot informational session for the Parent Leadership Council on January 11th in Albany, from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm. The Parent Leadership Council (PLC) will expand to all three counties and include parents from all parts of each community.</p>	
<p>Kristi shared that the PLC is a new mandate in our contract from the Early Learning Division. We were told we would receive a toolkit for this requirement and that it has not been developed yet. We want to start laying the foundation for this work but also leave it open and flexible enough that once we receive the tool kit if there are specific parameters that we must follow, we can adapt and ensure that we're meeting the requirements within the tool kit.</p>	
<p>The Board asked about the time frame for the informal sessions. Antonia explained the first session is in January and will be about a 40-minute session. It is a pilot session to help us gather more information about the logistics of creating sessions in other areas. Melissa offered to share a summary of their regional health assessment data.</p>	
PROGRAM UPDATE	Pollywog Update
<p>LeAnne shared the Pollywog updates and analytics for the database, website, newsletter, and social media.</p>	
PROGRAM UPDATE	Family Connects Update
<p>Connie presented Regional Family Connects Data around the baby's age at the time of the Family Connects home visit. She discussed a new report published in the <i>Lancet Regional Health Americas</i>. Its analysis states that public health interventions like Family Connects were associated with statistically significant reductions in racial disparities.</p>	
<p>Samaritan expressed appreciation for outreach materials in different formats.</p>	
PROGRAM UPDATE	Coordinated Enrollment Update
<p>Antonia shared the current data for Preschool Promise, including applications received, new eligible children, number of open slots, and percentage of providers at capacity. The Coordinated Enrollment Team will contact DHS staff to offer Preschool Promise informational sessions at their staff meetings to recruit qualifying families in Linn and Lincoln counties. Recruitment materials are available.</p>	
PROGRAM UPDATE	Business Liaison Update
<p>Bryan shared the Business Outreach Initiative updates, accomplishments, and near-term goals.</p>	
NEXT MEETING	Board Retreat - February 2, 2023 Noon Lunch, 1-4 pm, Corvallis (tentative)
MEETING ADJOURNED	3:20 pm