

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

P-3 Alignment & Early Childhood Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	9:30 am, July 20, 2022 Online via Zoom
MEETING CALLED BY	Kristi Collins
WORKGROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Katy Allaback, Deanna Barclay, Donna Brown, Barbara Dougherty, Kimberly Gross, Susan Halliday, Nicole Kalita, Maria Mardueno, Misha Mayers, Lauren Sigman, Paul Smith, Lynnette Wynkoop,
PRESENTERS	Bryan Steinhauser, EL Hub Business Liaison
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Connie Adams, Kristi Collins, Matt Grams, Jinguang Lin, Sam Rounsavell, Carmen Santacruz, Kelly Schell, Bryan Steinhauser
RECORDED	Yes

P-3 Alignment Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	Welcome and Introductions
	Work Group Members introduced themselves.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Contract Addendums
	Kristi explained that we are in the second year of the biennium, so contracts will be extended for an additional year, adding the funding amount for the 22-23 fiscal year into those contracts. If you were underspent in your contract for 21-22, those funds will still be there and accessible. Funds not spent after June 30, 2023, will not carry over. All funds must be spent by the end of the biennium.

DISCUSSION ITEM	2022-2023 Funding Amounts
	Kristi shared the funding amounts for 2022-23. The amounts are less than year one funding because we have all 12 districts participating. Also, there was a cut to our KPI funds for this biennium as the Early Learning Division created a new funding formula for Early Learning Hubs. If any district cannot participate or comes in underspent, we will reallocate those funds to those districts or partners that are implementing KPI programs that traditionally overspend. Partners who need more funds can apply at the end of the biennium.
	Kristi discussed the funding allocation formula and will post the document to Basecamp.
	The workgroup asked if others would share their KPI projects and plans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening Rural Families in Philomath has a kindergarten readiness

program called Next Steps specifically designated for the fours and fives who will be in that district's kindergarten the next year. There is a similar one in Santiam Canyon.

- Districts using them for summer jumpstart programs
- Using them to send home materials to help families with a kindergarten readiness at home program.
- Shared professional development.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Philomath Dare to Lead training (update from participants)

Kristi talked to Heidi about the Dare to Lead training in Philomath, which is ready to go. The workgroup shared that they are working on details of staff participation. The time frame is from Aug to September, with two in-person sessions and self-paced work in-between. Six staff from Strengthening Rural Families, 3 or 4 from Philomath School District, one from Early intervention, and two from Head Start. They are hoping to connect all the Philomath kindergarten teachers to this training. They are still finalizing meeting dates. The self-paced portion is very appreciated so staff can participate during a busy time of year.

P-3 Alignment & Early Childhood Coordinating Council Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM

Welcome additional participants

Work Group Members joining at this time introduced themselves.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Child care Data Maps Presentation

Kristi shared the Child Care Data map created by Mary, an intern at the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (COG). This map has been shared with the Early Learning Division as an example of what this type of data analysis can look like. The maps will be presented to our Governing Board at the August meeting.

The 2020 census data was used to identify how many children 0-5 in the COG region and by individual census tract. Information about how many early care and education providers there are, where they're located, their desired capacity was mapped, and about where there is a need for more culturally and linguistically responsive services. A final map not available today visualizes where large employers are in relation to childcare providers.

Visualizing the data in this way offered some unique insights.

The workgroup asked how a Child Care Slot was defined? Any hours or just Full Time? Lynnette responded that the methodology would need to be checked, but it could potentially be full-time only. This will be a great question when she presents this report to the Board.

The maps of childcare slots needed and desired provider capacity raise the question – are parents looking for care close to their homes or employment? Will

remote/in-person work shifts change the needs for childcare in different locations? This data will help us prioritize the areas for expanding care.
Mary also put together a Child Care Initiative's highlights document regarding the lack of care. There is an estimated shortfall of 5398 childcare slots in the Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties. If the best practice is nine students to 1 staff, we would need 600 new childcare workers to meet this need. For infant care, the ratio is 3-4:1. Shortfall maps were produced for each county. There is a long way to go in fixing the pipeline of getting employees into the child care workforce to begin thinking about doing this type of slot expansion.
Kristi asked the work group if these maps reflect what they see in their communities? The answer was yes!
<p>The Workgroup discussed the reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kith & Kin care is being used as well. How do we continue to support extended family caregivers? • Adding the need for care in specific languages would help us support that type of care. • Workforce needs added with bilingual & biliterate workforce need is also a concern. • Can data be visualized by 0-3 and 3-5 to break out infant toddler care vs. preschool care. As children age, the make up of family care shifts. Getting a snapshot of the data is difficult as the demographics shift quickly. Licensed care vs. Exempt care has different requirements • Can licensed and exempted slots be visualized? • Can data be visualized by school catchment areas? By income levels and childcare costs?

DISCUSSION ITEM	Regional Assessment Update
<p>The Early Learning Division would like our data related to childcare Raise Up Oregon Objective 2 in an excel spreadsheet. Kristi and Heidi McGowan, our coach, have had conversations about how our data is currently organized and that it is not feasible to put it into their format. The Early Learning Division tools are set up for a Hub that is just beginning that work. Our Hub is seven years into this process and has moved beyond that initial step. The Regional Assessment process is happening, but we are working to eliminate redundancy and have our already completed work acknowledged. Kristi, Heidi, and the Early Learning Division will be meeting to discuss what the Early Learning Hub can contribute to fulfilling the contract deliverable in a meaningful way for both them and us.</p>	
<p>The workgroup discussed the importance of aligning our regional assessment with the work being done by other local agencies like IHN-CCO.</p>	
<p>The workgroup asked about what are our next steps. How do we reflect on our priority areas and where we can get traction on supporting high-need childcare areas? The presentation by Bryan will partially address that in a few minutes. We need to focus on issues in the worker pipeline and pay parity. The next steps are</p>	

looking at our data and deciding where traction and quick wins will be possible and where to begin investing for long term projects.

DISCUSSION ITEM Workgroup Chair Volunteers needed

Chairs help plan the agenda and speakers and assist with facilitation. Volunteers, please reach out to Kristi. There is support available for those in this role.

DISCUSSION ITEM Jump Start Read for the Record Update

Jump Start Read for the Record book orders are happening now. Partners with a classroom or care group, including K-3 classrooms, are invited to participate. Please contact Sam to sign up.

Early Childhood Coordinating Council Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM PSP Application Live & Placements started

The Preschool Promise application is live on the Pollywog Free Preschool page, and Antonia, Kelly, and Carmen have started doing placements. There are still 69 slots available, with a total of 224 slots in our region.

The RFA application for Preschool Promise expansion is open until Thursday, July 21 at 11:59 pm.

Promotional materials are available. Reach out to Hub staff if you would like materials to distribute or use.

DISCUSSION ITEM Child Care Business Outreach Initiative Presentation

Kristi introduced Bryan Steinhauser, the EL Hub Business Liaison.

Bryan gave a presentation about the EL Hub Child Care Business Outreach Initiative. He reviewed its four purposes and the phases of the initiative. The two root causes issued he suggested we focus on are pipeline issues and pay parity issues.

He presented some ideas on the numerous ways in which charitable contributions can help assist in the growth and development of the Early Childhood Education pipeline. A conversation has been started with the LBCC Foundation around the foundation receiving and managing donations specific to this initiative. Also, around managing business-specific scholarships around childcare education. Andrew from the LBCC foundation was a fundraiser for one of the large relief nurseries in Oregon. He sees the value in our work as an Early Learning Hub and as a sector partner.

Bryan presented a table comparing job pay in the three county areas to highlight the pay parity in early care and education. It demonstrates how poorly paid these childcare workers are, especially in light of higher education requirements. Many centers cannot operate at full capacity because they cannot keep staff

due to pay issues. This is especially problematic in infant/toddler care. Once pay issues are corrected, then workforce expansion will be critical.

Workforce building is essential to expanding child care and early education.

The workgroup discussed his presentation.

- The workgroup suggested contacting United Way for introductions to the business community. It was explained that we have worked with them in the past and are working to re-engage with them now on this project.
- The work group asked if we have had conversations with Oregon Coast Community College. Kristi shared that Bryan is in conversation with OCCC and Lincoln County Commissioner.
- The workgroup expressed appreciation for the Early Childhood Education Pipeline document.
- The workgroup asked if it was possible to connect with LBCC Jobs and the Small Business Development Center. If so, ODHS may have families to connect.
- It was suggested that in the survey work, it is important for equity to fairly represent small business needs and voices. Consider weighting the survey to ensure this representation matches community demographics
- Add the level of responsibility demanded from childcare and early education to the calculations for wages and benefits.
- Philanthropic giving rate has been steady at 4% for decades. If giving is shifted to support this initiative, other areas may suffer.
- Child Care and Education should be viewed as infrastructure rather than a business model. Sustainability has to come from funding streams other than just the cost of tuition for families.

It was explained that the large employer family survey is being modified so it can be sent out to LBCC & OCCC students to discover barriers to education around child care. We will be surveying families through Pollywog social media and attempting to reach parents who are unemployed due to a lack of child care.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Roundtable discussion around group priorities moving forward.
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Kristi asked the workgroup to share their thoughts on the priorities and discussions this group should be having as we move into a new fiscal and academic year. The group discussed:

- Promoting policy that supports and builds capacity for mental health services for Early Care & Education staff and families.
- Working to change the culture of childcare and have it be more sustainable

for those Early Care & Education employees that are working long shifts.

- Issues around professional development time for Early Care & Education workers.
- Issues around staff turnover
- Children with higher needs coming out of the pandemic create a significant need for extra supports for Early Care & Education workers and classrooms. Explore innovative ways to provide these supports.
- Lack of Kindergarten readiness and behavior challenges due to pandemic isolation of children. Increased support and training for staff are really needed
- Misalignment of policies and programs within the Early Learning Division makes it very difficult for direct service providers.

NEXT MEETING	9:00 am, August 17, 2022 Online via Zoom
MEETING ADJOURNED	11:44 am