

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

P-3 Alignment & Early Childhood Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	9:30 am, February 15, 2023 Online via Zoom
MEETING CALLED BY	Kristi Collins
WORKGROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Danna Barclay, Autumn Belloni, Barbara Dougherty, Donna Brown, Kelsey Culbertson, Kathy Feser, Kimberly Gross, Susan Halliday, Stephany Koehne, Debbie McPheeters, Paul Smith, Diane Wilkinson, Lynnette Wynkoop
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Kristi Collins, Matt Grams, Jinguang Lin, Sam Rounsavell, Carmen Santacruz, Kelly Schell, LeAnne Trask
RECORDED	Yes

P-3 Alignment Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	Welcome and Introductions
	Work Group Members introduced themselves.

DISCUSSION ITEM	KPI Updates
	<p>Kristi shared that Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation (KPI) was included in the Governor's proposed budget, and our Early Learning Hub funding will be funded at the current service level.</p> <p>There has been much discussion at the Early Learning Division (ELD) level around KPI reporting and outcome surveys. The outcome surveys don't align with the KPI work in our region. Please share any feedback about these reports you would like the Hub to share with the ELD.</p> <p>The workgroup shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is an innovation fund, but we are expected to fit into two evaluation and outcome reporting categories. It uses the same evaluation model without the context of program differences. It is a very limited slice of what is happening. • We would like to understand the usefulness of these outcome reports and who is reviewing that data. • The reporting process is unwieldy • The narrative section of the report is somewhat more helpful. It allows programs to share their variety and successes'. <p>Kristi shared that the ELD used examples from these reports to show legislators how EL Hubs are using their funds. The workgroup expressed that it was concerning and problematic as it is not a uniform measurement.</p>

Kristi and Matt discussed their idea of creating electronic reporting that could be uploaded into the PSU system. KPI partners would report on the services they are providing. It will simplify the reporting process for providers.

Linn-Benton Health Equity Alliance is convening a data justice group. They will consider how data is being used and constructed. Paul will follow up with more information about this group.

Matt reminded programs to keep submitting KPI reimbursement forms even after their budget is spent down. If funds become available, they may be able to be redistributed.

Regional Stewardship Council Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	Early Childhood Service Analysis (ECSA) Review & Updates
	<p>Kristi reviewed the work so far. The group met in person in November at the Philomath School District office. The December and January meetings were canceled, but many workgroup members participated in a Jamboard activity to share feedback.</p>
	<p>All of the feedback from Jamboard has been included in the Regional System Assessment workbook. Kristi will post the shared definition of Objective 2 in Raise Up Oregon on Basecamp for the workgroup to review.</p>
	<p>The ECSA was submitted to the ELD on January 31st.</p>
	<p>The workgroup discussed the section: Subsidized preschool/infant/toddler slots. It was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are no slots in Lincoln County.• Transportation is very limited. Stephany shared that Head Start offers transportation in Harrisburg, Monroe, and Sweet Home. They would love to provide transportation in Albany, but the bus driver position has been open for three years.• Not only do we not have the slots, but we don't have the support to bring more publicly funded slots into some of our areas. Providers are not coming to the table for Preschool Promise because they hear that there are inadequate infrastructure supports to serve the children and families.• There is a need to do education about the benefits of having programs that serve all children. There is a need for more marketing around Quality Care for All and its benefits for the community.• Universal Pre-K would solve many of the issues identified here.• Having children receiving pre-K in a school setting will help the Kindergarten transition.• As K-12 funding becomes less available, public schools cannot support Kindergarten Readiness projects without more funding. Under the current

structure, Early Childhood programs are often in competition with K-12 programs for funding.

- Head Start is considering a reduction in slots to balance the quality of service with expansion. This will result in fewer classrooms to reduce costs. This is the first time this has been considered. High-quality facilities and additional staff are needed for quality of service with expansion.
- More children are in unregulated care as a result of the pandemic. Convincing providers to move into licensed care has been challenging.
- Allowing providers to offer part-day services would be a big help, especially in rural communities with limited availability.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Regional Assessment – Next Steps

This group discussed what was helping and what was hindering providing high-quality child care in our region and early learning services. Then Jinguang went through and did a theming of all of that. The next steps will be to take those themes and do mapping and prioritization. We plan to schedule some time in person at LBCC to work on mapping the intersectionality of the themes in March and then present a final report to the EL Hub Governing Board in April. That meeting information will be posted to Basecamp. The draft report will be shared at this meeting in March. The Regional Systems Assessment is due by April 30, 2023.

P-3 Alignment & Early Childhood Coordinating Council Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM

Legislative Update

Kristi shared that there is not an increase in slots but additional supports in the Governor's recommended budget. This includes transportation funding, supporting the inclusion of children with disabilities, capital improvement funds, and a \$62M increase for publicly funded early learning programs, specifically for addressing staffing salaries.

Kristi shared the Governor's proposed budget highlights around early care and education.

Kristi shared the information from Children's Institute about the Governor's proposed early learning and care budget.

- \$100 million to increase student literacy and ensure preschool and elementary school educators have the training, time, and materials they need
- \$20 million for summer programs aimed at increasing literacy
- \$62.5 increasing pay rates for early learning professionals
- \$41.3 million increase rates for employment-related day care enhancements or ERDC
- \$5 million to co-locate early childhood education and affordable housing
- \$100 million to expand physical capacity of preschool and child care facilities
- \$30 million for summer enrichment programming

- \$18 million to increase investments in student success plans
- \$1.4 million to implement ethnic studies
- \$4.8 million for rural and small school technical assistance

[New Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek's first budget plan calls for big spending on housing, education and behavioral health](#)

Debbie shared that the Governor's budget has another increase of 6 million in SSA funds. The Cascade Regional Inclusive Partnership Group advocates increasing its budget to adequate levels.

LBL ESD has applied for GEER & PGE Funds to help support inclusion. Our region would receive \$265,000 if approved for the total amount.

Lynnette shared that mental health support was a big part of the Governor's budget. This workgroup has an opportunity to voice that mental health support starts with infants and families and that we are seeing high needs among staff. Advocacy to include the whole spectrum of mental health would be helpful.

There's a report from a survey done with staff last year. Over 25% of individuals indicated that they needed mental health interventions compared to a little over 4% in the general population. That report will be shared in Basecamp. It may be possible to look for grants and seek opportunities to support the parenting and education workforce and how they support families, children, and their mental health needs. This might be a project that could be crosswalked with Data Equity Health Care Alliance group.

Senate Bill 819 is about funding for students who need abbreviated school days. It will be a topic of discussion on how K-12 can craft a full school day for these students.

Other highlights from the Children's Institute that impact early learning include:

- A \$5.2 million investment into an early learning educator grant program. This would provide grants for students pursuing early childhood education, mental health, or behavioral health degrees.
- \$5.9 million for universally offered home visiting (Family Connects Program). The EL Hub is an early adopter of this program. This investment would bring the model statewide.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Early Learning Grants and Funding Opportunities

Lynnette shared that some funds are available for consortium model fast-track degree programs. We applied for that and received notice yesterday that we got the funding for LBCC. This will be the planning grant. By early May, we will submit a full RFA for the two-year period and the 2325 funding cycle. 51,170 --> 01:03:57,050 The idea is to offer job-embedded professional learning with low to no-cost tuition. This is a student and industry-led model of degree programs that would allow people to get their education without compromising their wages.

We are supporting child care programs that qualify under the Seeding Justice grants that are out right now.

We are working on Community Block Grants to help Albany home-based providers to get start-up costs for providing quality care

We're working with the Oregon Coast Community College Small Business Development Center in Lincoln County to support a Business accelerator class and coaching. This will help individuals become licensed child care providers – This project is in the planning stages and should be available in the fall.

We met with United Way and discussed some possibilities for bringing early learning, early care, and education funding requests under one umbrella. That would support expanding care in all three counties.

There are conversations about how to engage the business community on the issue of child care. The Hub is meeting with a local business union to discuss this today. We want to hear about how child care impacts their employee experience and share a survey.

HP managers reached out and are interested in discussing child care.

The business community is more aware now that child care is an infrastructure piece.

NEXT MEETING	9:30 am, March 15, 2023 Online via Zoom
MEETING ADJOURNED	10:43 am