

# Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

## P-3 Alignment & Early Childhood Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

<b>MEETING COMMENCED</b>	9:30 am, May 17, 2023 Online via Zoom
<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	Kristi Collins
<b>WORKGROUP MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	Barbara Dougherty, Deanna Barclay, Debbie McPheeters, Kathy Feser, Katy Allaback, Kelly Culbertson, Kimberly Gross, Paul Smith, Stephany Koehne, Susan Halliday
<b>STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	Kristi Collins, Matt Grams, Jinguang Lin, Sam Rounsavell
<b>RECORDED</b>	Yes

### P-3 Alignment Agenda topics

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Welcome and Introductions
Work Group Members introduced themselves.	

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	KPI Updates
<p>Kristi shared the legislative updates. KPI Funding is expected at the current service level. This means the same funding level as last year, plus a cost of living increase.</p> <p>It was shared that one of two outcomes are expected with the current Senate walkout. One, they will return on the final day of the session, June 25th, to pass budgets but not any new policy bills. Or two, the session will end, and there will be a special session in August or early September.</p>	

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	KPI Funding Formula
<p>Kristi explained the KPI funding formula. Historically there is \$3000 per quarter as a base allocation for every district across the three-county region. This is so everyone, regardless of size, has enough funding to do something meaningful in their district. After the base allocation, funds are sent to ESD, which divides them between all 12 districts based on weighted ADM. That distributes the funds in an equitable way. This formula was developed when we were first allocated KPI funds in collaboration with many of the superintendents in the region.</p> <p>Kristi asked what districts think about how the funds are distributed and if they understand the funding formula. The workgroup members shared that districts remain committed to this system and its rural district equity lens. It was also</p>	

suggested that it might be helpful to remind districts of this funding formula and how it was developed.

DELIC is looking into all the policies and practices around allowable expenses. Kristi shared that Early Learning Hubs are receiving considerable pushback on allowing gift cards or food for convenings with partners or parents. Hub Leaders are meeting with the CFO of DELIC to remind them that refusing these expenses contradicts our scope of work and the language in our contract. Hubs are advocating to continue to be allowed gift cards or food for convenings.

The workgroup asked if this included subcontractors and all users of the funds. The answer is yes.

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Early Literacy Funds
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There is a potential for a new resource this biennium, to support early literacy work for preschool-age children in the legislature. Kristi will share more information when it becomes available.

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Summer Meetings
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The workgroup discussed meeting during June, July, and August. Summer meetings are a challenge but access to information about funding for the next school year is very important. Basecamp updates could take the place of summer meetings. The workgroup decided to keep summer meetings as a placeholder. Kristi commits to posting the Friday before either a meeting cancellation with Basecamp updates or holding the meeting.

In future meetings, workgroup members are encouraged to share how their KPI funds are used and what creative approaches are successful in your district.

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Kindergarten Jumpstart – Summer Activities
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Sam asked workgroup members holding summer activities for families to please let us know so we can help share those events on social media.

## Early Childhood Coordinating Council Agenda topics

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Welcome additional participants
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<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Preschool Promise
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This legislative session, there is not an ask for Preschool Promise expansion but for more funding to provide the supports like true cost of transportation, addressing some of the challenging behaviors in the classrooms, and supporting the providers. Early Learning Hubs are advocating with DELIC that the Preschool Promise slots that were not allocated come back into the regions they were intended for. A spreadsheet of these slots is being shared with DELIC and Pooja from the Governor's office regarding the reallocation of slots and getting them back into

communities. If you would like to add information to this spreadsheet or be involved with this advocacy work, please contact Kristi.

The workgroup discussed that events and changes at the School District and the broader community are impacting Preschool Promise enrollment. This enrollment reduction is not related to the quality of the program.

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Regional System Assessment
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Regional System Assessment has been submitted. The next step will be working on the strategic plan. The strategic plan template asks Early Learning Hubs to work on Raise Up Oregon Objective 2. This focus does not consider all the work that Early Learning Hubs do across multiple sectors. The pandemic has highlighted how important child care is to a functioning economy. However, the CCR&R works on child care. It is not the sole mission of EL Hubs. We hope to work on a strategic plan with a broader community focus.

More details on why this is the focus are expected at an upcoming meeting between Hub leaders and DELC.

The workgroup discussed the need for more messaging around the distinctions between early childhood education and child care. One of our key strategies concerns public awareness around early learning, preschool, and child care.

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Priorities for ECCC
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Now that the Regional System Assessment has been submitted, how can this workgroup help serve the needs of its members? The workgroup viewed the Regional System Assessment map and shared suggestions.

- Supporting the inclusion and support of children with disabilities in their community.
- Assistance with recruiting and training EI staff and classroom substitutes
- Expanding preschool slots in Benton County
- Increased funding for early childhood education and care
- More community messaging around the importance of P-3 work and support.

Kristi shared about the UpStream Initiative – First 1000 days of life. The EL Hub intends to apply and has many important partners already in place. We are well suited for this work.

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Data Book
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Kristi announced that the Data Book will be presented to the Governing Board on June 29<sup>th</sup>. After that, it will be released to partners.

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Jumpstart's Read for the Record 2023
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Sam asked the workgroup to consider if the EI Hub should participate in Jumpstart Read for the Record again this year. Last year we purchased 400 books at a cost

of \$2500. Books were not delivered in time for the event. This year, book prices have increased from \$150/case to \$175/case. The workgroup decided that, yes, we should participate.

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Announcements
Debbie McPheeters announced her retirement. Her replacement will be Tina Gearhart from GAPS, and they will have about a month together for training.	

<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	9:30 am, June 21, 2023 Online via Zoom
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<b>MEETING ADJOURNED</b>	10:49 am
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