

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties P-3 Alignment & Early Childhood Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	9:30 am, November 15, 2023 Online via Zoom
MEETING CALLED BY	Kristi Collins
WORKGROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Donna Brown, Kelly Culbertson, Barbara Dougherty, Stephanie Koehne, Paul Smith, Diane Wilkinson, Lynette Wynkoop
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Kristi Collins, Matt Grams, Antonia Huerta, Sam Rounsavell, Carmen Santacruz, Kelly Schell
RECORDED	Yes

P-3 Alignment Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	Welcome and Introductions
Work Group Members introduced themselves.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation
<p>KPI Allocations went out to all school districts and implementing partners. Kristi discussed the funding formula for districts, which was created to recognize the challenges faced by larger districts and ensure that every district received enough funds to make a meaningful impact. Some districts have questions about using the funds and what expenses are allowable. Kristi shared that she plans to arrange a meeting so Superintendents can offer each other peer support on KPI projects. Kristi will work with the Superintendents to find a time to schedule a new meeting or leverage an existing meeting for this purpose.</p> <p>Kristi shared the KPI funding table showing the allocations to all districts. The workgroup asked about state funds and cost of living increases. Matt will look into it.</p> <p>A new Birth to Five early literacy fund was approved in the legislative session for the first year. DELC will put together a plan of how these funds will be used and distributed and bring that back to the short session for the funds to be released. Kristi shared that it is estimated that our Hub would receive \$240,000 in addition to what we're currently receiving for KPI, specifically focusing on Birth to Five early literacy initiatives. If this funding is approved in March, there would be an addendum to our contract in April, and funds would need to be spent by June 30th.</p>	

Kristi asked the workgroup to start thinking about projects and uses for these funds, so we're working in anticipation of these funds and not waiting until April. There is an opportunity to bring more partners into KPI work that are doing early literacy work in alignment with how the funds are intended to be spent and reach our target populations. She asked the workgroup to consider where existing work is happening in that birth to five early literacy space and where there is an opportunity for training and other projects in alignment with the second edition of Raise Up Oregon.

She would like to leverage this workgroup to put the plan and strategy in place for how we want to use these funds as a Hub region and be able to share that with our Governing Board so that they're also getting the context of the meaningful conversations that happened with the partners as we create the strategies for our strategic plan that align to early literacy and the specific strategies in Raise Up Oregon around early literacy.

The workgroup discussed the existing work that could be supported with these funds. It was explained that the legislature has indicated they want more hands-on programs that encourage literacy rather than just book distribution programs like Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Also, K-12 early literacy funds have already been sent out to districts. The early learning funds went to DELC and will be distributed through the KPI process at Early Learning Hubs.

P-3 Alignment & Early Childhood Coordinating Council Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	Welcome additional participants
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DISCUSSION ITEM	Raise Up Oregon 2 nd Edition
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Last month, this workgroup worked in Jamboard to identify strategies in Raise Up Oregon that aligned with our P3 and Early Childhood Coordinating Council work. This month, Kristi asked the workgroup to drill down on specific strategies. She has identified three priority strategies for P-3 and ECCC. Through a poll, Early Literacy Strategy 2.4 & Inclusive Environments Strategy 13.3 were chosen for today's work session. The workgroup was divided into two small groups to discuss these strategies through a [Jamboard activity](#). They were asked to note work already happening, new strategies to implement, and any resources needed.

The Early Literacy discussion included:

- List of work that is known to be happening.
- Hoping for more direction from the state on what is acceptable for these funds.
- How can existing providers get credit for work already in progress?
- Parent-involved programs such as parents as first teachers.
- Training on early literacy skills that are not letter/alphabet based

- Training on early literacy strategies

The Inclusive Environments discussion included:

- A lot of work is already happening
- New inclusion specialist at the CCR&R
- Need additional coaching capacity
- Community Inclusion Team (CIT)
- Partnerships and community placements
- Contrast of what is possible vs what is being asked
- Workforce concerns. More support, higher ratios

Kristi asked the group for feedback on this work session process. She shared that since Early Learning Hubs do not provide a direct service, we want to hear from direct service providers on the community needs as we develop our strategic plan. Using workgroup meetings for regional collective brainstorming allows us to capture all that information in a consolidated format and focus on two different strategies simultaneously.

There was a consensus that this process was valuable and should be continued.

DISCUSSION ITEM	December Meeting
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The workgroup was asked if December 20th works for our next meeting date. Kristi will ask for feedback on Basecamp to see if there will be interest in meeting so close to the holidays.

NEXT MEETING	9:30 am, December 20, 2023 Online via Zoom
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MEETING ADJOURNED	11:04 am
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