

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

P-3 Alignment & Early Childhood Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	9:30 am, February 21, 2024 Online via Zoom
MEETING CALLED BY	Kristi Collins
WORKGROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Deanna Barclay, Autumn Belloni, Donna Brown, Kelsey Culbertson, Nicole Kalita, Stephany Koehne, Paul Smith, Diane Wilkinson, Lynnette Wynkoop,
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Kristi Collins, Matt Grams, Antonia Huerta, Jinguang Lin, Ana Reyes, 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	ODE Jumpstart Kindergarten Toolkit
	<p>Kristi introduced the ODE Kindergarten Jumpstart resources from https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/transitioning-to-kindergarten/pages/esser3jumpstartk.aspx. The toolkit has information and resources for offering a summer jumpstart program to engage families and help prepare children for kindergarten. KPI funding can be used for Summer Jumpstart programs.</p> <p>Lincoln County has been a pilot community for Summer Jumpstart. Diane shared that the grant for this program runs out this year. However, there is a partner cohort working on making this resource sustainable. The information and items on the website have benefited her district.</p>

DISCUSSION ITEM	Early Literacy Requirements and Local Plan
	<p>Kristi shared that the legislative fiscal office did recommend accepting the report and releasing the Early Literacy Funds. However, it will be the end of the short session before we know if this will happen.</p> <p>DELIC is hiring two staff to oversee these funds. The remaining \$9.3M would go out through Early Learning Hubs using the existing funding formula that's in place for KPI and the Equity fund. For this biennium, these are one-time funds. There is a conversation about how Early Literacy Funds can be embedded in all DELIC programs in the future.</p>

Given the current KPI formula, we expect to receive \$240K to be spent in the second year of this biennium. Given the strict guidelines for using these funds and the short timeline to spend them, the Hub is focusing on supporting “shovel-ready” projects. The projects we have identified include:

- Building and distributing Little Free Libraries (with the STEM Hub)
- Quirkles: Exploring Literacy through Science (shared PD)
- Expansion of Juntos/Together class (with LBCC Parenting Education Dept)
- Supporting unmet needs for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to prevent an enrollment cap.

The workgroup suggested additional projects, including:

- Partnering with local pediatrician offices to provide books in multiple languages to give away to families.
- Offering a low-cost, credit-based learning opportunity for child care providers on best practices for early literacy. A class like ED222, but with a stronger focus on literacy.

DISCUSSION ITEM

There is a potential project to open an inclusive classroom in the building the EI/ECSE currently occupies and rents in Lincoln County. It would be a collaboration between the school district's already ongoing preschools and help get some of the children on the wait list into a classroom setting. It would open this Fall with a half-day model, so two sessions per day could be offered. This will create more opportunities to enroll children with special needs in inclusive classrooms.

P-3 Alignment & Early Childhood Coordinating Council Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM

Welcome additional participants

Work Group Members introduced themselves.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Strategic Plan Update

Kristi reviewed where we are in the strategic planning process. She shared the six strategic areas from Raise Up Oregon 2.0 that the Governing Board has identified for our work. These areas are:

- Home Visiting - Strategies 2.6, 5.1, 10.2 & 10.5
- Professional Development - Strategies 10.4, 12.1, 14.4 & 16.2
- Early Learning to K12 Transition - Objective 16
- Family Preservation - Strategy 8.2 & items related to Special Presentation
- 1115 Medicaid Waiver - Based on Special Presentation & Strategy 12.3

(Screening)

- Housing Needs - Strategy 2.8 Specifically

There is a lot of potential and momentum with quite a few of the strategies that are taking place in our region right now. We hope to build off work already happening and not create new strategies or work.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Infant Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) Consultation
------------------------	---

Lynnette shared that the CCR&R has been awarded the contract for infant early childhood mental health consultation. This position was developed to address the needs for the upcoming suspension exposure prevention program that goes into effect in July of 2026.

There are two main pieces of work around this contract.

1. There are representatives or consultants in each of the 15 regions in the State, aligned with the child care resource and referrals.
2. That central entity is responsible for developing practices and common policies, data collection, and supporting professional development in a professional or community practice.

There's an RFA for the central entity, so we are still waiting to hear what that will be.

The way we envision this working in our area is that the early mental health consultant will collaborate with agencies and models that are already functioning in this area. The consultant will respond to a warmline for early childhood educators/programs to call and request help. The consultant will work to coordinate support and resources for the program and the family. There'll be training components, consultation, coaching, collaboration, and coordination in this position.

As this program and position are being developed, we expect to get more support from the State. We hope to have this up and running within a year or less.

There will be listening sessions to hear about and do some observations and develop policies and practices that serve the region's needs.

The workgroup discussed additional ways that infant early childhood mental health can be addressed in early childhood educator training, including embedding it into early childhood educator preparation programs.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Publicly Funded Preschool Application Update
------------------------	--

Kristi has confirmed that in Linn and Benton Counties, Head Start and Preschool Promise applications will go live in April. It will be a truly coordinated enrollment process. Families will be able to select which program application or applications they want to do all at one time, and the applications are available to them with all of the links for those programs.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Jamboard Activity
<p>Workgroup members were asked to read through and add their thoughts to the Raise Up Oregon Jamboard created at the last EL Hub Governing Board retreat. Each strategic area has a slide that asks what is happening now, what is coming, and what is needed. https://jamboard.google.com/d/1psrXFMkcWNjr_PRYZ2-sPHwtF9NrQis7AqY7I0WJu9o/viewer</p> <p>Kristi encouraged the workgroup to return to the Jamboard and add information in the future. We want to include all resources and ongoing work to the greatest extent possible. Having all the information from our partners on the ground about what is needed to help the State reach its Raise Up Oregon strategies and work effectively with families will help us develop a comprehensive strategic plan for our region.</p> <p>It was noted that the Community Health Assessment is occurring for our region, and the four areas of focus overlap with this work: Access to Care, Behavioral Health, Housing, and EDI. It is a chance to weigh in and has some direct connection to the 1115 waiver. Engagement and workgroup work is going on this month.</p>	

NEXT MEETING	9:30 am, March 20, 2024 Online via Zoom
MEETING ADJOURNED	10:49 am