

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

P-3 Alignment & Early Childhood Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	9:30 am, October 16, 2024 Online via Zoom
MEETING CALLED BY	Kristi Collins
WORKGROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Autumn Belloni, Donna Brown, Mellie Bukovsky-Reyes, Kelsey Culbertson, Susan Halliday, Stepany Koehne, Sandy Mummey Paul Smith, Diane Wilkinson, Lynette Wynkoop
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Kristi Collins, Matt Grams, Antonia Huerta, Jinguang Lin, Sam Rounsavell, Carmen Santacruz
RECORDED	Yes

P-3 Alignment & Early Childhood Coordinating Council Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	Welcome additional participants
	Work Group Members introduced themselves.

DISCUSSION ITEM	
	<p>Kristi explained that previous meetings adopted a “divide and conquer” approach, focusing on Regional Goal 6 one month and Goal 7 the next. During these discussions, Goal 6—focused on professional development—required extended attention, so Goal 7 was deferred.</p> <p>She asked the workgroup whether they wanted to focus solely on Regional Goal 6 today or discuss both Goals 6 and 7 in preparation for setting objectives for the next year in the Hub work plan.</p> <p>Regional Goals Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Goal 6: Professional development for the early learning workforce, including the home visiting workforce. • Regional Goal 7: Transition to kindergarten, emphasizing alignment between early learning supports and K-12 transitions. <p>The workgroup decided to address each goal separately.</p> <p>Kristi shared that she’s put together a draft work plan template using previous templates required by the state, which includes everything needed to meet contract deliverables. She walked the group through it on-screen, showing how they’re tracking priorities from past notes and decisions, including a recent funding decision from the Governing Board earlier this month. This plan focuses on Goal 6, Strategy 6.4, which aims to boost access to joint professional development for both early learning and early grade teachers.</p>

The workgroup identified that finding a time, date, and location for shared professional development with early learning and K-12 professionals is challenging. The [2025 Oregon Early Learning Conference](#) in Portland was suggested on April 16-18, 2025.

The workgroup discussed Early Literacy projects, including Jumpstart. Kristi shared that DELC has shown particular interest in using Birth to 5 Literacy funds to expand Jumpstart Read for the Record beyond our region and make it a statewide initiative. The idea is to involve all of Oregon through the Early Learning Hubs.

The workgroup discussed supports for teachers to support social-emotional learning.

Lynette shared that staffing shortages are challenging, with some programs closing classrooms or even considering shutting down due to limited staff. She noted that many kids in care—often those born during the pandemic—struggle in group settings, which increases the demand on teachers, who are feeling stretched thin and dealing with burnout.

Donna highlighted that her team regularly faces challenges with children's behavior, focusing on teaching friendship skills, how to be part of a group, and conflict resolution. She works with her staff to help kids learn problem-solving and communication skills before conflicts escalate. Lynette and Donna agreed that managing these behaviors with limited staff is more challenging, and finding ways to address issues early on can help prevent burnout for educators.

The workgroup discussed what coaching and training are available to providers. Autumn shared inclusive practices training for preschools, involving 84 programs in three counties last summer, though this was possible only through special funding that has since ended. Different funding sources dictate where coaching is available. Head Start programs, for instance, must fund their own coaching, leading to differences in availability and support structures across preschool settings. This inconsistency often results in gaps for preschools not included in certain programs, especially those outside Preschool Promise. There is a need for broader, more universal access to highly skilled coaches who can help classroom environments as a whole. Fostering a universally inclusive, predictable environment in every classroom aims to reduce disruptive behaviors and support all students effectively rather than addressing only individual needs.

Kristi led the workgroup discussion on what steps can be identified to operationalize this feedback and what is needed for the CCR&R to move this work forward. Suggestions included:

- Quarterly Coaching Cohorts: Gather early learning coaches every quarter for training on topics like classroom management, behavioral strategies, and family engagement.
- Shared Coaching Framework: Create a universal coaching framework to keep practices consistent across programs while allowing some flexibility for local

needs.

- Cross-Program Training: Train coaches to align messaging and approaches across different early learning programs.
- Family Engagement with Community Partners: Partner with health and mental health organizations to equip coaches with resources for family support.
- Aligned Professional Development Days: Coordinate professional development days across programs for maximum impact.

The workgroup discussed best practices for coaches and the most helpful types of help.

Stephany shared that Kidco staff can record themselves in the classroom and use the video to reflect on their practices. Some workgroup members expressed concerns about having that video used out of context.

The work group discussed the difficulties in getting insurance for their child care spaces. Costs are rising alarmingly. This is an issue that should be receiving systemic support from DELC.

Sandy shared the PBIS practices and elementary school staff and suggested who could be included in shared professional development. Susan added that assistant principals and behavior coaches in their elementary schools play a role.

The next meeting will begin with reviewing the strategies for the work plan gathered from this discussion and then discuss regional goal 7.

The EL Hub is working to identify existing home visitor meetings to gather feedback for both health care and early learning home visitors.

NEXT MEETING	9:30 am, November 20, 2024 Online via Zoom
MEETING ADJOURNED	10:41 am