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

MEETING COMMENCED	9:30 am, March 19, 2025 Online via Zoom
MEETING CALLED BY	Kristi Collins
WORKGROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Deanna Barclay, Autumn Belloni, Donna Brown, Mellie Bukosky-Reyes, Susan Halliday, Andrea Lengel, Misha Mayers, Paul Smith, Diane Wilkinson, Lynnette Wynkoop
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Connie Adams, Kristi Collins, Matt Grams, Antonia Huerta, Jinguang Lin, Ana Reyes, Sam Rounsavell, Carmen Santacruz, Kelly Schell, LeAnne Trask
RECORDED	Yes

P-3 Alignment & Early Childhood Coordinating Council Agenda topics

INTRODUCTIONS	
Work Group Members introduced themselves.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Pollywog HRSN
LeAnne gave a presentation about Pollywog. She outlined the origins of the program, the way it serves families, and its community partnerships. She then reviewed the Pollywog website and what families can find there. She discussed Pollywog's social media channels and how Pollywog reaches families.	
LeAnne reported on the OHP Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) benefits. She explained the benefit categories: Housing, Climate, and Nutrition. Pollywog can help parents with HRSN eligibility screenings and referrals.	
LeAnne gave an overview of Pollywog Analytics.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	SHIP Grant Survey
Connie led the workgroup through the SHIP grant survey using Menti software.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Progress to date on the Strategic Plan

Kristi reviewed our progress to date on the Strategic Plan. She highlighted:
- A grant from the Ford Foundation has been secured in partnership with Lane County. The funds support the rollout in Linn, Benton, Lincoln, and Lane counties, as well as the statewide campaign. Bryan will lead the work for our region.
- We are encouraging large employers (like school districts) to adopt best practices for working parents and showcase certification in hiring materials to attract talent.

- Pollywog applied and was awarded funds to do HRSN work. LBCC now has a federal and state Medicaid billing number, which is built into the Unite Us platform. Staff are being trained as Community Health Workers.
- All three health departments received Hub funding to access Unite Us. Community-based organizations use the platform at no cost, while county agencies incur a fee; therefore, funding was allocated to support them.
- Kristi will be attending the Old Mill Center Home Visiting workgroup to present our Strategic plan and ask if the group will serve as an advisory group to the EL Hub.
- LeAnne is serving on local and statewide workgroups to support the implementation of Unite Us/Connect Oregon.
- Strategies related to regional goal #5 are paused. Plans with Corvallis School District, KIDCO Head Start, and Early Intervention are on hold due to uncertainty around Head Start and other funding sources.
- Coaching was identified as a need, and we're collaborating on a funding proposal with CCR&R and EI/ECSE to submit to OCE the WREN and other possible foundations for coaching.
- Kristi joined the OASC board and served on the Early Learning Conference committee. Birth to 5 Literacy funds were allocated to provide scholarships for the conference. A Google form is available for applications.
- The January ECCC meeting served as a facilitated session for the CCR&R to gather input from providers. We're continuing to support this work and waiting on further direction from the state.
- Our Date Book is on track for a June release.
- The Child Success Model was included in a legislative ask through the Upstream Initiative. The goal is to create a replicable model for other hubs. There's strong political support, so fingers crossed for funding.
- OHA has announced an extension for current SHIP grantees. Pollywog will use the extra time and funds to ensure comprehensive data from all 16 communities.

A lot has been happening over the past six months, and there's plenty more to come!

DISCUSSION ITEM	2025 Work Plan

Kristi gave an overview of the 2025 Work Plan for the Hub.

- **Strategy 1.1 & 1.2: Promote Oregon's Child Care Toolkit**
  - The team is focused on promoting Oregon's childcare toolkit to local business leaders. The toolkit provides businesses with ways to support childcare through their business practices, as well as lower-cost investment opportunities, if they have a philanthropic aspect to their work.
  - Brian and Holly were invited to a meeting with the governor to discuss this.

- o The toolkit is live on the Child Care Works for Oregon website and ready to be shared!
- o Brian is planning to spend more time in Lincoln County, meeting with business leaders and attending chamber events. He would love to leverage any existing connections that governing board members or community partners have.

- **Strategy 2.4: Marketing Materials for HRSN**

  - o IHN decided agencies can create their own marketing materials. Pollywog has developed its own materials, available at https://pollywogfamily.org/resources/hrsn-benefits/.

- **Strategy 3.1: Coordinating Home Visiting Programs**

  - o The goal is to ensure that families are aware of the available programs and can easily connect with the right ones. We are working towards more collaboration with home visiting leadership to improve referrals.

- **Strategy 5.1: Funding & Pilot Programs**

  - o We are monitoring funding to determine if the planned pilot programs can proceed as planned or if adjustments are required.

- **Strategy 6.1 & 6.2: Coaching & Professional Development**

  - o Grant writing is underway to fund coaching for classroom training.
  - o Home visitors require more professional development opportunities, so we're exploring ways to incorporate them.

- **Strategy 6.4: OASCD Conference Scholarship Application**

  - o The application link will be shared in the chat and posted on Basecamp.

- **Strategy 7.2: Kindergarten Transition Toolkit**

  - o Surveys and focus groups will help determine what should be included in the toolkit. The goal is to make it practical and useful.

- **Strategies 8.1-8.3: Every Child Belongs Grant**

  - o The team is ready to support Lynnette and her work as needed.

Even though we have a work plan, we're always open to new opportunities and collaborations as they come up!

DISCUSSION ITEM	OASCD Learning Conference Scholarship Process

Kristi shared that the EL Hub is offering scholarships for early learning providers and early elementary teachers to attend the OASCD Early Learning Conference.

Please complete the application below if you would like the EL Hub to cover the cost of your conference registration. If additional funds are available, the EL Hub may provide a small stipend to offset travel expenses.

Scholarship application
link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXukzT_3O2LLEsi32pxfMoBCs9mvNkIkXJdL9T3NVVgSfFKw/viewform

DISCUSSION ITEM	Kindergarten Events this Spring

Sam and Kristi asked workgroup members to share any information about Kindergarten enrollment events happening this spring with Pollywog.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Legislative Roundtable

Autumn shared that there's a bill in the works focused on improving the transition from early intervention (EI) to kindergarten. If it passes, a committee will be formed to help shape best practices. The Early Learning Hub Association's lobbyists are monitoring the situation, and although a committee will be appointed, we can still recommend individuals to be involved. Autumn is interested in joining, and Judy Newman from Lane County has also been suggested. Since this could have a big impact on EI services, it'd be great to have representation from our region in the conversation.

DISCUSSION ITEM	April Meeting

The April meeting overlaps with the OASCD Early Learning Conference. This workgroup will reconvene on May 21, 2025.

NEXT MEETING	9:30 am May 21, 2025 Online via Zoom
MEETING ADJOURNED	10:50 am