

# Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties Governing Board Meeting Minutes

<b>MEETING COMMENCED</b>	2:01 pm, December 5, 2024 Online via Zoom
<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	Lola Jones
<b>STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	Kristi Collins, Matt Grams, Sam Rounsavell, LeAnne Trask
<b>VERSION</b>	Draft
<b>RECORDED</b>	Yes

## Agenda topics

<b>ROLL CALL</b>		Board Members Present or Absent						
	Present	Absent		Present	Absent		Present	Absent
Shelagh Baird	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Claire Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steve Martinelli	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DeAnn Brown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susan Halliday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bettina Schempf	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Belit Burke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jason Hay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paul Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dean Craig	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Todd Jeter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diane Wilkinson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jeff Davis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lola Jones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lynnette Wynkoop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barbara Dougherty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephany Koehne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Laura Farmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tammi Martin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

## QUORUM

A Quorum was present. There are currently 19 seated Board members, and 16 were present at this meeting.

## SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Community Capacity Building Fund Grant, LeAnne Trask

LeAnne briefly explained the Medicaid 1115 demonstration waiver and the new Health-related social needs (HRSN) benefits. HRSNs are social and economic needs that affect a person's ability to maintain health and well-being. Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members facing certain life challenges will have services available to them. These services are to help members stay healthy during times of greater need. These interventions have been found to improve health outcomes and health inequities and decrease healthcare costs.

The federal government gave the state of Oregon \$1.1 billion. This funding was approved in October 2022 and will expire on September 20, 2027.

HRSN benefits include environmental, housing, and nutrition services. These benefits are being rolled out one at a time.

Environmental Services rolled out on 3/1/2024.

Housing Services rolled out 11/1/2024.

Nutritional Services will be available beginning 3/1/2024.

Environmental or Climate Supports may include:

- Payment for devices that maintain healthy temperatures and clean air, including air conditioners, heaters and air filters
- Mini refrigerators to keep medications cold during a power outage
- Portable power supplies to keep medical devices running during a power outage

Housing supports may include:

- Rental assistance or temporary housing (e.g., rental payments, deposits, utility assistance) for up to 6 months
- Home modifications (e.g., ramps, handrails, environmental remediation)
- Pre-tenancy and tenancy support services (e.g., housing application, moving support, eviction prevention)
- Housing-focused navigation and/or case manager

Nutrition supports may include:

- Links to community-based food resources (e.g., application support for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC))
- Nutrition and cooking education
- Fruit and vegetable prescriptions (for up to 6 months, also known as VeggieRX) and healthy food boxes/meals
- Medically tailored meal delivery

To qualify, OHP members must be in at least one of these life transitions. Additional criteria also apply for each type of HRSN service.

- Release from incarceration in the past 12 months
- Discharge from an Institution for Mental Disease (IMD) in the past 12 months
- Current or past involvement in the Oregon child welfare system
- Transitioning from Medicaid-only to dual eligibility (Medicaid and Medicare) status within the next three months or has transitioned in the past nine months
- Being homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

There was a discussion about the metrics for this program.

OHA is using Unite Us as the platform to do this work. United US has added eight screening tools to the front end of its platform to assist partners in outreach and engagement. CBOs will engage with families about HRSN benefits. -In our region, Old Mill Center, Family Tree Relief Nursery, and Pollywog are the organizations that were

awarded CCB funds to do the engagement work. A list of all the CCB grantees is available at <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/Medicaid-Policy/Documents/2024-CCBF-Grantees.pdf>

The initial funding is to help CBOs prepare in four areas:

- Technology
- Development of business or operational practices
- Workforce development
- Outreach, education and convening

LeAnne described the RFA process for the CCBF grant. Pollywog was notified on August 26, 2024, that we would receive 10% of the funding we requested. The award was \$60,148.00. The contract is from 10/1/24 – 12/31/2025. The smaller funding allotment means Pollywog will need to scale back plans to implement HRSN benefit services.

Pollywog will be:

- Getting all staff trained as CHWs
- Acquiring new technology to add business texting and additional translation support
- Creating new print and social media materials for outreach
- Developing a 2025 work plan to describe the work we will be taking on and how that will be accomplished.

LeAnne announced that after a meeting with Todd Jeter and the IHN, Pollywog had been awarded a 3-year contract with 85% funding. That, combined with other project funding and seeking additional grants, puts Pollywog on solid financial footing.

Bettina shared her perspective on this HRSN project as a service provider. It will increase the services available to the populations they already serve.

Todd shared additional information about this program. It is a new approach, as these needs are now being met as medical benefits, not just discretionary spending. It's coming out as a medical benefit, which means that benefits need to be tied to diagnoses and billed in the same way as medical services.

It also means that while the IHN has always been responsible for having an adequate physical health network and an adequate network of behavioral health providers, they're now responsible for building an adequate network of social care providers.

Addressing SDoHs and HRSNs provides an opportunity to address systemic issues that underlie health inequity. This requires including grassroots organizations that are culturally and linguistically specific service providers that are working with members of marginalized populations that might not otherwise be engaging in health care. The hope is that by being able to provide a benefit, we can start making some connections and building trust with these populations.

<b>DIRECTOR'S REPORT</b>	LBL Hub Updates
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Kristi shared updates with the Board.

Andrea, Diane, Kristi, and a couple of other partners were invited to do a panel presentation at the Board Retreat for Children's Institute held in Lincoln County. The

discussion highlighted collaboration and partnerships in Lincoln County. An engaging conversation with a board member who also serves on the Oregon Community Foundation's Board of Trustees opened the door to potential funding opportunities. Following this, discussions among partners focused on early learning workforce needs, and efforts are underway to propose a coaching model to support early learning providers in the region.

Kristi announced that she has been invited to join the Board of the Oregon Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (OASCD) and specifically to help promote their Early Learning Conference in April (formerly the P-3 Conference hosted by COSA). The focus of this conference is Science & Reading. They would love to grow their representation from Early Learning and collaborate more with Hubs.

Discussions with DELC staff addressed the allocation of unused Preschool Promise slots in the region. Thirty slots remain unfilled, and an RFP process is planned for early spring, aiming to allocate these slots to the community by 2025-2027. This ensures funds are utilized effectively, and services reach children in need.

The conversation continues between DELC, the BUILD Initiative, the Early Learning Council, and Early Learning Hub directors to refine the roles and expectations of Early Learning Hubs. This effort focuses on defining best practices for backbone organizations, identifying characteristics of high-functioning governance councils, and determining the level of autonomy hubs should maintain. A presentation was shared with the Backbone Organization Work Group, highlighting our Hub's operations as a high-functioning hub. As part of the next phase, a rulemaking process will update Early Learning Hub roles for the first time since 2014. Hub directors, backbones, and governance chairs will be involved in discussions to shape the upcoming contracts.

The Governor's recommended budget was released. Kristi shared some highlights relevant to Early Learning and Child Care. Key allocations include:

- \$12.7 million for early childhood mental health consultations and supports to child care providers, a \$4.4 million increase from the last biennium;
- \$19.6 million to continue the Birth to Five Early Literacy Fund;
- \$2.2 million for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library; and
- \$4.7 million for the new Tribal Early Learning Fund.

There remains work to address ongoing needs, such as reducing the waitlist for employment-related daycare and expanding home visiting services, which are priorities for advocacy by the Children's Institute. Not all programs received the desired level of funding in the Governor's budget.

A standing Legislative Discussion item will be added to our agenda as the legislative season progresses. Partners are encouraged to share insights and collaborate on advocacy efforts as the legislative session progresses.

The legislative package, referred to as the Momnibus, focuses on perinatal substance use disorder treatment and ensuring stability for infants, prioritizing keeping them with their families of origin. It includes integrated, coordinated health and social service hubs throughout the state, with input from initiatives like Nurture Oregon. This work, alongside proposals from the upstream initiative, is being closely monitored.

The Governor's recommended budget appears more favorable for K-12 than in previous years, alleviating some financial pressures, such as covering increased PERS costs. However, significant gaps remain, particularly in special education funding. Despite a cap of 11% for K-12 special education, many districts exceed this percentage and continue to provide services, highlighting the need for increased funding at all educational levels.

**FISCAL REPORT** Matt Grams  
 Matt presented the revenue, expenditures, and miscellaneous reports for October 2024.

**CONSENT ITEMS** October 2024 Meeting Minutes  
 The Board was asked to approve the October 2024 meeting minutes.  
 Motion: Susan Halliday  
 2<sup>nd</sup>: Diane Wilkinson

	Y	N	A		Y	N	A		Y	N	A
Shelagh Baird	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Claire Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steve Martinelli	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Laura Farmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tammi Martin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

**VOTING RESULTS** Individual Votes cast by Board Members (Yes, No, Abstain)  
 Abstentions: Stephany Koehne  
 The Board voted to approve the minutes as presented.

**DISCUSSION ITEM** 2025 Board Meeting Schedule  
 Kristi reviewed the 2025 board schedule.

**DISCUSSION ITEM** DELC Work Plan & Strategic Plan Update  
 Kristi reported that the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC) has sent notice that the contract deliverable of a Strategic Plan is no longer required due to work being done with the BUILD initiative to redefine the role of a Hub in a community and what needs to go in Hub contracts to support that role with the backbone agencies.  
 Kristi has met with workgroups, and it was decided that the Hub will develop a work plan despite it not being required by DELC. At the upcoming Board Retreat in February, Kristi

will give an update on the work completed in the first six months of our strategic plan and then where our focus will be on the next six months of the strategic plan. The Board noted that having a strategic plan is good governance. They prefer to have a work plan to know that the efforts being undertaken are aligned with the strategic plan and moving in a generally acceptable direction.

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Board Retreat, 10-year celebration, DELC Caring Communities Visit
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DELC has announced to Hubs and CCR&Rs that they will launch Caring Communities visits all over the state. We suggested that they come to our February Board retreat. The retreat itself is shaping up to be a big day. The plan includes bringing back past board members to celebrate our ten-year celebration and a regular Board meeting. The current Board may need to dedicate a whole day to this meeting.

It was suggested that a press release be created or that the media be invited to the event.

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Pollywog December Holiday Activity Guide
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Sam shared Pollywog's Holiday Activity Guide with the Board. It lists local, low-cost, and free activities for the whole family. From festive lights and cozy storytimes to holiday parades and hands-on crafts, there's something for everyone to explore.

<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	February 6, 2025 In-person, LBCC Albany Campus
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<b>MEETING ADJOURNED</b>	3:08 pm
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