

# Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

## Governing Board Meeting Minutes

<b>MEETING COMMENCED</b>	2:04 pm, March 6, 2025 Online via Zoom
<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	Lola Jones
<b>STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	Connie Adams, Kristi Collins, Matt Grams, Sam Rounsavell
<b>VERSION</b>	Approved
<b>RECORDED</b>	Yes

### Agenda topics

ROLL CALL		Board Members Present or Absent							
	Present	Absent		Present	Absent		Present	Absent	
Shelagh Baird	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Claire Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bettina Schempf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
DeAnn Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Susan Halliday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Belit Burke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jason Hay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diane Wilkinson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dean Craig	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Todd Jeter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lynnette Wynkoop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jeff Davis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lola Jones	<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 12 were present at this meeting.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

LBL Hub Updates

Connie shared the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) survey. Pollywog will use this survey over the next two months to find out the top priorities for health-related issues in our community. Then, a second round of surveys will ask what strategies our communities think should be used to work on these priorities.

She asked the Board to take the survey using Menti presentation software and offer feedback on the process before it is used at Asset Mapping sessions. The Board suggested that a physical copy of the survey be made available to families taking the survey. They also indicated that the survey questions should be put in plain language. This survey will also be shared at Hub workgroups throughout the month.

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

## Legislative Roundtable

Kristi discussed the UpStream Initiative. Our El Hub was initially part of a learning community and has now been invited to participate in a legislative request to create a Child Success Pilot. The goal is to develop a replicable model for other early learning hubs. This effort is tied to Senate Bill 1167, and supporting materials, including one-pagers, have been prepared for stakeholders. Senator Christie is championing the initiative alongside Senator Reynolds, who is incorporating it into broader Omnibus work. Our Hub and others across the state have been encouraged to help promote the initiative while adhering to their roles as public employees, focusing on education and advocacy rather than lobbying. **Child Success Model Bill - SB 1167** - <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Measures/Overview/SB1167>

Kristi is participating in the OELHA legislative subgroup. The committee actively monitors relevant bills, meeting biweekly to track legislative developments affecting children and families. Some Hub leaders have testified during the legislative session, with the OELHA Board co-chairs frequently called upon due to their proximity to Salem. We anticipate the bill list will narrow as work sessions are scheduled.

Brian, our Business Liaison focused on childcare, is scheduled to meet with Senator Anderson, who is sponsoring multiple early childhood-related bills.

Lola emphasized her role in the **Momnibus initiative (SB 690-695)**, encouraging all members to engage with it. The Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health has already held two days of public testimony on this legislation, which is being championed by Senator Reynolds and strongly supported by Senator Anderson. Efforts are underway to secure backing from Senator Diane Linthicum of Klamath County. The Momnibus bill expands the Nurture Oregon program, known as Project Nurture in Multnomah County, which supports pregnant and early parenting individuals with substance use disorders by facilitating treatment and aiming for healthy births, healthy babies, and family reunification. Lincoln County has been a rural implementation site for nearly five years, while Benton County is entering its third year. Workforce development includes training peer recovery support specialist doulas, significantly impacting communities. The bill also includes a housing provision, potentially offering direct cash or rental assistance to eligible individuals—pregnant, parenting, or postpartum within the first year—who have substance use disorders, as well as to housing organizations that serve them.

Lola shared a link to the engagement toolkit.

<https://www.canva.com/design/DAGeprEdH94/ngoGoglltVVL1RAXx8n3tA/view>

Jason discussed K-12 legislative issues concerning special education funding, particularly efforts to raise the funding cap. While about 15% of students qualify for special education, funding is currently capped at 11%. Advocacy efforts are also promoting increased funding for students with severe disabilities. Additionally, there are two key priorities: securing more than flat funding for Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education and boosting support for Regional Inclusive Services, which provides special education funding for the highest-needs students, including those who are deaf, hard of hearing, visually impaired, or require occupational therapy. Despite rising

demand, funding for these services has stagnated or declined per student over the past several years.

A challenge in school-related advocacy has emerged from the governor's office, where recent comments emphasized that schools need to produce better results with existing funds. This stance has raised concerns among education advocates, as it may complicate efforts to secure additional funding. The governor's office has indicated potential increases in education funding, but there is a growing sense that advocacy in this area will be particularly challenging moving forward.

Belit mentioned the Child Welfare Omnibus Bill, which is expected to be a major focus throughout the legislative session. It is a comprehensive system-of-care bill designed to address issues within the child welfare and behavioral health systems. A key objective is to reopen and strengthen the provider community while addressing systemic challenges. The bill is extensive and seeks to implement broad changes. A recent hearing featured testimony from the System of Care Director, highlighting the bill's potential impact. While the outcome remains uncertain, the bill could positively reshape the current system.

Lynnette discussed HB 2452, which calls for referrals to return to local Child Care Resource and Referral agencies on a limited basis. The bill aims to assist ERDC families struggling to connect with services and help them navigate the barriers in the system to find and access care.

Dean offered a workforce perspective. Behavioral health and housing continue to receive significant legislative attention with ongoing advocacy at the state and national levels.

There was recent optimism regarding potential federal support, particularly related to Andrea Salinas's appointment to a position that could positively impact the workforce system. Additionally, there is cautious optimism about the potential reauthorization of workforce funding, which could bring much-needed resources to support these initiatives.

Todd reported that Benton County is bringing on intensive in-home behavioral health treatment.

<b>FISCAL REPORT</b>	Matt Grams
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Matt presented the revenue, expenditures, and miscellaneous reports for December 2024 and January 2025

<b>CONSENT ITEMS</b>	December 2024 Meeting Minutes
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The Board was asked to approve the December 2024 meeting minutes.

Motion: Paul Smith

2<sup>nd</sup>: Diane Wilkinson

	Y	N	A		Y	N	A		Y	N	A
Shelagh Baird	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Claire Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bettina Schempf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DeAnn Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susan Halliday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Belit Burke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jason Hay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diane Wilkinson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dean Craig	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Todd Jeter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lynnette Wynkoop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jeff Davis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lola Jones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Barbara Dougherty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephany Koehne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Laura Farmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tammi Martin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

<b>VOTING RESULTS</b>	Individual Votes Cast by Board Members (Yes, No, Abstain)
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Abstentions: None

The Board voted to approve the minutes as presented.

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Strategic Plan Progress to Date and 2025 Work Plan
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The progress of the strategic plan and the 2025 Work Plan was presented at the Board Retreat and included in the Board packet.

<b>DISCUSSION VOTE</b>	2025 Work Plan
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The Board was asked to approve the 2025 Work Plan.

Motion: Susan Halliday

2<sup>nd</sup>: Belit Burke

	Y	N	A		Y	N	A		Y	N	A
Shelagh Baird	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Claire Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bettina Schempf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DeAnn Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susan Halliday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>VOTING RESULTS</b>	Individual Votes Cast by Board Members (Yes, No, Abstain)
Abstentions: None	
The Board voted to approve the Item as presented.	

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Board Member Resignation
Lola briefly reviewed the letter of resignation from Claire Hall and expressed appreciation for her long service on this Board.	

<b>DISCUSSION VOTE</b>	Board Member Resignation										
The Board was asked to accept Claire Hall's resignation.											
Motion: Lynnette Wynkoop											
2 <sup>nd</sup> : Laura Farmer											
	Y	N	A		Y	N	A		Y	N	A
Shelagh Baird	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Claire Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bettina Schempf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DeAnn Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susan Halliday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Dean Craig	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Todd Jeter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lynnette Wynkoop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jeff Davis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lola Jones	<input checked="" 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"/>				

<b>VOTING RESULTS</b>	Individual Votes Cast by Board Members (Yes, No, Abstain)
Abstentions: None	
The Board voted to approve the Item as presented.	

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	K-12 Linn County Representative
Jason notified Kristi that Steve Martinelli was no longer with Scio School District and that a new representative was needed for the K-12 seat on this board. This is a seat appointed by local K-12 Superintendents. There is no nominee at this time, but one is expected soon.	

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Replacement of Board Chairpersons
With the resignation of Claire Hall and Lola's upcoming leave of absence, there is an urgent need for new Board chairpersons. Laura expressed interest in this role and requested mentoring from the current Chair.	
Kristi commented that she has been considering our co-chair structure and the Parent Leadership Council. Having co-chairs—one from a community partner and one from our	

Parent Leadership Council—seems like a good way to elevate the Parent Voice in our work.

Laura's long history with the Hub governing board makes her a natural fit for this role, especially as the Parent Leadership Council continues to establish itself. It's great to see leadership structured in a way that values experience and lived expertise.

Lola stated that procedurally, she would like to give Laura the benefit of mentoring and a brief trial period before the board makes a formal motion to accept you as the co-chair.

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Potential Board Member
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Kristi announced that a potential board member from Samaritan Health, Paulina Kaiser, may be joining this meeting at 3:00 pm. Julie Manning recommended her, and Paulina hoped to join and observe the meeting today. Since this meeting may conclude before then, board members are welcome to stay for a few extra minutes to greet her and address any questions she may have.

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Board Attendance & Proxy Policy
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Kristi and Sam reviewed the bylaws related to Board attendance and the use of alternates. Board members were encouraged to attend meetings or appoint a proxy so that a quorum could be reached.

Lola encouraged any member who feels like they may be having attendance issues to contact the board chair to discuss support and accommodations or make alternate arrangements.

<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>	Announcements
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Lola summarized some of the agenda items likely to be present at the April board meeting.

Kristi reminded the Board that her presentation, EL Hub 10 years in review, is now in a shareable document. It is included at the end of the Board packet and as a stand-alone document in Basecamp.

Sam let the Board know that Pollywog is now able to be texted. Parents can contact us by phone or text at 541-917-4884.

<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	2:00 pm, April 3, 2025 Online via Zoom
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<b>MEETING ADJOURNED</b>	2:58 pm
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