



Early Learning Hub

of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

Governance Council Packet October 2026

Governance Council
Early Learning Hub
October 1, 2026
lblearlylearninghub.org

Packet Overview

In your Governance Council packet for October 2026, you will find the following information:

1. Agenda
2. Council Vacancies
3. Approval of September Council Meeting Minutes
4. Discussion Items
 - a. PSN Documents and Update – Discussion
 - b. Budget Update – Approval Needed
5. Informational Items
 - a. Workgroup Meeting Minutes
 - i. September Health Care Integration
 - b. Program Update
 - i. Family Advisory Council

Contents

Packet Overview 1

Agenda.....3

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes 4

September Meeting Minutes..... 4

Discussion Items 8

PSN Documents and Update 12

Budget Update – Approval Needed..... 12

Informational Items 16

Workgroup Meeting Minutes..... 16

Health Care Integration..... 16

Program Updates 20

Family Advisory Council..... 20

Agenda

Governance Council Members

Laura Farmer, Co-Chair
Parent

Bettina Schempf, Co-Chair
Old Mill Center

Andrea Bartell
Young Roots Oregon

DeAnn Brown
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

Alicia Bublitz
IHN-CCO – Standing Position

Bellit Burke
Department of Human Services

Kristi Collins
LBL Early Learning Hub

Dean Craig
Willamette Workforce Partnership

Bonnie Dietrich
Greater Albany Public Schools

Barbara Dougherty
Samaitan Early Learning Center

Breeann Flesch
Linn-Benton Community College

Susan Halliday
Philomath School District

Jason Hay
LBL Education Service District

Tammi Hillhouse
Department of Human Services

Paulina Kaiser
Samaitan Health Services

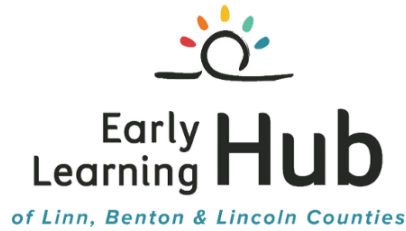
Stephany Koehne
Kids & Company of Linn County

Andrea Lengel
Community Services Consortium

Paul Smith
Strengthening Rural Families

Diane Wilkinson
Lincoln County School District

Lynnette Wynkoop
Child Care Resource & Referral



Governance Council Meeting

October 1, 2026, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Old Mill Center for Children & Families, Ramsey Room

1650 SW 45th St, Corvallis, OR 97333

Members of the public who want to make public comment must sign in. During the public comment portion of the agenda, each individual speaker will have 3 minutes.

- I. Roll Call – In-Person Participants List
- II. Special Presentation –
 - a. Regional Poverty Representation
 - b. Early Learning Center in Corvallis
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Director's Report
- V. Current Council Vacancies – Linn 2, Benton 2, Lincoln 4
- VI. Approval of September Council Meeting Minutes
- VII. Discussion Items
 - a. PSN Documents and Update
 - b. Budget Update – Approval Needed
- VIII. Informational Items
 - a. Attendance Roster and Participation
 - b. Healthcare Integration Minutes
 - c. Family Advisory Council Update
- IX. Next Meeting – Thursday, November 5, 2026
- X. Adjournment

All members of the EL Hub Governance Council must disclose when they believe they have, or may have, a conflict of interest and may participate in discussions that are leading to consensus. If, however, consensus cannot be reached and the group uses the fall-back voting process, the individual with the conflict of interest may not participate in that final vote.

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

September Meeting Minutes

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties Governance Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Commenced	2:00 pm, September 3, 2026 Online via Zoom
Meeting Called By	Bettina Schempf
Staff Members Present	Matt Grams, Jessica Morrison, LeAnne Rogers Trask
Version	Draft
Recorded	Yes

Agenda topics

Roll Call			Council Members Present or Absent					
	Present	Absent		Present	Absent		Present	Absent
DeAnn Brown Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians	☐	☒	Barbara Dougherty Lincoln County Early Childhood Education	☐	☒	Stephany Koehne Linn County Early Childhood Education	☒	☐
Andrea Bartell Linn County Housing	☒	☐	Laura Farmer Benton County Parent	☐	☒	Andrea Lengel Lincoln County Human & Social Services	☒	☐
Alicia Bublitz Coordinated Care	☐	☒	Breeann Flesch Fiscal Agent Non-voting member	☒	☐	Bettina Schempf Benton County Human & Social Services	☒	☐
Belit Burke Linn County Human & Social Services	☐	☒	Susan Halliday Benton County K-12	☒	☐	Paul Smith Benton County Early Childhood Education	☒	☐
Kristi Collins EL Hub Director Non-voting member	☒	☐	Jason Hay Education Service District	☒	☐	Diane Wilkinson Lincoln County K-12	☒	☐
Dean Craig Linn County Business	☐	☒	Tammi Hillhouse Oregon Department of Human Services	☐	☒	Lynnette Wynkoop Child Care Resource & Referral	☒	☐
Bonney Dietrich Linn County K-12	☒	☐	Paulina Kaiser Benton County Health	☒	☐			
Quorum								
A quorum is achieved when 51% of current Governance Council members are present. The Council currently has 20 members, and 13 members were present.								

Discussion Item	Welcome and Introductions
Daniel Martinez was present as a guest and potential council member.	

Special Presentation**IHN-CCO Delivery System Transformation Proposal – LeAnne Rogers Trask**

LeAnne presented the grant proposal for the “Fresh Start Pathways,” an expungement initiative aimed at helping families across Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties clear eligible criminal records. LeAnne highlighted how lingering criminal records severely restrict access to housing, employment, higher education, student financial aid, and community involvement. In Oregon, where an estimated 1 in 3 residents—and up to 3 in 5 in rural areas—has a record (often consisting of multiple non-conviction dismissals or minor charges), this initiative seeks to unlock opportunities for roughly 100,000 potentially eligible individuals.

The plan spans initial community outreach and software screening through to direct legal support and career development. The grant proposal also includes dedicated funding for client restitution fees, with additional financial backing offered by other partners. To achieve the desired outcomes, the initiative unites 3 core partners:

- Pollywog: The team will serve as the community outreach lead, leveraging its established network to identify and refer eligible families via Unite US.
- LBCC JOBS Program: This transition program will handle intake, offer in-house fingerprinting to save clients fee costs, provide education and career coaching, and utilize the “Record Sponge” software to analyze records.
- Strahl Law: Attorneys will provide affordable legal representation to resolve complex record entanglements, petition courts to reduce or waive legal fees, and navigate court-related barriers.

Building on the JOBS program track record of expunging over 5,000 charges, the “Fresh Start Pathways” aims to establish a scalable, sustainable model. The ultimate goal is to improve long-term family stability, boost employment and housing rates, and reduce systemic stress on families across the region.

Director's Report**LBL Hub Updates**

Staff were commended for outstanding work with Pollywog and Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) which has significantly grown reimbursement revenue. Additionally, the coordinated enrollment team reached near-capacity for the tri-county region, maintaining only 5 open slots out of 298. Positive feedback was highlighted from a local elementary school principal, who praised the team for filling program slots early and eliminating low-enrollment concerns.

- Following a recent DELC meeting, new categorical eligibility rules were implemented, retroactively effective August 1st. Key updates include allowing children covered by the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) to automatically qualify regardless of standard income guidelines, as well as introducing tribal membership as a qualifying criterion.
- Staff applied the updated eligibility rules and procedures, leveraging the state's ONE system to cross-reference previously ineligible or document-deficient applications. Thanks to this effort, 38 families who were previously struggling with documentation or exceeded income thresholds now qualify.

The bigger the waitlist, the bigger the evidence of needs in the region. To date, there are 87 children on the waitlist across the 3 counties. Moving forward, the team plans to distribute these updated eligibility criteria to Preschool Promise providers and launch targeted marketing and outreach efforts to fill the remaining open slots and support newly eligible families.

Kristi provided an update on the progress of the Parenting Success Network (PSN) transition, highlighting several milestones:

- In August, the EL Hub successfully hosted the first steering committee meeting since the transition. Partner engagement was high, with productive discussions around next steps and overall transition goals.
- To strengthen partner alignment and collaboration, the team established monthly debrief and agenda-planning meetings with the Lincoln County team. These sessions aim to evaluate when to unify existing initiatives versus tailor efforts specifically to Lincoln County's unique needs.
- The team is developing standardized procedures for community partners requesting class funding. Kristi recently met with Strengthening Rural Families, a longstanding PSN Partner, to review preliminary plans and gather feedback.

Looking ahead, the team will focus on building a user-friendly "menu of options" for partners. This process will break down logistics and cost ranges involved in hosting classes, establishing a structured platform to assess funding needs and allocate resources effectively.

Kristi provided an update on Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC), beginning with staffing changes. The Hub has a new analyst who previously served as the Head Start Collaboration Director. Collins noted this is part of DELC's temporary job rotation strategy due to hiring freezes.

DELC has posted its agency request budget which maintains current service levels for most programs, and will host a webinar on September 30th. Kristi confirmed that original revenue projections for year 2 remain accurate. Additionally, DELC corrected an internal accounting oversight where Title IV-2 funds were deducted twice; as a result, the Hub will receive an unexpected \$42,600 in Title IV-B2 Family Preservation funds for the upcoming 9-month contract period. More details are provided within the "Title IV – B2 Concerns" on page 7.

Council Vacancies	Vacant Council Positions
The Council reviewed open positions. Linn 2, Benton 2, Lincoln 4	
Vacant Positions ● Benton County – Business ● Benton County – Housing ● Lincoln County – Business ● Lincoln County – Health ● Lincoln County – Housing ● Lincoln County – Parent Voice ● Linn County – Health ● Linn County – Parent Voice	

Fiscal Report	Quarter 4 Financial Narrative and Summary
Matt presented the financial report for April - June 2026, outlining key revenues, expenditures, and program trends: • Revenue totaled \$130,319 for Coordination, \$86,152 for Pollywog (including \$3,302 for HRSN), \$79,446 for Coordinated Enrollment, \$73,623 for KPI, \$7,420 for Birth - 5 Early Literacy, and \$2,477 for Title IV – B2. • Quarterly expenses included \$160,918 in wages, \$118,752 in benefits, and \$24,501 in services and supplies. Partner reimbursements reached \$68,457 for KPI (across 7 partners) and \$7,420 for Birth to 5 Literacy. • Reimbursements surged by 1,210% compared to Q1—an increase driven primarily by dedicated staff effort toward HRSN referrals, which Kristi noted is fully offset by the service reimbursement rate. KPI partner reimbursements increased 63% compared to the prior biennium. Council members attributed this gain to updated allocation methods and mandatory quarterly reporting, which sped up fund distribution and prevented end-of-biennium spend-down scrambles. Five partners have already fully expended 100% of their KPI allocations. Title IV-2 recorded zero reimbursements for the quarter.	

Approval of Meeting Minutes				August Council Meeting Minutes							
The Council was asked to approve the meeting minutes as presented.											
Motion: Lynnette Wynkoop											
2nd: Susan Halliday											
	Yes	No	Abstain		Yes	No	Abstain		Yes	No	Abstain
DeAnn Brown	☐	☐	☐	Barbara Dougherty	☐	☐	☐	Stephany Koehne	☒	☐	☐
Andrea Bartell	☐	☐	☒	Laura Farmer	☐	☐	☐	Andrea Lengel	☒	☐	☐
Alicia Bublitz	☐	☐	☐	Susan Halliday	☒	☐	☐	Bettina Schempf	☐	☐	☒
Belit Burke	☐	☐	☐	Jason Hay	☐	☐	☒	Paul Smith	☐	☐	☐
Dean Craig	☐	☐	☐	Tammi Hillhouse	☐	☐	☐	Diane Wilkinson	☐	☐	☒
Bonney Dietrich	☐	☐	☐	Paulina Kaiser	☒	☐	☐	Lynnette Wynkoop	☒	☐	☐
Voting Results			Individual Votes Cast by Council Members (Yes, No, Abstain)								
Abstentions: 4											
The Council approved the August meeting minutes as presented.											

Discussion Item	KPI Recommendation
Kristi presented the success of the new one-year contracting model, noting that quarterly reporting and explicit spend-down tracking have significantly improved partner accountability and responsiveness. With current contracts running through September 30th, remaining balances reflect ongoing summer programming rather than immediate performance concerns. The primary exception is Corvallis School District, which did not spend its Year 1 allocation due to service delivery challenges; Corvallis requested to retain its initial allocation for Year 2 without accepting new funds, allowing unspent capital to return to the general pool. To maximize community impact, Kristi recommended reallocating pooled, unspent Year 1 funds to partner districts that hit a 75% spend-down threshold or higher, allowing high-performing programs to plan intentionally for Year 2 rather than rushing to spend leftover funds at the end of the biennium. The council agreed with this strategy, and Kristi confirmed she will present final reallocation figures once the quarter wraps up. Additionally, the Hub will begin showcasing partner progress through presentations in the P3 Alignment Workgroup to engage more school districts, share best practices, and spark new ideas for KPI funding.	

Birth – 5 Literacy (Approval needed)	
Kristi Collins presented the proposed allocation plan for the remaining Birth – 5 Literacy funds, emphasizing the need for intentional spending following a significant statewide award reduction. Out of roughly \$38,000 awarded for the biennium, just over \$10,000 was spent in Year 1. For Year 2, the Early Childhood Coordinating Council recommended 4 targeted expenditure areas to maximize reach: • Jumpstart's Read for the Record: Increasing funding to \$4,000 to accommodate growing regional participation and prevent turning away programs requesting books. • Parenting Success Network (PSN) Speaking Event: Increasing the allocation from \$7,100 to \$10,000 to fully cover speaker fees, family materials, childcare, and interpretation services, building on last year's event. • CCR&R Coastal Conference: Reinvesting in a dedicated literacy training track for early childhood educators to deliver high-impact professional development. • Preschool Promise Providers: Distributing the remaining funds directly to Preschool Promise providers—the only DELC-funded, publicly funded early learning entity excluded from direct state literacy enhancements. Allocating the remaining funds across Preschool Promise's 298 slots equates to approximately \$120.80 per slot, offering even the smallest 6-slot programs a meaningful budget for literacy materials, family events, or staff training. Contracting will mirror the KPI process, requiring providers to submit a brief scope of work before receiving funds on a reimbursement basis. Collins requested formal council approval to proceed with this proposal.	

Discussion Item Vote				Birth – 5 Literacy							
The Council was asked to approve the movement of the funds.											
Motion: Susan Halliday											
2nd: Andrea Bartell											
	Yes	No	Abstain		Yes	No	Abstain		Yes	No	Abstain
DeAnn Brown	☐	☐	☐	Barbara Dougherty	☐	☐	☐	Stephany Koehne	☒	☐	☐
Andrea Bartell	☒	☐	☐	Laura Farmer	☐	☐	☐	Andrea Lengel	☒	☐	☐
Alicia Bublitz	☐	☐	☐	Susan Halliday	☒	☐	☐	Bettina Schempf	☐	☐	☒
Belit Burke	☐	☐	☐	Jason Hay	☒	☐	☐	Paul Smith	☐	☐	☐
Dean Craig	☐	☐	☐	Tammi Hillhouse	☐	☐	☐	Diane Wilkinson	☒	☐	☐
Bonney Dietrich	☐	☐	☒	Paulina Kaiser	☒	☐	☐	Lynnette Wynkoop	☐	☐	☒
Voting Results			Individual Votes Cast by Council Members (Yes, No, Abstain)								
Abstentions: 3											
The Council voted to approve the item as presented.											

Discussion Item	Title IV – B2 Concerns
Kristi outlined strategies to address underutilization of Title IV-B2 funds, driven by delayed state contracting and lack of response from a partner in Lincoln County. To prevent the state from pulling back funds during the biennium's closeout, Collins presented a re-allocation and contingency plan for Year 1 funds, upcoming Year 2 dollars, and the newly restored \$42,600 allocation. It was noted that existing providers fully intend to spend their awards, explaining that initial delays on DELC's part caused late contract execution rather than a lack of program need. To address specific service gaps and prevent funds from going unused, the council agreed on the following action plan: • With the Lincoln County partner non-responsive, the team will redirect Lincoln County's allocation to active partners to expand parenting education and family emergency support across the Benton-Lincoln region. • Kristi will consult regional data metrics to identify targeted opportunities for deploying the additional \$42,600 cross-county windfall across existing contracts, avoiding the administrative delays of onboarding new vendors during an abbreviated 9-month contract window. • Year 1 contracts ending September 30th, 2026 (a 9-month contract) will be amended to roll over unspent balances and incorporate Year 2 funds through the end of the biennium. If any partner leaves funds unspent at the biennium's end, the Hub will first offer those dollars to active contractors with eligible overages; any remaining balance will be redirected to Pollywog's qualifying resource and referral services to guarantee zero funds are returned to the state. In response to a question about the initial September 30th spending deadline, Kristi confirmed that current contracts will be extended through the end of the biennium. Mirroring the process used for KPI funds, Year 2 funding will be added directly to these existing contracts to allow partners continuous access to resources without interruption. The board is in agreement of the proposed spending plan for year 2 for any funds remaining unspent at the end of the biennium: • Step 1: Reallocate remaining funds to existing contracted partners who have eligible cost overruns. • Step 2: Direct any leftover funds to Pollywog's resource and referral operations, which fully aligns with Title IV-B2 grant criteria.	

Discussion Item	Council Attendance
Kristi confirmed that per the charter, members holding designated standing positions are permitted to appoint an alternate by proxy. She advised selecting alternates who share an interest in early learning but do not report directly to the same meetings, ensuring the backup can actually attend when scheduling conflicts or emergencies arise. In response to a question regarding frequently absent members, Kristi noted that leadership will review the attendance record and consult charter guidelines during their next meeting to determine appropriate outreach and next steps. In a discussion about tribal representation, Kristi emphasized that strong local tribal representation remains essential. It has been expressed by tribal representatives that active local engagement has presented scheduling challenges over the past year. A member noted new statewide contacts within the Confederated Tribes and suggested that a tribal representative might be able to recommend a delegate or alternate to step in if their availability remains limited.	
Next Meeting	2:00 pm, October 1, 2026 Online via Zoom
Meeting Adjourned	3:29 p.m.

Discussion Items

PSN Documents and Update

No handout for this item.

Budget Update – Approval Needed

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton, & Lincoln Counties

Revised 09/22/26

	Accual <u>July 1, 2025 to</u> <u>June 30, 2026</u>	Projected <u>July 1, 2026 to</u> <u>June 30, 2027</u>	<u>Biennium</u> <u>Totals</u>
Revenues			
Local Resources			
Pollywog	\$ 429,542.92	\$ 361,072.06	\$ 790,614.98
State Resources			
Coordination	\$ 516,601.28	\$ 571,042.68	\$1,087,643.96
Coordinated Enrollment	\$ 312,724.21	\$ 332,009.22	\$ 644,733.43
Parenting Success Network		\$ 520,856.69	\$ 520,856.69
Reimbursement Grants			
Kindergarten Partnership & Innovation	\$ 172,711.58	\$ 334,496.99	\$ 507,208.57
Birth To Five Literacy Funds	\$ 10,582.03	\$ 55,408.36	\$ 65,990.39
Title IV-B2 Family Support	\$ 12,730.82	\$ 52,144.95	\$ 64,875.77
Title IV-B2 Family Preservation	\$ 11,825.83	\$ 67,523.11	\$ 79,348.94
Total Resources	\$ 1,466,718.67	\$ 2,294,554.06	\$3,761,272.73
Expenditures			
<u>Coordination</u>			
<u>Personnel Costs</u>			
Employee Salary	\$ 268,916.32	\$ 287,482.09	\$ 556,398.41
Employee Benefits	\$ 202,846.71	\$ 185,582.43	\$ 388,429.14
Total Employee Costs	\$ 471,763.03	\$ 473,064.52	\$ 944,827.55
<u>Supplies & Materials</u>			
Equipment			
Professional Development Costs	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,880.65	\$ 10,880.65
Meeting Expenses	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 4,800.00
Supplies	\$ 1,274.15	\$ 1,507.44	\$ 2,781.59
Remote Communication Technology	\$ 9,910.24	\$ 11,229.84	\$ 21,140.08
Unallocated Funds (Projects TBD)		\$ 47,926.57	\$ 47,926.57
Total Supplies & Materials Cost	\$ 18,284.39	\$ 69,244.50	\$ 87,528.89
<u>Travel Cost</u>	\$ 1,953.80	\$ 1,541.16	\$ 3,494.96
<u>Administrative Cost</u>			
Indirect to LBCC, 5% of Coordination Funds	\$ 24,600.06	\$ 27,192.50	\$ 51,792.56
Total Coordination Expenditures	\$ 492,001.22	\$ 543,850.18	\$1,035,851.40
Ending Coordination Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Coordinated Enrollment**Personnel Costs**

Employee Salary	\$ 172,543.59	\$ 181,237.80	\$ 353,781.39
Employee Benefits	\$ 123,304.86	\$ 129,994.69	\$ 253,299.55
Total Employee Costs	\$ 295,848.45	\$ 311,232.49	\$ 607,080.94

Supplies & Materials

\$ 1,614.22	\$ 1,766.88	\$ 3,381.10
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Travel Cost

\$ 369.90	\$ 3,199.90	\$ 3,569.80
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Unallocated Funds (Projects TBD)

\$ -

Administrative Cost

Indirect to LBCC, 5% of Coordinated Enrollment Funds	\$ 14,891.64	\$ 15,809.95	\$ 30,701.59
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Total Coordinated Enrollment Expenditures

\$ 297,832.57	\$ 316,199.27	\$ 614,031.84
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Ending Coordinated Enrollment Balance

\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
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Pollywog**Personnel Costs**

Employee Salary	\$ 221,438.68	\$ 196,746.72	\$ 418,185.40
Employee Benefits	\$ 161,998.91	\$ 139,181.40	\$ 301,180.31
Total Employee Costs	\$ 383,437.59	\$ 335,928.12	\$ 719,365.71

Supplies & Materials

\$ 19,658.19	\$ 14,460.00	\$ 34,118.19
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Unallocated

\$ 10,683.94 \$ 10,683.94

Carry-Over Revenue

\$ 22,412.93		\$ 22,412.93
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Administrative Cost

Indirect to LBCC, 5% (Asset Mapping & SHIP only)	\$ 4,034.21		\$ 4,034.21
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Total Pollywog Expenditures

\$ 425,508.71	\$ 361,072.06	\$ 786,580.77
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Ending Pollywog Balance

\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
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Parenting Success Network**Personnel Costs**

Employee Salary	\$	49,448.40	\$	49,448.40
Employee Benefits	\$	46,987.56	\$	46,987.56
Total Employee Costs	\$	96,435.96	\$	96,435.96
Supplies & Materials	\$	21,989.54	\$	21,989.54
Lincoln County Coordinator	\$	92,000.00	\$	92,000.00
Subcontractors	\$	67,288.79	\$	67,288.79
Subcontractors (TFFF)	\$	60,000.00	\$	60,000.00
Unallocated Funds	\$	165,577.80	\$	165,577.80

Administrative Cost

Indirect to LBCC, 5%	\$	17,564.60	\$	17,564.60
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Total Parenting Success Network Expenditures	\$	503,292.09	\$	503,292.09
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Ending Parenting Success Network Balance	\$	-	\$	-
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Kindergarten Partnerships & Innovation

Alsea SD - Strengthening Rural Families	\$	13,046.22	\$	13,046.22
Central Linn SD	\$	13,932.67	\$	13,932.67
Corvallis SD	\$	33,019.91	\$	33,019.91
Greater Albany Public Schools	\$	18,614.21	\$	24,477.42
Harrisburg SD	\$	3,112.63	\$	12,148.28
Lebanon SD - Boys & Girls Club	\$	17,347.70	\$	8,415.24
Lincoln County SD	\$	20,075.23	\$	10,213.21
Monroe SD	\$	5,567.62	\$	7,941.45
Philomath SD	\$	17,787.69	\$	17,787.69
Santiam Canyon SD	\$	22,698.02	\$	22,698.02
Scio SD	\$	14,498.98	\$	4,801.87
Sweet Home SD	\$	10,006.27	\$	9,955.98
Year two Contracts TBD	\$	200,545.72	\$	200,545.72
Contract Management Wages	\$	5,999.04	\$	6,414.00
Contract Management Benefits	\$	3,523.41	\$	3,698.64
Indirect to LBCC, 4% of KPI	\$	6,501.89	\$	12,865.27
Total KPI Cost	\$	172,711.58	\$	334,496.99

Ending Kindergarten Partnership & Innovation Balance	\$	-	\$	-
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Birth To Five Literacy Funds

PSP Providers	\$	36,000.00	\$	36,000.00
Coastal Conference	\$	3,492.50	\$	3,500.00
PSN	\$	3,621.05	\$	9,777.27
Read for the Record	\$	3,061.48	\$	4,000.00
Indirect to LBCC, 4% of BTFLF	\$	407.00	\$	2,131.09
Total Birth to Five Literacy Funds Cost	\$	10,582.03	\$	55,408.36

Ending Birth To Five Literacy Funds Balance	\$	-	\$	-
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Title IV-B2 Funds Family Support

Community Services Consortium		\$	3,825.00	\$	3,825.00	
Young Roots		\$	7,650.00	\$	7,650.00	
Parenting Success Network		\$	11,475.00	\$	11,475.00	
Old Mill Center Healthy Families		\$	7,650.00	\$	7,650.00	
Pollywog	\$	7,480.18		\$	7,480.18	
TBD Contracts		\$	14,653.08	\$	14,653.08	
Contract Management Wages	\$	2,999.50	\$	3,089.52	\$	6,089.02
Contract Management Benefits	\$	1,761.49	\$	1,796.78	\$	3,558.27
Indirect to LBCC, 4% of Title IV Funds	\$	489.65	\$	2,005.57	\$	2,495.22
Total IV-B2 Family Support Cost	\$	12,730.82	\$	52,144.95	\$	64,875.77

Ending Title IV-B2 Family Support Balance	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
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Title IV-B2 Funds Family Preservation

Community Services Consortium			\$	9,200.00	\$	9,200.00
Family Tree Relief Nursery			\$	9,200.00	\$	9,200.00
Old Mill Center Relief Nursery			\$	9,200.00	\$	9,200.00
Pollywog	\$	6,609.99			\$	6,609.99
TBD Contracts			\$	32,269.75	\$	32,269.75
Contract Management Wages	\$	2,999.50	\$	3,207.00	\$	6,206.50
Contract Management Benefits	\$	1,761.50	\$	1,849.32	\$	3,610.82
Indirect to LBCC, 4% of Title IV Funds	\$	454.84	\$	2,597.04	\$	3,051.88
Total IV-B2 Family Preservation Cost	\$	11,825.83	\$	67,523.11	\$	79,348.94

Ending Title IV-B2 Family Preservation Balance	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
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Informational Items

To prioritize meeting time for items that need action or feedback, informational items will be included in the Council packet but not presented during the meeting.

Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Health Care Integration

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

Health Care Integration Work Group Meeting Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	9:30 am, September 8, 2026 Online Via Zoom
MEETING CALLED BY	Ashley Vermillion
PRESENTERS	Kristi Collins, EL Hub Director
WORKGROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Alicia Bublitz, Alisha DeVogele, Amy Bliege, Andrea Bartell, Ashley Vermillion, Desiree Stang, Erin Sedlacek, Itzel Coss, Kat Lavigne, Miranda Miller, Monica Boylan-Linn, Paul Smith
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Kelly Schell, Kristi Collins, LeAnne Trask, Matt Grams, Antonia Huerta, Jinguang Lin, Sam Rounsavell, Carmen Santacruz,
RECORDED	Yes

Agenda Topics

Discussion Item	Welcome and Introductions
Workgroup members introduced themselves in the Zoom chat.	

Special Presentation	Strategic Investment Options, Kristi Collins
Following the release of the 2026 Data Book, EL Hub staff created regional strategic investment recommendations using data analysis, the Community Asset Mapping project (featuring rural family perspectives), and the EL Hub Strategic Plan. These options align with Raise Up Oregon to guide funding and are designed for use by partner agencies across the 3-county region. Key Findings: • Changing demographics include slower overall growth, declining birth rates, and increasing diversity. • Scarcity of childcare housing and access due to regional shortage of affordable, high-quality care, particularly for infants and toddlers (e.g., zero publicly funded infant-toddler care in Lincoln County) • Significant gaps in educational, economic, and health outcomes between urban and rural communities. • Rising living costs, housing instability, and complex maternal/child/behavioral health needs continue to impact family stability. Investment Priorities: • Expand housing support, family navigation, resource coordination, and cross-agency referral tools (e.g., Pollywog, traditional health workers, and Unite Us). • Boost early childhood education, school readiness, and integrated maternal/behavioral healthcare. • Improve transportation options, expand rural access, strengthen tribal and community partnerships, and deliver culturally responsive services. • Invest in the early childhood workforce, cross-sector coordination, and ongoing regional data collection to track program outcomes.	

County-specific Needs:

Linn County: Despite hosting the largest share of Head Start and Preschool Promise slots, Linn County faces significant unmet childcare needs due to its large population of children under age 5. Rising housing costs and rent burdens are straining family economic stability, while uneven educational outcomes and growing behavioral health needs highlight a clear demand for targeted local interventions. Additionally, elevated rates of welfare involvement underscore the urgent need to strengthen early intervention, prevention programs, and family services.

Benton County: High housing costs serve as a primary challenge, driving families with young children out of less affordable areas and directly impacting local school systems. To relieve financial strain and support workforce participation, expanding childcare access and strengthening economic supports and family navigation remain vital priorities. Other challenges include persistent educational equity gaps between rural and urban communities, along with elevated levels of child poverty and overall threats to family well-being.

Lincoln County: Lincoln County faces severe housing constraints as vacation rentals limit affordable rental housing for local families. This is compounded by a critical lack of infant-toddler childcare, including zero publicly funded slots. The region also faces key educational hurdles around student attendance and school readiness, alongside a need for stronger support systems in child welfare, maternal and child health, rural transportation, and cross-agency service coordination.

Aligning with Raise Up Oregon, these initiatives aim to promote family well-being and improve child outcomes across all 3 counties. While state leadership updates the plan's next edition, expected regional impacts include expanded affordable childcare, better school readiness, stronger family economic stability, and improved maternal and child health outcomes. Ultimately, the data-informed investments will be tailored to reduce community disparities and foster stronger cross-county collaboration.

A member emphasized the need for age-demographic statistics on family units, advocating for greater visibility into youth-led families to better target early poverty prevention. They offered to share their specific data sources from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA)—which tracks county birth demographics, despite recent gap years and missing age brackets. The collaboration to improve reliable data reporting for future editions was welcomed.

Addressing questions about state engagement, Kristi noted that the data book has been shared with all elected officials from local community to statewide levels. While state officials find the data book's methodology interesting, it is primarily designed for and holds more opportunity with local county commissioners and community leaders. The data provides them with concrete priorities to guide municipal investments, system alignment, and future funding applications for local families.

Discussion Item	Partner Updates
	County Health Departments (Benton and Lincoln County Health were absent): Linn: A nursing vacancy is currently posted on GovernmentJobs, and the department plans to recruit two additional nurses for the Nurse Family Partnership relaunch. Current programs such as Babies First and Cocoon face waitlists due to staffing adjustments and increased demand for case management. To support families facing potential coverage loss, workgroups and community health workers are coordinating with Community Health Centers to ensure accurate, sensitive guidance. Additionally, the team continues to offer back-to-school immunization clinics, and Monica announced her recent promotion to Program Manager over WIC and Maternal, Child, and Family Health.
	Samaritan: Representatives from IHN-CCO and Samaritan Health Services shared updates on MultiCare, which is scheduled to launch on October 1st. While MultiCare brings strong rural health experience and robust population health capabilities from Washington, it is new to managing health plans, creating a joint learning opportunity as they integrate with IHN-CCO and Samaritan Health Plans. Community members will not see immediate operational changes on day one, as full integration begins after final agreements are signed. Plans include expanding resources, building ambulatory surgery centers and a standalone emergency department in Linn County, and enhancing primary and behavioral healthcare. Additionally, the IHN-CCO Transformation Team is tracking upcoming work requirement changes to strategize around potential coverage gaps for local families.
	Healthy Families Oregon: There is a current opening for a Family Support Specialist, and the agency continues to accept English-speaking referrals. While the Spanish-speaking waitlist has reached 6 months, partners are still encouraged to submit referrals. Additionally, as part of the Old Mill Center, the organization has open positions across multiple departments and is enrolling clients ages 3 and up for counseling in Corvallis and Albany. Young Roots OR: Due to recent growth, internal offerings - such as a full Rent Well class - are filling quickly, though new public offerings will launch this fall. Key upcoming initiatives include free weekly respite childcare to support young parents, Spanish childbirth classes in the Santiam corridor, cooking workshops, and healthy relationship classes to help break cycles of domestic violence. Additionally, renovations for the new childcare center are scheduled to break ground by December, with a target opening date of September 2027.
	Maternity Care and Family Health at Sam Health: To accommodate high demand for childbirth classes alongside full in-person offerings in Corvallis, there will be an addition of virtual classes. Additionally, there is an upcoming "Super Sibling" class for children aged 3 - 7 expecting a new sibling, and a continuous bi-weekly postpartum support group for pregnant and postpartum mothers navigating anxiety and depression. Family Tree Relief Nursery: The virtual "Baby and Me Tobacco Free" program continues, providing expectant mothers counseling, diaper/wipe vouchers, and postpartum support. Additionally, a free parent education series begins September 17th in Lebanon, with snacks and on-site childcare included. Finally, there are open spots across ECE classrooms in Sweet Home, Lebanon, and Albany for pregnant mothers and families with children up to age 5.

Discussion Item	Pollywog Update
From July to present, Pollywog's Family Resource Specialist has helped connect 98 families seeking resources across all 3 counties. The most requested resources were HRSN requests, utility, rent/mortgage, food, and clothing, prenatal classes and pregnancy support, and infant supplies. Families were also helped with hygiene products, preschool, family counseling services, and childcare. The August Parent Newsletter includes helpful information intended to build confidence in families and their children for the big transitions during the first days of preschool and kindergarten. The September Parent Newsletter includes helpful information on self-care for parent figures of young children and building a strong support community for better resiliency. Local family support agencies that can help with family resiliency are also included in the newsletter.	
Next Meeting	9:30 am, October 13, 2026 Online Via Zoom
Meeting Adjourned	10:25 am

Program Updates

Family Advisory Council

Brief Summary of the Family Advisory Committee (FAC)

The Family Advisory Committee (FAC) currently consists of six dedicated parents who meet on a quarterly basis. Throughout these sessions, members participate in professional development and skill-building training covering a broad range of vital topics, including early childhood education, literacy development, and digital navigation to engage with elected representatives. Most recently, on September 11th, the committee hosted a workshop focused on developing effective communication strategies.

To maximize impact, these training sessions incorporate interactive Q&A segments and practical exercises, allowing parents to apply new concepts in real time. Feedback from the recent communication workshop was overwhelmingly positive, with several participants sharing that the session provided precisely the tools and insights they needed.

To ensure full accessibility and inclusion, all meetings and training sessions are offered in both English and Spanish, tailored to the language preferences of our members. Parents frequently receive supplementary educational materials and books in their preferred language from guest speakers.

The EL Hub extends its sincere gratitude to our FAC members for their ongoing commitment, active leadership, and dedication to strengthening our community.