



Early Learning Hub

of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

Governance Council Packet April 2026

Governance Council
Early Learning Hub
April 2, 2026
lblearlylearninghub.org

Packet Overview

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

1. Agenda
2. Council Vacancies
3. Consent Items
 - a. March Council Meeting Minutes
 - b. March Health Care Integration Minutes
 - c. March P-3 & ECCC Minutes
4. Discussion Item
 - a. EL Hub Charter – Approval Needed
 - b. LBCC Changes – Informational
 - c. Confirm Title IV-B2 Allocation – Approval Needed
5. Program Updates
 - a. Business Liaison



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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

Bell Burke
Department of Human Services

Dean Craig
Willamette Workforce Partnership

Bonnie Dietrich
Greater Albany Public Schools

Barbara Dougherty
Samaritan Early Learning Center

Susan Halliday
Philomath School District

Jason Hay
*Linn Benton Lincoln
Education Service District*

Tammi Hillhouse
Department of Human Services

Paulina Kaiser
Samaritan Health Services

Stephany Koehne
Kids & Company of Linn County

Andrea Lengel
Community Services Consortium

Dale Moon
Linn-Benton Community College

Paul Smith
Strengthening Rural Families

Diane Wilkinson
Lincoln County School District

Lynnette Wynkoop
Child Care Resource & Referral



Early Learning Hub

of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

Governance Council Meeting

April 2, 2026

2:00 – 4:00 pm

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 – Zoom Participants List
- II. Public Comment
- III. Director's Report
- IV. Current Board Vacancies
 - a. Benton – 2
 - b. Lincoln – 4
 - c. Linn - 2
- V. Consent Items
 - a. March Council Meeting Minutes
 - b. March Health Care Integration Minutes
 - c. March P-3 & ECCC Minutes
- VI. Discussion Item
 - a. EL Hub Charter – Approval Needed
 - b. LBCC Changes – Informational
 - c. Confirm Title IV-B2 Allocation – Approval Needed
- VII. Next Meeting – May 7, 2026
- VIII. 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.

Consent Items

March Council Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting Commenced	2:02 pm, March 5, 2026 Online via Zoom
Meeting Called By	Paul Smith
Staff Members Present	Kristi Collins, Matt Grams, Sam Rounsavell
Version	Draft
Recorded	Yes

Agenda topics

Roll Call	Board Members Present or Absent							
	Present	Absent		Present	Absent		Present	Absent
DeAnn Brown Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Susan Halliday Benton County K-12	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Andrea Lengel Lincoln County Human & Social Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Belit Burke Linn County Human & Social Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jason Hay Education Service District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dale Moon Fiscal Agent Non-voting member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dean Craig Linn County Business	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tammi Hillhouse Oregon Department of Human Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bettina Schempf Benton County Human & Social Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bonney Dietrich Linn County K-12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Todd Jeter Coordinated Care Alicia Bublitz, proxy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Smith Benton County Early Childhood Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barbara Dougherty Lincoln County Early Childhood Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paulina Kaiser Benton County Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diane Wilkinson Lincoln County K-12	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laura Farmer Benton County Parent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stephany Koehne Linn County Early Childhood Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lynnette Wynkoop Child Care Resource & Referral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quorum								
A Quorum was present. There are currently 18 voting Board members, and 10 were present at this meeting.								

Discussion Item	Welcome and Introductions
Alicia Bublitz introduced herself as Todd Jeter's proxy. Todd will be leaving his position at IHN-CCO next week. Board members introduced themselves and shared about their sector work.	

Director's Report	LBL Hub Updates
Kristi Collins shared updates on the state legislative session and potential budget impacts. Current information suggests the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) may receive a 1% budget reduction, but it is expected to be absorbed at the state administrative level, meaning the Hub does not anticipate cuts to local programs or grantees at this time. She noted that final decisions will not be known until the state budget is officially approved.	

Kristi also highlighted upcoming events and outreach activities. On March 12, she will participate in Leadership Corvallis Education Day, presenting on early learning alongside representatives from Oregon State University and other education partners.

She announced the return of Baby Blast on March 17 in Lebanon, a community event that connects families with infants and young children to local services and resources. The event will be held at the Boys & Girls Club of the Greater Santiam, with partners distributing books, baby supplies, and donated safety equipment such as baby gates. The goal is to serve approximately 150 families in East Linn County while promoting early literacy and family support resources.

Finally, Kristi noted that April will involve significant travel, as she will be attending several conferences and statewide meetings related to early learning. Email response times may be slower during that month due to these commitments.

Fiscal Report

Matt Grams

Matt Grams presented the second quarter financial report (Oct–Dec 2025), outlining revenue and expenditures across Coordination, Pollywog, Coordinated Enrollment, Title IV, KPI, and Birth-to-Five Literacy. Spending is generally on track with the biennium timeline, with Pollywog appearing slightly higher due to early funding for Asset Mapping, SHIP, and CCBF.

Most funds currently balance to zero, except Pollywog, which receives a flat monthly allocation. Some partner reimbursements are lower so far because expenses are submitted seasonally.

Matt also reported that all KPI contracts are complete and signed, and all districts participated in KPI activities this year. The Fiscal Oversight Committee reviewed the report prior to submission to DELC.

Fiscal Oversight. If there are questions, board members can contact FO committee members Diane or Jason.

Board Vacancies

Vacant Board Positions

Kristi and Paul reviewed the current distribution of vacancies across the three counties:

- Benton County: 2 vacancies
- Lincoln County: 4 vacancies
- Linn County: 3 vacancies



Consent Agenda Vote		February 2026 Meeting Minutes										
The Board was asked to approve the consent agenda as presented.												
Motion: Dean Craig												
2 nd : Lynnette Wynkoop												
	Yes	No	Abstain		Yes	No	Abstain		Yes	No	Abstain	
DeAnn Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susan Halliday	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Andrea Lengel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Belit Burke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jason Hay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bettina Schempf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dean Craig	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tammi Hillhouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bonney Dietrich	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Todd Jeter by proxy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Diane Wilkinson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Barbara Dougherty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paulina Kaiser	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lynnette Wynkoop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laura Farmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephany Koehne	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Voting Results			Individual Votes Cast by Board Members (Yes, No, Abstain)									
Abstentions: Susan Halliday, Todd Jeter, Stephany Koehne, Andrea Lengel												
The Board voted to approve the consent agenda as presented.												

Discussion Item		Board Member Application										
<p>The Board reviewed an application from Andrea Bartell, Director of Young Roots Oregon, to serve as a Housing sector representative. Kristi Collins shared that Andrea was recommended by current board members and leads an organization that supports young parents and parenting youth, providing parenting education and other services. Young Roots Oregon has previously partnered with and received funding from the Early Learning Hub.</p> <p>Board members noted the organization's strong collaboration in the region and the importance of filling vacancies in the housing sector across the three counties. Andrea expressed interest in serving and submitted an application.</p>												



Discussion Item Vote		Board Member Application										
The Board was asked to approve Andrea Bartell as Housing Representative for Linn County.												
Motion: Susan Halliday												
2nd: Paulina Kaiser												
	Yes	No	Abstain		Yes	No	Abstain		Yes	No	Abstain	
DeAnn Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susan Halliday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Andrea Lengel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Belit Burke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jason Hay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bettina Schempf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dean Craig	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tammi Hillhouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bonney Dietrich	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Todd Jeter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diane Wilkinson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Barbara Dougherty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paulina Kaiser	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lynnette Wynkoop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laura Farmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephany Koehne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Voting Results			Individual Votes Cast by Board Members (Yes, No, Abstain)									
Abstentions: None												
The Board voted to approve the item as presented.												

Discussion Item		Title IV-B2 Distribution										
<p>Kristi presented a proposal for distributing Title IV-B2 funds, focused on supporting families with children prenatal to age 3, a population identified by the Board as a priority and not typically served through other funding streams.</p> <p>The proposal included two funding categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Preservation funds to be distributed through partner agencies to provide emergency financial assistance for families, with roughly equal allocations to each county. • Family Support funds to support parenting education, home visiting services, and professional development for home visitors through agencies such as Young Roots, Parenting Success Network, and Healthy Families. <p>Kristi outlined two options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the proposal and move forward with contracts immediately to distribute funds quickly. 2. Request brief funding proposals from agencies and return to the Board for approval at the April meeting. <p>Board members discussed the distribution across counties, noting that Lincoln County would receive slightly less funding due to population size and the number of agencies serving each area. Lincoln County representatives agreed the approach was reasonable.</p> <p>The Board expressed interest in receiving updates from funded agencies on how the funds are used. Kristi noted that improved reporting tools will help collect and share program outcomes with the Board. The discussion concluded with support for option 1 to move forward quickly and distribute funds.</p>												

Discussion Item Vote			Title IV-B2 Distribution								
The Board was asked to approve the Title IV-B2 Distribution option 1 as proposed.											
Motion: Susan Halliday											
2nd: Andrea Lengel											
	Yes	No	Abstain		Yes	No	Abstain		Yes	No	Abstain
DeAnn Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susan Halliday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Andrea Lengel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Belit Burke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jason Hay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bettina Schempf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dean Craig	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tammi Hillhouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bonney Dietrich	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Todd Jeter by proxy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diane Wilkinson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barbara Dougherty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paulina Kaiser	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lynnette Wynkoop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laura Farmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephany Koehne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Voting Results			Individual Votes Cast by Board Members (Yes, No, Abstain)								
Abstentions: None											
The Board voted to approve the item as presented.											

Discussion Item		El Hub Bylaws
<p>Stephanie acting as spokesperson for the Regulatory Committee walked the Board through the highlighted text in the EL Hub Charter. The updates to the Hub's bylaws (charter) have been proposed to align with new DELC regulations and rule language.</p> <p>Key updates included renaming the Governing Board to the Governance Council and the Parent Leadership Committee to the Family Advisory Committee to match state terminology. Additional changes clarified the Hub Director's role and responsibilities, established that the Fiscal Oversight Committee will meet quarterly, and created a new Compliance and Regulatory Committee to help ensure the Hub remains aligned with state requirements.</p> <p>During the discussion, board members raised questions about language describing the relationship between the Governance Council and the backbone agency (LBCC), particularly regarding the hiring and supervision of the Hub Director. Members expressed concern that the draft language suggesting the Director would be hired "in consultation" with the Governance Council might imply limited authority or involvement for the board. To better reflect the partnership between the Governance Council and the backbone agency, members recommended revising the wording to emphasize collaboration in the hiring process.</p> <p>The Board also discussed the new section required by state rules describing conflict resolution processes and procedures in the event the Governance Council cannot continue or must transition responsibilities. Members felt the section needed additional clarification and coordination with LBCC leadership to ensure it accurately reflects both state expectations and the operational relationship with the backbone agency.</p> <p>There was general consensus that the majority of the updates were necessary to remain compliant with DELC rules and reflected the structure the Board is already operating under. The</p>		

Board agreed to approve the updated bylaws with the recommended language changes, while tabling the conflict resolution/transition section until the April meeting to allow time for further review and input.

Discussion Item Vote		El Hub Bylaws										
The Board was asked to approve the proposed changes to the El Hub Charter, with the modification suggested, acknowledging that the Conflict resolution section is still under development.												
Motion: Lynnette Wynkoop												
2nd: Susan Halliday												
	Yes	No	Abstain		Yes	No	Abstain		Yes	No	Abstain	
DeAnn Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susan Halliday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Andrea Lengel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Belit Burke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jason Hay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bettina Schempf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dean Craig	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tammi Hillhouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bonney Dietrich	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Todd Jeter by proxy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diane Wilkinson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Barbara Dougherty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paulina Kaiser	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lynnette Wynkoop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laura Farmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephany Koehne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Voting Results			Individual Votes Cast by Board Members (Yes, No, Abstain)									
Abstentions: None												
The Board voted to approve the item as presented.												

Next Meeting	2:00 pm, April 2, 2026 Online via Zoom
Meeting Adjourned	3:14 pm

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, March 10, 2026 Online Via Zoom
MEETING CALLED BY	LeAnne Trask
WORKGROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Amy Bliege, Maria Elosa, Karol Elizondo, Misha Mayers, Katie Minich, Erin Sedlacek, Paul Smith, Desiree Stang, Ashley Vermillion, Toni Whitehead, Sara Yaeggy
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Kristi Collins, Matt Grams, Antonia Huerta, Jinguang Lin, Ana Reyes, Sam Rounsavell, Carmen Santacruz, Leanne Trask
RECORDED	Yes

Agenda Topics

Discussion Item	Welcome and Introductions
Workgroup members introduced themselves.	

Special Presentation	Asset Mapping Final Summary Report
<p>LeAnne presented the final report for the Pollywog Asset Mapping Project, a two-year initiative funded by the Oregon Health Authority through the Public Health Equity Grant and the State Health Improvement Plan. Pollywog and Early Learning Hub staff conducted the project across 15 rural communities in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties to better understand local strengths, resources, barriers, and service gaps affecting families. The project emphasized gathering direct input from families through community meetings where participants mapped where they access services and completed short surveys about topics such as internet access, banking, laundry facilities, and how they connect with services like ODHS and WIC. Communities included in the study had fewer than 20,000 residents and had at least two key amenities (library, health center, or grocery store).</p> <p>Findings showed strong community pride, close-knit relationships, and a deep sense of identity tied to local culture, schools, and natural surroundings. However, families across all three counties consistently identified similar challenges, including significant childcare shortages, limited health and behavioral health services, transportation barriers, declining local businesses, and a lack of activities for youth. Housing affordability, homelessness, and substance use were also noted as growing concerns in several communities. While internet access has improved in many areas, some rural gaps remain.</p> <p>LeAnne noted that the findings will help Pollywog better support families through navigation and referrals and will inform advocacy, planning, and strategic investment decisions. Individual reports were created for each community, along with a comprehensive 60-page summary report, all of which are available in English and Spanish on the Pollywog website. The data has also been shared with the Oregon Health Authority and will help track changes in community</p>	



needs over time. LeAnne concluded by thanking community partners and committee members for their support and feedback throughout the project.

Discussion Item	Partner Updates
	<p>Kat Lavigne, Assistant Program Manager for Lincoln County Public Health’s Maternal, Child, and Family Health (MCFH) programs, provided an update on services and program developments in Lincoln County. She shared that the department continues to offer several programs supporting families, including Babies First, Cocoon, Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), Parents as Teachers, WIC, and Family Connects. Kat noted that the NFP program has expanded through NFPX, allowing the program to serve later pregnancies and, in some cases, multiparous families with higher levels of need. She also highlighted progress in implementing the Parents as Teachers program, which aligns with ODHS Family First funding and has open eligibility.</p> <p>Kat explained that the Family Connects program will change in June, with Lincoln County no longer directly operating it. Instead, Linn County will provide the service through a partnership in which a nurse will travel to Lincoln County to deliver visits, while Lincoln County will assist with outreach, referrals, and connecting families to additional supports such as Babies First or Parents as Teachers. She also described the Cocoon program, which partners with OHSU to support children and youth with special health care needs from birth to age 20 through coordinated care planning, system navigation, and support for adolescents transitioning to adult services.</p> <p>Kat emphasized that all MCFH programs are free and flexible in how families participate, with visits able to take place in homes or community locations such as libraries or clinics. Visits typically occur monthly, though frequency can increase based on family needs. She encouraged partners to refer families by emailing the MCFH shared inbox or by directing families to the program’s self-referral form. Kat concluded by sharing her contact information and inviting partners to collaborate on outreach and engagement efforts in Lincoln County. klavigne@co.lincoln.or.us</p>
	<p>Toni Whitehead, RN with Linn County Family Connects, provided an update on Linn County Maternal Child Health programs. Toni shared that Linn County continues to operate its three core home visiting programs—Babies First, Cocoon, and Family Connects. She also confirmed that Linn County will begin administering the Family Connects program for Lincoln County, providing staffing, scheduling, and data tracking while partnering with Lincoln County on outreach and referrals. A part-time nurse position will support service delivery in Lincoln County, with minimal disruption expected for families currently receiving services.</p> <p>Toni also noted that Linn County’s Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program has been placed on hold while the county evaluates funding sources to ensure long-term financial sustainability. In the meantime, outreach efforts will focus on promoting Babies First, Cocoon, and Family Connects. She highlighted upcoming outreach opportunities, including tabling at a Disabilities Awareness Month event and the upcoming Baby Blast event, which will help promote programs and strengthen community connections.</p> <p>Toni encouraged partners to use the Linn County Maternal Child Health website to learn more about available programs, view staff information, and submit referrals, noting that self-referrals, community partner referrals, Unite Us referrals, and OCHIN/Epic referrals are all accepted.</p>



Karol Elizondo, a home visiting nurse with Benton County Maternal and Child Health, provided a brief update on behalf of the Benton County team. She shared that there were no major program updates this month and that Benton County continues to offer the same maternal and child health home visiting programs as neighboring counties. Karol encouraged partners to continue sending referrals and noted that the team is available to answer questions or provide presentations to organizations interested in learning more about their services.

Erin Sedlacek provided a brief update regarding health and parenting education resources available across Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties. She shared links in the chat to free health education programming and noted that Samaritan Health Services supports the Lincoln County portion of the Parenting Success Network. Due to recent funding changes affecting parenting education, Samaritan is working with LBCC to explore options for offering parenting education virtually, with plans expected to be finalized by April.

Erin also highlighted an upcoming Spanish-language health education program, **Tomando Control de Su Salud**, designed for individuals with chronic health conditions. She noted that additional participants are needed for the program to move forward and encouraged partners to refer interested community members before the program's March 31 start date.

Misha Mayers from ODHS shared several updates regarding SNAP, Medicaid (OHP), and data-sharing policies.

She explained that the **Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) SNAP work requirements** were expected to affect some families this month, particularly those with children over age 14. However, the compliance deadline has been extended by one month. This additional time will allow partners and WorkSource to reach families who may be affected and help them connect with the employment or case management supports they need to maintain their SNAP benefits.

Misha also provided an update on **future Medicaid (OHP) work requirement changes** tied to federal legislation. Similar to SNAP work requirements, these would apply to certain adults who are not disabled and do not have children under age 14 in the household. These changes are not immediate and are currently expected to take effect during **OHP applications or renewals beginning in 2027**. State agencies are working to align SNAP and Medicaid requirements as closely as possible to reduce confusion and avoid families having to meet two different sets of work-activity rules.

Finally, Misha shared information about **Oregon Health Authority (OHA) data sharing with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)**. Following a recent court decision, some limited data sharing has begun while litigation continues. The information that may be shared includes basic identifying and eligibility details—such as citizenship status, address, phone number, date of birth, and Medicaid ID—for individuals who have received federally funded services and are not lawfully residing. She emphasized that families considering disenrollment from OHP due to safety concerns should understand that some information may already be in federal systems, and that losing coverage could negatively affect their access to care. Misha shared English and Spanish informational resources in the chat for partners to reference and share with families.

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/hsd/ohp/pages/federal-changes.aspx>

OHA Data Sharing Talking Points for Community Partners:

§ [English](#)

§ [Spanish](#)

Discussion Item	Pollywog Update
	<p>Sam shared updates about recent and upcoming Pollywog newsletters. She first asked new participants to send their email addresses so they could be added to the group's Basecamp, where meeting minutes, flyers, and updates are shared.</p> <p>Sam noted that the February newsletter, created in partnership with EIECE, focused on <i>Why Inclusion Matters in Early Childhood</i>. It highlighted inclusive classroom practices, featured teacher-written vignettes, and included photos showing what inclusion looks like in real classrooms.</p> <p>The March newsletter focused on <i>Spring Break Fun for Families</i>, featuring low-cost activities such as visiting parks, exploring puddles, swimming, library events, and simple crafts families can do at home.</p> <p>Looking ahead, Sam shared several upcoming newsletter themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Late March: Easter event guide highlighting local community events ● May: Photography Month, with tips for taking better pictures of children ● June: Family Summer Event Guide featuring activities and events for families ● July: Positive Parenting Month resources <p>LeAnne also acknowledged Sam's extensive work gathering information for these newsletters—especially large guides like the Easter and Holiday Resource Guides—which require significant outreach to collect and verify community event information for families.</p>

Discussion Item	New Business
	<p>With Deanna no longer serving as committee chair, LeAnne noted that the group needed a new chair. Ashley Vermillion from Family Tree Relief Nursery volunteered to take on the role, and LeAnne will follow up with her to finalize the transition. LeAnne also noted that she will continue serving as facilitator, so the chair role will not involve a heavy load.</p> <p>The upcoming Baby Blast event will be on March 17 from 10:00 am–12:00 pm at the Boys & Girls Club in Lebanon. Organizers expect around 150 families to attend, with 25–30 partner organizations hosting tables.</p> <p>The event will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Partner resource tables ● Food and refreshments (including donated coffee and snacks) ● Raffle prizes throughout the event ● Passport Bingo activities for families with grand prize drawings



Baby Blast was a popular annual event before COVID and is now being revived, particularly to support families in East Linn County, where fewer family events are available.

Pollywog also received a large donation of baby safety gates through a community connection with Crossroads Community in Salem. Amazon donated approximately 6,000 gates, valued at around \$100 each, and local agencies were invited to distribute them. Pollywog has already received about 70 gates, with additional pallets expected. Some will likely be distributed at Baby Blast to families who need them.

Several additional tabling and outreach opportunities were mentioned, including:

- Lebanon Business Expo on 4/16
- ESD Special Education Fair on 4/7
- Albany “Fun in the Park” summer series (weekly events held at different parks) July – Aug 2026

LeAnne suggested including a list of upcoming community events in meeting minutes so partners can participate if interested.

Next Meeting	9:30 am, April 14, 2026 Online Via Zoom
Meeting Adjourned	10:35 am



P-3 Alignment & Early Childhood Coordinating Council

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

P-3 Alignment & Early Childhood Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	9:30 am, March 18, 2026 Online via Zoom
MEETING CALLED BY	Susan Halliday, Lynnette Wynkoop, Stephany Koehne
WORKGROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Donna Brown, Kelsey Culbertson, Susan Halliday, Nicole Kalita, Stephany Koehne, Nilly Livesay, Kimberly McCutcheon Gross, Paul Smith, Diane Wilkinson, Lynnette Wynkoop
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Kristi Collins, Matt Grams, Antonio Huerta, Jinguang Lin, Sam Rounsavell, Kelly Schell
RECORDED	Yes

P-3 Alignment Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	Welcome and Introductions
Work Group Members introduced themselves.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	KPI Scope of Work for Contracts
Susan reviewed the KPI initiatives from all twelve school districts in the region.	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Boys & Girls Club of the Greater Santiam (Lebanon): Provides take-home homework packets with engaging, hands-on activities to strengthen early learning and promote meaningful parent-child interaction at home. 2. Central Linn SD: Uses funding to sustain an early literacy program for 3- and 4-year-olds by supporting instructor salary and benefits. 3. Greater Albany Public Schools: Expands early literacy through parent-child Play and Learn classes and supports kindergarten readiness with a structured transition program, including teacher planning, student assessment, and inclusion supports. 4. Strengthening Rural Families (Santiam Canyon): Operates a preschool focused on kindergarten readiness, offering developmentally appropriate instruction, family engagement, and individualized support for children ages 4-5. 5. Strengthening Rural Families (Alsea): Strengthens preschool-elementary alignment and provides family engagement activities that support social-emotional development and early learning for children ages 0-5. 6. Strengthening Rural Families (Philomath): Delivers a part-time preschool program focused on kindergarten readiness, with strong family engagement, developmental support, and collaboration with the school district. 7. Lincoln County SD: Enhances early literacy and transitions through family literacy kits, engagement events, and collaboration between preschool and kindergarten staff. 8. Sweet Home SD: Offers a Kindergarten Boot Camp to build school readiness and provides school supplies to support incoming kindergarteners. 9. Scio SD: Hosts monthly family play groups and a Kindergarten Jumpstart week to build school readiness, strengthen relationships, and support smooth transitions into kindergarten. 	



- 10. **Harrisburg SD:** Engages families through literacy events and kindergarten kickoff activities while partnering with local preschools to distribute learning materials and build connections.
- 11. **Corvallis SD:** Focuses on inclusive early learning and kindergarten transitions through professional development, cross-system collaboration, and coordinated support for educators and families.
- 12. **Monroe SD:** Provides a Kindergarten Jump Start program that helps students and families build familiarity with school routines, teachers, and peers before the school year begins.

Kristi gave an update on a new KPI reporting structure through DELC, mentioning a move away from Excel-heavy reports to a more streamlined system using Smartsheets. Work is now grouped into broader “initiatives” (like Kindergarten Jumpstart), which allows multiple districts’ efforts to be reported together. Districts identified their initiatives themselves, and the Hub compiles and submits quarterly reports, making things more efficient and reducing duplication. Initial feedback from DELC was positive, noting an appropriate level of detail.

Kristi also mentioned that this is the first cycle needing DELC approval for KPI contracts over \$15,000. While there were some concerns about turnaround times, the process went smoother than expected, thanks to timely support from their grant manager. Once approved, contracts were quickly sent out to subcontractors via DocuSign. Overall, the new reporting and contracting processes are working well, with plans for continued improvement in the coming quarters.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Early Literacy Funds for K-12
	<p>The workgroup discussed upcoming coordination around early literacy funding for K–12, including its link to summer learning opportunities. Susan mentioned that this will be a main focus at the April 3 regional superintendents meeting, where districts will review their current early literacy grants in a format similar to the KPI scope of work. She also expressed interest in understanding how districts are approaching summer learning grants, especially as some might consider shifting efforts like Kindergarten Jumpstart programs into summer-funded initiatives to free up early literacy funds for other needs.</p> <p>Susan pointed out that summer learning grants are competitive and include a scoring system with bonus points based on district literacy outcomes, which could influence district applications. She stressed the importance of getting a clear picture across KPI, early literacy, and summer learning funding streams to identify alignment and coordination opportunities. The workgroup was asked to suggest key questions and points for the superintendent-level discussion.</p> <p>Topics of discussion included the need to align and integrate initiatives across funding sources instead of working in isolation. The group highlighted the value of showing connections between early learning programs, like Jumpstart, and long-term academic results to improve future funding prospects. They also talked about balancing academic focus with play-based approaches in summer programs, especially for younger kids, and whether flexible models can meet grant requirements. Additional input stressed the importance of social-emotional learning, inclusion strategies for children with diverse needs, and ensuring smooth transitions into kindergarten.</p>



Kristi encouraged ongoing exploration of blending and braiding funding to maximize impact and reach more children. She shared examples of KPI-funded work to support districts seeking ideas.

Finally, the group recognized the importance of preventing summer learning loss through engaging, play-based literacy activities. They also briefly mentioned new statewide efforts, like expanding Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, as part of the broader early literacy efforts.

P-3 Alignment & Early Childhood Coordinating Council Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	Welcome additional participants
Work Group Members introduced themselves.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Every Child Belongs
<p>Lynnette shared updates on the Every Child Belongs initiative (https://everychildbelongs.org/). She mentioned that the program has now expanded statewide into Phase 3, incorporating feedback from earlier phases to improve systems and processes. The CCR&R is close to completing the hire of a mental health consultant to support the expanded service delivery, and Lynnette plans to introduce the new team member once they’re onboarded.</p> <p>Lynnette reviewed initial data from across the state, noting over 200 support requests so far, with recent increases linked to outreach efforts. Most requests come from center-based programs, indicating a need to better connect with home-based providers, who may feel more isolated. Most cases are preventative rather than urgent, with a low risk of immediate expulsion. The children most often referred for support are 4-year-olds, though some younger children are also being monitored closely.</p> <p>Additional data shows that some children receiving support are already linked to services like early intervention or speech therapy. New data collection efforts will also include behavioral health services. Requests are mainly for infant and early childhood mental health consultation, with fewer requests for technical assistance (TA). This may change as staffing capacity grows. Lynnette pointed out that TA usually involves support at the program or teacher level, while mental health consultation allows for more direct work with children and families.</p> <p>In discussions, the workgroup emphasized the importance of understanding broader social factors—such as poverty and family stress—that can impact behavior. Lynnette noted that this information isn’t always available at intake, especially for TA requests, but might be collected during more in-depth engagement through mental health consultation. She agreed to look for ways to better capture this data going forward. Overall, the program is moving forward well, with strong support and ongoing improvements as it continues to expand.</p>	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Parenting Educator Celebration & Literacy Speaking Event
<p>Nilly Livesay provided an update on the upcoming Parenting Educator Celebration and Literacy Speaking Event, which are funded through Birth-to-Five literacy dollars. The event, titled “Bringing Literacy to Life,” is scheduled for May 7 and will feature both a daytime session at LBCC and an evening session at Corvallis High School. It’s geared toward educators, caregivers,</p>	



and families, focusing on practical, play-based strategies to support early literacy for children ages 0–7.

Nilly mentioned that the event will include a presentation by an OSU early childhood literacy specialist, covering topics like pre-reading, pre-writing, phonics, and vocabulary development, all through engaging, hands-on activities. There will also be a curated book fair, literacy-themed giveaways, and interactive resources for families. The evening session will provide childcare and Spanish translation to boost accessibility, while the daytime session will include lunch and professional development credits.

The workgroup discussed ways to enhance the event through partnerships and outreach. Ideas included inviting community organizations such as United Way to share information about Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, and connecting with local groups like Altrusa for additional early literacy support. Members stressed the importance of promoting the event through their networks once the flyer is ready. Nilly also mentioned needing more logistical support, especially for event coordination, and welcomed volunteer ideas. Overall, the group is excited about the event and its potential to promote early literacy through accessible, community-focused engagement.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Joint Professional Learning
<p>The workgroup talked about the need to strengthen and maintain collaborative professional learning opportunities, especially those related to literacy funding and the science of reading efforts. Although there have been some promising starts, competing priorities have hindered maintaining momentum and completing initiatives. These efforts need to stay visible, opportunities for collaboration should be recognized, and connections among partners should not be overlooked amidst busy schedules.</p> <p>The group suggested several strategies to keep progress moving, including better information sharing and coordination. Susan mentioned that platforms like Basecamp could be used more effectively to highlight relevant training, events, and resources. Kimberly McCutcheon Gross offered to connect the team with training opportunities from the community inclusion group, and Susan expressed interest in strengthening those ties, along with ongoing science of reading initiatives in local districts.</p> <p>Kristi suggested adding a standing agenda item to monthly meetings focused on professional development and joint learning opportunities, which the group supported as a way to stay visible and promote ongoing sharing. Lynnette also shared an upcoming event, the Coastal Conference on April 10–11 in Newport, which will focus on literacy, transitions, and family engagement, with bilingual options and networking opportunities. Overall, the group agreed it’s important to establish more consistent ways to share information, build connections, and keep momentum for collaborative professional learning.</p>	

DISCUSSION ITEM	EL Hub Sector Plan
<p>Kristi explained that the Early Learning Hub Governance Council has delegated sector planning responsibilities to the Regional Stewardship Committee, which is part of this workgroup. The sector plan is a state-mandated process to evaluate the current state of early learning and preschool in the region, usually based on data from the state. However, Kristi pointed out that</p>	



the state data can be outdated, so the Hub intends to use its own, more current local data for this work.

She mentioned that the state likely uses this process to guide upcoming legislative decisions about Preschool Promise and Oregon Pre-K funding, including potential requests for continued or increased support. Kristi highlighted that this workgroup will be important in reviewing data and helping shape the sector plan once the templates and guidance are available. Although more details and timelines are still to come, she wanted to introduce the topic early to prepare members for future discussions.

NEXT MEETING	9:30 am, April 15, 2026 Online via Zoom
MEETING ADJOURNED	10:30 am



Discussion Items

EL Hub Charter

LBCC Changes

Confirm Title IV-B2 Allocation



Program Updates

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

Business Liaison

