

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties Health Care Integration Work Group Meeting Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	9:30 am, June 9, 2026 Online Via Zoom
MEETING CALLED BY	Ashley Vermillion
WORKGROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Rocio Badger, Amy Bliege, Monica Boylan, Ash Gladstone, Laura Jimenez, Misha Mayers, Courtney Paschke, Paul Smith, Christopher Spence, Desiree Stang
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Kristi Collins, Matt Grams, Antonia Huerta, Jinguang Lin, Sam Rounsavell, Carmen Santacruz
RECORDED	Yes

Agenda Topics

Discussion Item	Welcome and Introductions
Workgroup members introduced themselves.	

Special Presentation	Gaby Esquivel, Maternal Care Coordinator, Samaritan Lebanon Health Center OBGYN
<p>Gaby announced that Lebanon OBGYN and the Gerard Burr Center Labor and Delivery resumed full 24-7 services in late April following a temporary pause. As part of a broader standardization effort, the building has been renamed Samaritan Lebanon Medical Center and is staffed by certified nurse midwives and a long-term contracted OBGYN provider. Recruitment remains active for additional OBGYNs, midwives, and laborists.</p> <p>Gaby highlighted that the clinic has transitioned to a team model of care, aligning with the practice model used at the Corvallis OBGYN midwifery office. Under this setup, patients will no longer be assigned to a single primary provider but will instead see various available providers across their standard prenatal appointment schedule. Gaby noted that the clinic's prenatal providers will not handle hospital deliveries. Instead, separate 24-7 on-call OBGYN providers will manage care at the hospital. To help patients navigate this change, the team is partnering with marketing to create a "meet the provider" handout. Gaby emphasized that the clinic is fully open, actively accepting all early or late patient transfers, and scheduling via phone and MyChart.</p> <p>The workgroup asked if there were any web links or news articles available to share with families regarding the updated system. Gaby responded that while some provider information is still pending, short bios, the best link is https://samhealth.org/find-a-location/samaritan-health-clinic-lebanon/</p>	

Discussion Item	Partner Updates
<p>Monica Boylan gave an update for the Linn County Health Department. She announced that starting July 1, Linn County will absorb the Family Connects program for Lincoln County through a new regional partnership. To support this initiative, they have hired Michelle Schuer, an</p>	

experienced IBCLC who is very familiar with the local demographics and community resources. Michelle is scheduled to start on June 15. Monica emphasized that referral pathways on the coast will remain unchanged; Lincoln County will continue to triage and assess incoming referrals to prevent any duplication of services or confusion for community partners.

Monica also provided updates on facility construction and programmatic expansions in Linn County. The building renovation is nearing completion, and a crisis services team will eventually share the facility using separate hallways. The crisis team plans a two-year scale-up period before implementing 24-hour services, which will open up opportunities for warm handoffs to perinatal-focused mental health providers. Regarding their home visiting programs, the regular Cocoon program nurse is returning in mid-June, and the team is collaborating with the Developmental Disabilities (DD) department to improve co-case management for shared clients. Monica also noted that OHSU students recently helped establish a formalized internal referral protocol between their nursing teams and WIC to ensure no pregnant or postpartum clients fall through the cracks.

Turning to food security and community outreach, Monica discussed the Food for Health initiative, noting that Diego's local farmer food box program launched last week. Slots are very limited this year due to precise allocations given to specific partners like Young Roots, prompting the team to heavily triage openings for ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) families. To further support food access, Linn County is directing its Title V funds toward launching a free fresh food market featuring local produce in Sweet Home, with final logistics from Diego forthcoming.

Monica confirmed that planning is underway with the WIC supervisor, Leah, for the annual breastfeeding event on the first Saturday in August.

Ash Gladstone gave a brief update for Benton County Public Health. She reported no major changes or updates regarding the nurse home visiting programs. Ash noted that the team is maintaining its standard operations, focusing on receiving referrals, processing them, and conducting patient outreach.

Misha Mayers gave updates for ODHS. Regarding SNAP work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD), Misha reported an expected spike in benefit closures, with 14,000 cases closed in March and 7,000 in April. Closures are often due to communication gaps, such as address changes or homelessness, and ODHS is actively working to reinstate qualified individuals via exemptions or compliance. Misha shared resources in the chat for the hearings process and SNAP interview preparation, as well as a flyer explaining that shelter and utility deductions now require verification instead of self-attestation to reduce agency error rates.

Misha also provided updates on Summer EBT, a state program providing \$120 per student to eligible families during the summer months. Following an automatic rollout to 320,000 students last week (including those on SNAP, OHP, or the McKinney-Vento program), Misha shared an online application link for non-automatic qualifiers, highlighting that Summer EBT lacks the citizenship restrictions of standard SNAP. She emphasized that the program is state-run and unaffected by local school district summer camps, adding that eligible families can apply through August to receive the full benefit.

Finally, Misha announced her temporary leave of absence to accept a promotion with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Her new statewide role involves community engagement for

1115 waiver implementations, including Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN), rural health transformation, and upcoming Medicaid work requirements. While she will no longer attend these local meetings monthly, she plans to drop in occasionally. Misha shared that her cell phone and ODHS email will remain active during the temporary assignment until her new OHA email is established.

Discussion Item	Pollywog Update
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Sam shared the latest version of the Pollywog newsletter, a comprehensive 33-page Summer Event Guide, and shared upcoming newsletter topics.

Sam introduced Pollywog's new community event calendar feature located at the top of the Pollywog website (<https://pollywogfamily.org/communityevents/>). Designed to help families seamlessly connect with local activities, the interactive calendar allows users to search for family-friendly events by date, location, or keyword, and to sync individual events directly to personal digital calendars.

Discussion Item	New Business
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This workgroup will not meet in August.

Next Meeting	9:30 am, July 14, 2026 Online Via Zoom
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Meeting Adjourned	10:05 am
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