Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

P-3 Alignment &Early Childhood Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	9:30 am, October 21, 2026 Online via Zoom
MEETING CALLED BY	Lynnette Wynkoop
PRESENTERS	Susan Halliday
WORKGROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Donna Brown, Jennifer James, Stephanie Koehne, Susan Halliday, Nicole Kalita, Andrea Lengel, Paul Smith, Diane Wilkinson, Lynnette Wynkoop, Kimberly McKutcheon-Gross, Amy Lesan
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Antonia Huerta, Kelly Schell, Carmen Santacruz, Jessica Morrison
RECORDED	Yes

P-3 Alignment Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	Welcome and Introductions
Work Group Members introduced themselves.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	KPI Updates
Lynnette shared KPI updates on behalf of Kristi, noting that the previous contract quarter ended on September 30th and subcontractors have until October 30th to submit their final quarterly reports. The Hub has received its official contract and funding details from D.E.L.C. for the remainder of the biennium, allowing them to finalize subcontractor allocations for an abbreviated three-quarter cycle running from September to June. While overall contract amounts will be smaller due to the shorter timeline, the quarterly funding averages are expected to remain consistent or increase, particularly for subcontractors that maintained an 80% or higher spend-down rate, using the Hub's historical funding formula.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Alignment Chart Progress, Susan Halliday
Susan noted that the chart is still a work in progress and will share progress once more information is provided.	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Special Presentation, KPI Funded Programming by Strengthening Rural Families

Paul of SRF presented on how KPI funding supports early learning programs across three local school districts:

- **Philomath (Clemens Primary School):** Hosts "Next Steps," a two-day-per-week, co-located kindergarten readiness program offering morning and afternoon cohorts for four-year-olds entering the district. Being physically based inside the school allows for strong integration, social-emotional skill building, and familiarity with school expectations.
- **Santiam Canyon (Mill City):** Funds support a four-day-per-week kindergarten program operating out of a remodeled childcare facility. Since general operations are now stable through superintendent leadership, future KPI funding in this area will focus on general 0–5 outreach, parent engagement, and nutrition support.
- **Alsea:** Funding supplements a Preschool Promise classroom, Alsea Pups Preschool (recently cut from 18 to 12 slots), by supporting outreach, parent engagement, basic needs support via district staff, and food assistance.

Across all programs, Paul highlighted strong district partnerships, full waiting lists, and an uptick in complex behaviors and medical needs requiring greater management. It was also noted that having ECE programs directly inside school buildings helps ease post-COVID family anxiety and builds early familiarity with school administrators and staff.

Several members commended the long-standing community partnership and strong collaboration between early education and K–12 staff, highlighting how whole-building social-emotional buy-in significantly improves outcomes for students.

Members commented on lower kindergarten enrollment driven by demographic shifts, delayed starts, and homeschooling. It was noted that children in structured pre-K generally transition straight into kindergarten, indicating the missing students are primarily those without prior early childhood programming.

A member also shared that agency reorganizations severed pre-K to K–12 data sharing, making student tracking difficult. Leaders called for better state agency coordination or local surveys to bridge the information gap.

P-3 Alignment & Early Childhood Coordinating Council Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	Professional Development Calendar

Lynnette highlighted the Professional Development Calendar hosted on the Early Learning Hub website, which includes CCR&R trainings alongside other upcoming opportunities. She encouraged participants to share relevant training opportunities and to reach out to EL Hub staff to add more opportunities to the calendar on the Hub's website.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Request for Proposals for the NWTLL Early Learning Conference

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for presenters is open for the Northwest Teaching, Leading, and Learning Conference (formerly OASCD) which will be held in Portland on April 15 -16, 2027. She requested that attendees broadly share the application link to attract early childhood and early grade presenters, emphasizing that the event serves as a valuable opportunity for cross-system collaboration and training similar to P-3 initiatives. Kristi Collins is sitting on the board for the conference and planning committee. The RFP application link is here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdw9AhW4Z-OutXrE2258FXBbw1o0PFCuEnB0UX7ce8ug_EpCw/viewform

DISCUSSION ITEM	Every Child Belongs, Lynnette Wynkoop

Lynnette presented regional and statewide data for the Every Child Belongs (ECB) program, highlighting an uptick in service requests (73 in October to date), with over a quarter categorized as critical due to imminent risk of child removal. She noted an ongoing temporary gap in mental health coverage while their consultant is on medical leave, though interim statewide support is being coordinated.

There was a broader discussion among members of the workgroup regarding the drivers of the graph's critical needs, including systemic and economic pressures, elevated behavioral complexity in classrooms, and rapid teacher burnout. Members of the workgroup also emphasized that simply adding extra staff is often ineffective without strong team dynamics, proper adult emotional regulation, and preparation focused on "soft skills" and managing high-demand environments.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Read for the Record 2027, Jessica Morrison

The Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties is currently taking book orders from regional partners (targeting Preschool to 3rd grade) for Jumpstart's Read for the Record taking place on February 25, 2027. This year's book is titled "Brave Like a Lion!" co-written by Megan Piphus, and illustrated by Niña Mata.

Jessica reported that 180 English and 42 Spanish book orders have been received. To prevent backorders, she shared the order link to encourage early ordering, noting that Lincoln County participation remains low despite recent outreach.

DISCUSSION ITEM	Spring Educator Conference

Lynnette shared that Birth – 5 Literacy Funds are being used to host two annual literacy events for families and early educators (one coastal, one in the valley), target-dated for March. She requested speaker recommendations, which prompted a suggestion of the Hallie Ford Center, and mention of a potential internal staff member specializing in family-focused science of reading presentations.

NEXT MEETING	9:30 am, November 18, 2026 Online via Zoom
MEETING ADJOURNED	10:32 a.m.