

Early Childhood Hub of Lane County Governance Council Notes

Meeting Commenced	1 pm, May 8, 2026 Virtual Meeting
Facilitator	Kellie DeVore, Joshua Bates
Scribe	Lisa Milton, Education Data Coordinator
Version	Final
Recorded	Yes

Board Members			Board Members in Attendance (11 needed for a quorum)					
Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent
Joshua Bates	☒	☐	Kristen Helton	☒	☐	Gretta Sagolla	☐	☒
Heather Brey	☒	☐	Kelly Jones	☒	☐	Tony Scurto	☐	☒
Heidi Brown	☒	☐	John Lively	☒	☐	Kraig Sproles	☐	☒
Kellie DeVore	☒	☐	Sara Loveless	☐	☒	John Stapleton	☐	☒
Debi Farr	☒	☐	Miriam Mickelson	☒	☐	Charleen Strauch	☐	☒
Jacob Fox	☒	☐	Megan Miller	☒	☐	Sheila Wegener	☐	☒
Alma Fumiko Hesus	☒	☐	Heather Murphy	☒	☐	Chelsea Whitney	☒	☐
			Judy Newman	☒	☐	Vinny Zarate	☐	☒
Quorum		yes						

Others Present	Assitan Sylla-Traore, Brittany Kramer, Emily Moore, Holly Mar-Conte, Kris Coomes, Lisa Milton
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Consent Agenda Vote				April Notes								
The Board was asked to approve the consent agenda as presented.												
Motion: Jacob Fox												
2 nd : John Lively												
Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Name	Yes	No	Abstain	
Joshua Bates	☒	☐	☐	Kelly Jones	☒	☐	☐	Kraig Sproles	☐	☐	☐	
Heather Brey	☒	☐	☐	John Lively	☒	☐	☐	John Stapleton	☐	☐	☐	
Heidi Brown	☐	☐	☐	Sara Loveless	☐	☐	☐	Charleen Strauch	☐	☐	☐	
Kellie DeVore	☒	☐	☐	Miriam Mickelson	☒	☐	☐	Sheila Wegener	☐	☐	☐	
Debi Farr	☒	☐	☐	Megan Miller	☒	☐	☐	Chelsea Whitney	☒	☐	☐	
Jacob Fox	☒	☐	☐	Heather Murphy	☒	☐	☐	Vinny Zarate	☐	☐	☐	
Kristen Helton	☒	☐	☐	Gretta Sagolla	☐	☐	☐					
				Tony Scurto	☐	☐	☐					
VOTING RESULTS		Individual Votes cast by Board Members (Yes, No, Abstain)										
Abstentions:												
Approved												
Consent Agenda Discussion				n/a								

Agenda topics

Discussion Item	Family Leadership Council Report – Megan Miller & Vinny Zarate
FLC has a training opportunity with the Children’s Institute and other early learning hub grantees. Adrian is meeting with potential new members this week.	
Discussion Item	Early Learning Stakeholders Report – Brittany Kramer
Exploring referral systems ahead of the our new closed-loop referral system launching this summer.	
Discussion Item	Child Care Sector Strategist Report – Holly Mar-Conte

Kristen shared about Provider Appreciation Conference event on May 2 at QCC. ~140 participants (child care providers and early educators from across Lane County) attended. Keynote panel included Holly Mar-Conti, State Representative Lisa Fragala, County Commissioner Lori Triege, and LCC President Stephanie Bulger. The Chamber and Onward supported the conference with coupon sheet with local business discounts.

Bethel Lunch and Learn coming up on May 27 at Clear Lake Community Center.

Health care workers seeking back-up drop in child care services. Child care providers are also increasing camp and other child care slots to accommodate the 12-week summer break.

Consent Agenda Vote				Preschool Promise Budget and Future Planning for Quarterly Budget to Actuals							
Motion: a motion was made											
2 nd : John											
Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Joshua Bates	☒	☐	☐	Kelly Jones	☒	☐	☐	Kraig Sproles	☐	☐	☐
Heather Brey	☒	☐	☐	John Lively	☒	☐	☐	John Stapleton	☐	☐	☐
Heidi Brown	☐	☐	☐	Sara Loveless	☐	☐	☐	Charleen Strauch	☐	☐	☐
Kellie DeVore	☒	☐	☐	Miriam Mickelson	☒	☐	☐	Sheila Wegener	☐	☐	☐
Debi Farr	☒	☐	☐	Megan Miller	☒	☐	☐	Chelsea Whitney	☒	☐	☐
Jacob Fox	☒	☐	☐	Heather Murphy	☐	☐	☐	Vinny Zarate	☐	☐	☐
Kristen Helton	☒	☐	☐	Gretta Sagolla	☐	☐	☐				
				Tony	☐	☐	☐				

				Scurto							
VOTING RESULTS		Individual Votes cast by Board Members (Yes, No, Abstain)									
Abstentions: none											
Approved											
Consent Agenda Discussion		Start new budget spreadsheet likely available this fall. DELC PSP budget runs 4/2026-6/2027. • 2.88 FTE allocated for Preschool Promise and Coordinated Enrollment • Additional funding allocated to professional development for staff and providers • BridgeCare software contract: \$25,000/year • Increased mileage budget for site visits; computer replacement costs included • Budget approved by Governance Council vote • Next biennium budgets will align to fiscal year July 1 – June 30									

Discussion Item	Sector Share Out
Housing: Ollie Court • Grand opening completed (groundbreaking was 2020) • South Building (across from elementary school) fully occupied; classrooms operational • North Building punch list items being finalized • Organization open to discussions about using real estate for childcare/early learning • Florence project (6.7 acres adjacent to Old Town) in early design phase; community space design to be more child-centric • Suggested connection with Charlene from Head Start and Florence-area partners Trillium • Start Smart for Your Baby: expanded from 15 to 30 prenatal/postnatal participants after Pacific Source transition; CSA box delivery program well received • NEST Program (Nurturing Early Starts Together): grant to Center for Family Development; in-home	

childcare for children 5 and under; supervised by Shannon Peek, PhD (UO)

- First Year of Life pilot: birth to 24 months; currently in pilot phase with Centene; no launch date yet
- NICU: new RN care managers; all NICU babies monitored 60 days post-discharge
- Mental health pilot with Lane County (2025): transitioned to permanent process in 2026; every child entering foster care receives mental health assessment
- 83,000-member transition from Pacific Source completed successfully
- Traditional Health Worker billing hub outreach: provider relations team to contact organizations; timeline TBD

Lane County Public Health – Home Visiting & Family Programs

- Nurse Family Partnership and Healthy Families Oregon: high community interest exceeding staffing capacity; seeking additional funding to hire more nurses and home visitors
- Family Connects Oregon (18 months post-launch): strong reach to OHP/Trillium/WIC families; harder to reach commercially insured families; funding at jeopardy within ~1 year
- Key family stressors: economic pressure, immigration fears, discrimination, increased IPV (higher severity and frequency), housing instability, childcare affordability (ERDC list functionally closed except TANF)
- Growing interest in dad-focused programming; seen as opportunity for IPV prevention
- Dental care access identified as greatest healthcare barrier
- VeggieRx program: all slots filled on day one, exclusively from Nurse Family Partnership clients

Transportation Access for Families

- RideSource barriers: families with multiple children frequently denied; car seat installation challenges in unfamiliar vehicles
- LTD Connector new car seat requirements disproportionately impacting Spanish- and Mayan-speaking families
- DDS change: DSP/PSW no longer allowed to transport kids, creating additional strain
- Proposal: invite LTD representative to join Governance Council
- Ideas raised: discounted/free bus passes for lower-income families with young children, trauma-informed bus riding support

Crow-Applegate-Lorane School District

- Running Crow Preschool from general fund and Early Literacy Grant
- Approved as Preschool Promise eligible provider but no slots received yet
- 15 four-year-olds enrolled daily; 20 children on waitlist
- Current teacher stepping down; former kindergarten teacher to take over
- Family resource funds support home visits, literacy nights, free books, school barbecues

Bethel School District

- Expanding Preschool Promise slots; on expansion list
- Clear Lake site: 7 classrooms planned for fall; adding two early childhood care platforms
- Consolidating programs from Willamette High School (Wolverines closing) to Clear Lake
- Working with industrial sector employers on childcare for employees
- Early literacy coaches (K-3) also working with preschool teachers to create continuity
- Barriers: slots for families above income threshold, staffing retention

Eugene School District 4J

- Continuing Preschool Promise next year despite budget challenges
- TOSA position being returned to classroom due to budget cuts; leadership challenge to maintain quality without that support
- Transition to Kindergarten event tonight (5-7 PM) at River Road; double the early registrations from last spring

Lane County ESD

- Advocating with COSA and OSBA for better funding base for early intervention and early childhood special education
- Early intervention (birth to 2): increased family stressors, transportation/gas cost barriers
- Early childhood special ed: working to support inclusion in preschool settings; current 3-hour model misaligned with family childcare needs
- Elevated social-emotional needs and associated behaviors across age group

Early Literacy Initiatives (Hub)

- Early literacy training for in-home preschool providers: final training session tomorrow; site visits and one-on-one coaching continuing for ~1 month
- Early literacy training for home visitors planned for July (and August if funding allows); led by Debbie Lehman; home visitors to receive books for modeling with families

Every Child Belongs - Data Pilot (OSLC Partnership)

- Current phase: Early planning
- Partnering with OSLC on data project to track implementation of Every Child Belongs in Lane County
- DELC funding OSLC for the pilot; Lane County selected as intensive data site
- 3-4 other counties also involved at lighter level
- Focus: understanding what interventions (especially early childhood mental health consultation) are helping providers keep children enrolled
- Pilot to bring pre-K and kindergarten teachers together for joint training

- KITS implemented in preschool settings; SSTRS (8-week program) implemented in kindergarten

Library & Recreation Services (City of Eugene)

- Summer programming: dozens of story times; library identified as most accessible free resource
- Recreation shifting to more flexible one-off and one-week programs rather than quarterly blocks
- OnePass program (partnership with Willamalane): registration opened morning of meeting; serves Springfield and Eugene youth
- Library card access extended to students in 4J and Bethel outside city limits
- Interest in deeper partnership discussions with hub and community organizations

Discussion Item	No meeting Jul/Aug

Next Meeting	1 pm Friday, June 12, 2026 Hybrid via Zoom
Meeting Adjourned	2:33