



EARLY LEARNING WASHINGTON COUNTY (ELWC) STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

January 27th, 2021

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Virtual Zoom meeting platform

MINUTES

Call to Order

The Steering Committee meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm and was presided over by Executive Member Evan Weaver.

Attendees

Members in virtual attendance included: Lacey Hays, Debi Farr, Donaldda Dodson, Katie Anderson, Sabi Velasco, Rolanda Garcia, Katie Riley, Gabi Bailey, LaRue Williams, Karen Henkemeyer, Maureen Seferovich, Alaina Carter, Sonia Reyes, Julie Novakowski, Susan Salkeild, Peg King, Kelly Skopil, Bridget Cooke, Luis Nava.

Members not in attendance included: Olga Acuña, Nancy Ford, Mariela Mireles, Katherine Galian, Kayla Bell, Jeanne Savage, Martin Blasco, Hannah Lobingier, Kristina Kurtz, Juana Garcia.

Staff members / Guests in attendance included: Alessandro Mastrococco, Nena Newsom, Evan Weaver, Leslie Moguil, Luis Jose Nava, Bernardino De La Torre, John Eames, Cassie Bruske, Amy Henderson-Johnson, Begoña Rodriguez-Liern, Rebecca Collett, Tricia Mortell.

Quorum

A quorum of voters was present.

Agenda Items	RESULT/ACTION
Welcome and Introductions -led by <i>Lacey Hays</i>	Action: None
Review Agenda – led by <i>Lacey Hays</i>	Action: Agenda approved at 2:13 pm

Approval of Minutes

– led by *Lacey Hays*

Action: Minutes approved: Donalda Dodson & 2nd Sabi Velasco

Staff Updates

Preschool Promise Coordinated Enrollment - led by *Begoña Rodriguez-Liern*

- Addition to the Beaverton School District Cohort recuperating capacity from 18 to 19 providers and from 27 to 29 classrooms.
- 20 classrooms opening with dual English/Spanish languages, 1 Spanish monolingual program, 1 multilingual English/Arabic/Vietnamese/Somali, 7 opening English language.
- 2 programs on hold until next month. Starting discussions for 21-22 school enrollment.

Action: None

Karen Henkemeyer, Childcare Resource & Referral

- Hired Tiffany Vargas as Preschool Promise Coordinator, supporting programs as instructional coach and building a team of bilingual instructional coaches and QA specialist. Will have staff hired by end of February.
- Julie will like to be included in the Preschool Promise and Coordinated Enrollment conversations for Head Start to be included.
- Preschool Promise Providers timeline to open in person/distance learning, flexibility this year but unsure what will look like next year. Will see COVID rules.

Action: Begoña will follow up with Julie.

Action: To discuss a Preschool Promise Help Line for questions.

Coronavirus Relief Funding – School District Funds – led by *Evan Weaver*

- Initially county allocated 10 million dollars to Early Education Program Grants and school districts, used for childcare for families needing support. With new fiscal year county extended 5 million dollars to 6 school districts in WA Co., funding will offset some of the school expenses and help districts reduce budget impact.

Action: None

Oregon Department of Human Services Parenting Education Funding – led by *Leslie Moguil*

- Parenting Education & Early Learning have a new partner Parenting Education, HUB’s innovation spreading to state level integrating Parenting Education into EL system.
- Applaud long time partners, OR Dep. Of Human Service commitment to fund system on both sides of ODH’s goals announced continue funding into the new biennial, in partnership w/OSU w/regional HUBs.
- Referrals from OR DHS are trending up, thank Rolanda and her team for the number of referrals. Parenting Ed. was allocated for SSA contract negotiation w/OSU for 2021, governor’s budget asking for an increase in Parenting Ed.

Action: None

Celebrating Success ELWC Year in Review -

- led by *Evan Weaver*

- Begoña - Acknowledging the work done together created the Annual Report document, combination everyone’s work, system change pieces, Family Connects, parent’s voices. Take time to review on own and thanks for all collaborative work invested.
- Karen recognized county’s commitment to equity and partnership. Thanked Begoña for putting together document report and everyone celebrate all the work together. WA Co. overall investment in childcare and parenting education the HUB has brought that out to fruition.
- Evan - thanked Karen Henkemeyer and CCR Team instrumental response w/COVID and childcare provider support. Thanked by Begoña. Sabi Velasco thanked for the support to Childcare Providers.
- Julie Novakowski – Virtual work could have lost staff jobs and families go without food, team plan under 400 families getting meals delivered. Received IT equipment for families that had no resources at all and Apple Care for tech support.
- Donalda Dodson - First weekend close LaRue staff had food boxes, in 3 months over 90K pound of food delivery to camps and to families and other resources, diapers. Dental screenings outside.
- LaRue Williams - Leslie and Begoña call to PPE childcare 5K masks, 3K bottles of hand sanitizer, weekly distribution and have connected with many childcare programs, feeding 300-400 people weekly.

Action: None

- Lacey Hayes - Thanked school districts, how hard everyone has been working, seeing children getting meals, teachers reaching out to kid's Pre-K to HS, especially with the little ones.
- Alaina Carter - Forest Grove opened 3rd Fern Hill preschool program online virtually. FG highest funded district in OR and working on redefining vision of what preschool looks like. Imagine play and inquisitive way out of the box.

Advocacy for Early Learning System and HUBs - led by *Cassie Bruske, Eames Consulting*

- Presentation from Cassie Bruske, EC onboard with EL HUB since November, met with governor's office and lobby teams, legislators.
- Approach is to work w/state agencies and finding areas of overlap and opportunities to work together. Goal to identify where shared values are, have meeting with legislators and bring in EL division into meeting w/legislators and talk about issue with them and they see what is happening with the HUB. Started work w/governor's office, identify gaps, and have an outside perspective. Work w/partners is similar approach in partnership and collaboration on policies and budget priorities. Connecting w/legislators frequently.
- Work to advocate, ensure that are meaningful improvements in the system. Looking for opportunities to engage with partners, if you have existing relationship with legislators or identify gaps and opportunities for Eames Consulting to engage please reach out.

COVID-19 Vaccination Roll-Out – led by *Tricia Mortell, Public Health Director, Washington County*

- Tricia presented about the last year with COVID. As cases went up late spring and summer close to 300 cases a day and slowed down, but in late fall and winter numbers went up again. At this point numbers are still high and reason why WA Co. and metro region are considered high risk for community spread.
- Counties were linked by the governor and unable to move through phases, this was undone but still unable to reach a point to change sector guidance. Trying to maintain people outdoor where is less risk of spread. Governor just changed school metrics, concerns children being behind and effects of social determinants of education, looking when it will be safe for children to go back to in person attendance.
- Metrics for opening businesses are 200 per 100,000. We are still at 300 mark. School metric number is 350. Battling

Action: If anyone wants to participate let Begoña know. Questions email Evan or Begoña.

Action: None

COVID with many tools, such as isolation, quarantine, hard in multigenerational households. A lot of work done w/quarantine support, out-brake disease litigation with businesses. There is vaccine hesitancy particularly in ethnical groups and education levels, working to provide educational tools for that purpose. That is where this group can help reach out that audience.

- Oregon vaccination plan, thanks Evan, Karen and Begoña, for vaccination plans for Childcare sector and Early Learning.
- State put together and Advisory Committee will report by the end of the month who will be in categories and vaccinated under the different phases. A lot of coordination in our county and metro region.
- Healthcare systems have now put together 2 large regional points of distribution, Convention Center and PDX airport. WA Co. focus will be at local level.
- Large regional event: Coordinated Referral System, eligibility and scheduling tool posted in the Oregon and Health Authority (OHA) page and helps eligible people with scheduling appointments.
- First phase: Emergency childcare homes and centers
- Second phase: ODHS licensed exempt providers
- Third phase: People serving virtual environments

Adjourn 4:00 pm