



**EARLY LEARNING WASHINGTON COUNTY (ELWC)  
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, April 24, 2019  
2:00 - 4:00 pm**

Northwest Regional Education Service District  
5825 NE Ray Circle, Hillsboro  
**Minutes**

**Call to Order**

The Steering Committee meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm and was presided over by Chair Marilyn Harrison.

**Attendees**

**Voting members in attendance included:** Amanda Whalen, Amy Shea Reyes (phone), Donalda Dodson, Katie Anderson, Olga Acuna, Bridget Cooke, Luis Nava, Marilyn Harrison (Chair), Rolanda Garcia, Juana Garcia, Lacey Hays, Mariela Mirales, Katherine Galian, Nancy Ford, Peg King (phone)

**Staff members in attendance included:** Adam Freer, Leslie Moguil, Begoña Rodriguez Liern, Genevieve Ellis, Rebecca Collett, Evan Weaver, Alessandro Mastrorocco

**Guests in attendance included:**

**Members not in attendance but excused included:** Renee Bruce

**Members not in attendance without advance notice included:**

**Quorum**

A quorum of members was present.

<b>Agenda Items</b>	<b>Result/Action Steps</b>
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	None
<b>Approval of Minutes and Conflict of Interest Declaration (&amp; Annual Form signing)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conflict of interest annual disclosure form signing</li> <li>• No declared conflicts of interest.</li> <li>• Minutes Approval: Peg King asked to change the language in the minutes reflecting that she had an excused absence for the previous meeting.</li> </ul>	<b>Action:</b> Minutes were Approved  <b>Action:</b> Correct March Minutes  <b>Next Steps:</b> Have the form completed by everyone

<p><b>Director's Briefing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staffing: Open Position for Program Specialist in Washington County to refill for Pam Bainbridge Cowan, who is retiring.</li> <li>• He and Brittany had a meeting with Dana Yung, the new grant coordinator in the Preschool Promise program.</li> <li>• Adam joined the System of Care Executive Council, substituting Molly Day as representative of Early learning for the three counties in the metro region</li> <li>• Funding: there should not be any changes to current programs for the first year of the biennium. Possible new additional funding could be added in the second year of the biennium.</li> <li>• New survey coming from the State for the Hub as a part of the Federal Preschool development grant. The survey wants to identify who is providing services across the State and who may have the capacity to expand.</li> <li>• Organizing a new Steering Committee retreat after the legislative session.</li> <li>• Site visit: the report from the ELD site visit is not ready yet. Hub obtained 27/28 as a score, either the highest or tied for the highest score in the state.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Next Steps:</b> The new Program Specialist job position will be posted soon.</p> <p>Will send poll to determine best date for the retreat.</p>
<p><b>Committee &amp; Workgroup Reports -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PAC: regular meetings of the parent's committee and participation in events promoting the early learning requests to legislators and decision makings. PAC attended Ways &amp; Means meeting at PCC Cascade and a town hall meeting with Oregon State Key legislators. Committees are working on organizing the Early Childhood Mental Health Summit in Washington County. Parents are discussing possible locations, dates, contents, and ways to improve the summit.</li> <li>• Equity Committee is debating about strategies to engage the Vietnamese community. The Vietnamese community has been difficult to reach in the past years, and the participation of the Vietnamese community to our events, classes, and activities have been generally low. Work still in progress.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Next Steps:</b> Will Begona approach media connected with the Vietnamese community.</p>

**Headlines and Highlights**

- **Hillsboro Kinder Fair Participation - Family Engagement & Connection** - Parents participated in the Hillsboro School District Kinder Fair. Opportunities for parents to engage with the school district and gather information on kindergarten resources. In addition, parents had the opportunity to obtain the paperwork needed for enrollment.
- **Advocacy Update (Attachment A)**. Previously described by Luis Nava in the PAC updates.
- **Somali Spring Break Event**. The purpose of the happening was to organize a community event for the spring break. The event had great success with more than 300 people attending. Mostly families with kids participated in the happening. Several other associations and institution joined the Spring Break event, including the Beaverton Police, DHS, WCCLS, CAO, ELWC, and Healthy Families.
- **Brown Middle School Advocacy Event – Apr 5, 2019**. Four legislators present at the Town Hall meeting. The dynamic of the meeting was different from usual because the gathering was in Spanish. Specifically, communities spoke first telling their stories and experiences to the legislators. Therefore, communities had more time to express their thought with this new dynamic. Legislators enjoyed the new dynamic, and it should be used again in the future for a similar meeting.
- **Early Learning Advocacy Day – Apr 9, 2019**. Successful gathering with more than 140 people. The average time with legislators usually was 15 minutes, but the ELWC groups and parents were able to get more time because of the facilitator's connections with legislators. Legislators carefully listened to their proposals.
- **Preschool Promise visit**. Representative Sollman, a member of the Education Committee, visited OCDC for two hours, and she was favorably impressed by the facility.

**Action:** Announcement for kinder fairs could be improved defining clearly catchment areas of each fair.

**Next Steps:** the director will try to organize a County bigger event for the next year involving parents and legislators.

**Presentation: Black Student Success Project in Washington County** (see Attachment B) – **Zahra Abukar, CAIRO (Center for African Immigrant and Refugee Organization)**

- Zahra Abukar oversees the SPACE program, which assists African immigrant’s children in the McKinley, Barnes, Aloha, and Five Oak schools. This program serves 50 students and approximately 25 families.
- Since 2015, CAIRO has been gathering information about the condition of African students and about their special needs.
- The presence of African students is considerable in Washington County. Nearly 15% of black students in Oregon attend Washington County Schools, and approximately 60% of them are in the Beaverton School District. Almost 40% of them attend elementary schools. On the other hand, just 1% of the teachers are black.
- A large portion of students in the SPACE program is Somali. CAIRO supports the academic success of the students and collaborates with the schools to create a more inclusive environment for African students.
- CAIRO provides culturally specific professional development consulting to African students. On May 22nd, CAIRO will offer a professional development forum for Washington County.
- CAIRO impact for schools, parents, and communities: CAIRO offers cultural guidance for African students and organizes specific cultural activities for schools. Teachers refer to Cairo for African students’ special needs.
- If funding is approved by the state, CAIRO will organize summer activities to engage African students involved in the summer school programs. The summer backup program would have a specific option for CAIRO.
- There is a lack of resources and capacities to serve and support all the families and other school districts, and more schools in the BSD.
- Funds should be renewed in June. CAIRO is the only organization in the county serving the Somali community.

**Next Steps:** Increase the offer of services in other languages than Somali.

Strengthen relations between AABSP and EL

<p><b>Discussion: Promoting Raise Up Oregon (RUP)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new RUP plan could create several synergies with ELWC actual services and programs. The RUP program could modify some objectives and activities of EL in Oregon.</li> <li>• Crosswalk ELWC and RUP plan analyzed to identify possible new functions for the Hub. Light greens identify new possible activities for ELWC.</li> <li>• Identifying priorities and being proactive to anticipate the change process.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Next Steps:</b> Adam will send out the full RUP analysis of all 70 activities.</p> <p>Discuss initial steps moving towards the Raise Up Oregon vision in the next meeting</p>
<p><b>Discussion: Charter Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mission statement, Guiding Principles update.</b> The request for feedback on these items was sent to the other hub committees. The previous feedback was more individual, and it was difficult to apply because some were conflicting ideas.</li> <li>• <b>Policy Introduction: Role of Backbone Organizations in Decision Making (Attachment C):</b> Recommendations for new Charter language in the decisions making process was presented, including:        Risk management policies. The two backbone organizations – UW and Washington County- will retain the option of overruling decisions of ELWC Steering Committees only in the extreme case that they create excessive risk for them.        Legislative Advocacy Alignment. The two backbone organizations would review and approve policy positions and activities taken by ELWC related to public policy or legislation to ensure the Hub’s positions do not directly conflict with those of the backbone agencies.</li> <li>• <b>Hub Leadership Selection Process (Attachment D).</b> The parents’ engagement in the Hub has been slower than hoped. The original plan was for parents to join all the committees participating actively in the decision process. The new goal is to consider the next year a transition year. Rather than waiting for parents to join, committees can move forward in selecting their co-leads. Where parents are interested, they can serve, but this may take some time for some committees.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Next Steps:</b> The Steering Committee will send out the Guiding principles to the committee asking them a definitive decision.</p> <p>The Steering Committee will have a final decision possibly in May on the changes</p> <p>Nominations for Executive Committee will be open for another week. If more than 4 are interested, a vote will be held to select.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This will include the new Executive Committee. This new committee would meet monthly prior to the SC and facilitate the meetings. The reason is to have a higher level of parents' engagement and to move from a staff based and supported organization towards a parent and community-driven organization. Parents would have more opportunities to know the way the system is working and how to have an impact on it. Nomination process open. Nominees for the new committee: Donalda Dodson, Lacey Hays and Olga Acuna.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Partner Announcements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NWRESD. KATU TV interviews their evaluation team. ELWC is part of the conversation with the TV.</li> <li>WC Libraries summer events "Dia de los niños," a celebration of children, families, and reading. Another important event is the "Un Universo de Historias." More info on the website.</li> <li>Latino festival is coming up with ELWC participation. Parents requested ELWC to participate in the Fourth of July parade. Liability issue for this participation.</li> <li>ELWC. WC Child Care Summit on May 4: 250 providers registered and 9 interpreters in six languages.</li> <li>ODHS asked for a short discussion in the next meeting around a new project about prevention. A prevention committee started its work a month ago.</li> <li>Health Share of Oregon. Navigator Washington County. Strong participation of family navigator from across the county.</li> <li>Adelante Mujeres. Released 300 pages of <i>Leading with Race</i>, a research justice report. Work has been coordinated by Vision Action Network, and the report can be found on their website.</li> </ul>	
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p><b>May 22, 2019</b> <b>NWRESD</b></p>
<p>The meeting was adjourned.</p>	<p>4:05 pm</p>