**Early Childhood Hub of Lane County**

**Governance Consortium**

**January 12, 2024**

**1:00 - 2:30pm**

In-person at United Way of Lane County

**NOTES**

**Present:**

Noreen Dunnells, United Way of Lane County

Cheryl Henderson, Lane Community College

Judy Newman, Strategic Advisor

Holly Mar-Conte, Childcare Sector Strategist

Megan Miller, Parent Representative

Kellie DeVore, PacificSource Health Plan

Kraig Sproles, Bethel School District

Sheila Wegener, Department of Human Services

Todd Hamilton, Springfield Public Schools

Debi Farr, Trillium Community Health Plan

Becky Lamoureux, Moss St School

Lane Tompkins, McKenzie School District

Jacob Fox, Homes for Good

**Guests:**

Governor John Kitzhaber

Chelsea King, Ex. Director of OHEC

Eve Gray

Leslie Cooper-Parsons, Head Start of Lane County

Rhonda (Pilar’s guest)

Pilar Bradshaw

Katharine Ryan

**Absent:**

Heather Brey, Early Childhood CARES

Charleen Strauch, Head Start of Lane County

John Lively, Oregon State Representative

Sol Granados, Parent Representative

Brian K Johnson, Lane County Public Health

John Stapleton, PIVOT Architecture

Tony Scurto, Lane Education Service District

Sara Loveless, 90by30

**UWLC/Hub Staff:**

Kris Coomes, *meeting facilitator*

Lisa Milton

Joslyn Vargas

Christie Costello

Michelle Sheng-Palmisano, *meeting facilitator*

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Oregon Health and Education Collaborative Upstream Initiative Presentation featuring Gov. John Kitzhaber & Chelsea King, Executive Director of the Oregon Health and Education Collaborative**

“Ensuring that every child, family, and community has an equitable opportunity to succeed means striking at the conditions of injustice that exist before conception, during pregnancy, and during the first few years of life. This demands a holistic approach that recognizes children exist in an ecosystem that includes their family and their community—and that the earlier we can intervene, the more successful we will be.”

— GOV. JOHN KITZHABER, OHEC CHAIR

**Premise & Resources**

* Data shows that perinatal factors impact children before they are born and increase chronic economic insecurity and may lead to increased Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES).
* Family stress undermines family stability, and these inequities compound poverty and racism.
* This is not about the failure of mothers/parents or those serving families. This is an implication on our systems that don’t honor the resiliency of birthing persons.
* Imagine this work outside politics and funding.
* Focus on Medicaid for young families and creating connections with people that plan to have children

**People don’t live in a state: they live in a community, a family. Change comes through relationship.**

* Engage targeted population and get better sense of the challenges they face including poverty and racism.
* Design systems that don’t need to be navigated because they are not designed to be difficult or prohibitive.
* Fundamentally change the conversation to focus on prevention, not emergent problems
* **The Early Childhood Hub of Lane County was selected to be one of 5 Upstream Initiative Collaborative Design Pilots.** 
  + Other communities participating Design Pilots include: The Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub (Grant, Morrow, Umatilla counties), KairosPDX (Multnomah County), The Marion and Polk Learning Hub, and Yamhill Community Care.
  + Each organization chosen will design their own local model; later this summer, each community’s model will be integrated to inform policy recommendations for the 2025 legislature, to scale a blueprint that can be replicated statewide.
* **Bigger picture: Michelle Sheng-Palmisano will work with Jeff Todahl, create the local plan based on community feedback, and develop a 5 year workplan/budget with 4 other communities by August for the legislative session**

**More information:**

* [**https://www.oregoncollaborative.org**](https://www.oregoncollaborative.org)
* [**https://www.unitedwaylane.org/stories/upstream-initiative**](https://www.unitedwaylane.org/stories/upstream-initiative)

**Current local efforts & plans:**

* Social Emotional Metric partnership with local CCOs (RFA work is happening in current meetings)
* Listening to the community living the experience:
  + Focus groups: pregnant people, and people very small children
  + Meeting with Jeff Todahl
  + Providers that focus in this area: OBs, health councils, home visits, expanding nature of relationships and making new ones
  + Looking at access and what families need to navigate currently
    - How could we improve?
    - How do fund prevention?
* Create less siloed and more flexible systems
  + Building a system that is normalized like K-12. Public education is for everyone. We need to the same with early childhood services.
* Consider payments or gift cards with no strings attached that families received during the pandemic.
* Early Childhood Stakeholders are building resource map that align with Raise Up Oregon
* **Katharine York, (look for Jo’s name)**
* Chelsea King: state levels connecting just as we are doing it locally (look up these names Alicia)
* Big turnover at organization (1:50) Innovator role
* May be room for reiteration in next years

**Discussion:**

* Seek out everyone that needs to be at the table.
  + Planned Pregnancy, teen advocacy groups, organizations that support unhoused, Medicaid services, Tribal Leaders, Law Enforcement, K-12 superintendents, organizations that serve Latinx families like Plaza, FLC advocacy group, families living with incarceration, and religious organizations.
    - 75% of our county is rural. May need to look to school counselors, FRCs, and other less formal organizations.

**Next steps:**

* Focus Groups with current providers in February
* Report out the focus group findings in March/April
* Suspend our linear self, and explore possibilities, acting as a think tank
* Assess who we are currently serving and who is missing
* Workplan due in August ahead of the legislative session

1. **Updates & Announcements:**

Kris Coomes and Katharine updates

* **Perinatal education, SEL behavioral funds**

Cheryl Henderson: Eugene Creative Care closed and disbanded. Permits to open ECE permits are very difficult to navigate

* Silly Billies Together has opened infant care center in Eugene
* Drea Smith opening expanded Tip Tap Grow Performing Arts Preschool

1. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned 2:32 pm.

***December 8, 2023 meetings have not been approved yet.***

***NEXT MEETING: Friday, February 9, 2024 1-2:30 pm***