

South-Central Early Learning Hub
Lake County Community Governance Council
Minutes - April 27, 2021

Attendees: Vicky Taylor (s), Jack Thompson (s), Heidi Martinez, Danielle Walker, Wendy Brown, Michael Benson (v), Athena Wikstrom, Cynthia Hurkes, Charlene Shaw, Hannah Broilier, Gillian Wesenberg, Amy Hutchinson (s), Ceresse Harris, Gail Buermann (s)

Review Agenda/Meeting Minutes- Approve minutes from March 16, 2021 meeting

Michael Benson made a motion to approve the March minutes as submitted. Amy Hutchinson seconded the motion; all members were in favor of the approval.

EI/ECSE – Mike Benson advised EI/ECSE is required to submit a yearly county plan to the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Multiple opportunities for partner input are required, and in Lake County, feedback is gathered from the Lake Community Governance Council. A rough draft was sent to members of the council prior to today’s meeting, with a revised draft to be sent to the group before the beginning of June.

There are currently nine children in the EI/ECSE program. One child was added last week. Additionally, there are two children in the qualification process who will likely enter the program. Referrals to EI/ECSE are currently starting to pick up in Lake County.

Two children are transitioning into kindergarten this fall. One child is in North Lake and will receive services in kindergarten. The other child is in Lakeview and has made significant progress; this child will likely exit services in kindergarten.

South-Central Early Learning Hub – Gillian advised that the South-Central Early Learning Hub’s Regional Governance Council (RGC) met to discuss budgeted funds that were not expended due to COVID-19. The group approved the purchase and distribution of infant/toddler kits throughout the region. These kits will be purchased from Lakeshore and will be received in early June. Due to limited availability, kits will target infants and toddlers from 6-36 months who are listed as priority populations in the Early Learning Hub’s Early Care and Education (ECE) Sector Plan. Michael Carter has offered to receive, store and distribute kits to partners in Lake County.

Gillian gave a legislative update on House Bill 3073, advising that amendments have been made to the bill. Athena shared the overview of House Bill 3073A with the Lake Community Governance Council (see attached). House Bill 3073A establishes the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) as a stand-alone agency from the Early Learning Division (ELD), which has been overseen by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE).

The current Early Learning Division Director, Miriam Calderon, accepted a position with the Biden-Harris administration to work on early learning policy at the national level. Alyssa Chatterjee, who has focused on early learning policy throughout her time working for the State of Oregon, was named as the acting director of the ELD.

Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) – Cynthia Hurkes advised that Lake County received and distributed approximately 300 Teach My Kits to families of children ages three to five-years-old.

KPI will assist in funding for the Lake County School District's Kindergarten Camps. KPI is also in discussions with the Lake County Library to host Pre-K activities throughout the county.

KPI is partnering with Take Root Parenting to offer two virtual Ready! for Kindergarten for the Hub region. There are currently 20 registrants for the first series, which is geared towards parents of 2 and 3-year-olds. The second Ready! for Kindergarten series will be offered before June and is for parents of 3 and 4-year-olds.

Lake County ESD - Jack Thompson advised that there will be an amendment to school COVID-19 metrics which will be released this afternoon. The Education Service District has hired two Behavior Specialists. They will tour schools in the county and then will begin receiving trainings about trauma informed care, district needs, and child behavior.

Adel and Plush are preparing for the end of the school year, and District 7 has resumed their athletic programs. The Health Division has removed mask requirement for students participating in non-contact sports.

North Lake School District – Gail Buermann advised that children in kindergarten through sixth grades have been attending school full-time and in-person. As of April 19, students in grades seven through twelve were able to return to full-time in-person learning due to reduced social distancing. Athletics have resumed as well, and North Lake will provide a “more normal” graduation for seniors.

North Lake is planning to re-open the zero to three Mommy and Me class and also the four-year-old preschool class for the 2021-2022 school year.

Lake County Library District – Amy Hutchinson advised that the Lake County Library is planning their Summer Reading Program for Pre-K -12th grade. Story times are still being offered virtually. The Library hosted a successful in-person Taco Pizza Night for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) – Charlene Shaw advised that Care Connections and Education, the regional CCRR, will be generating rack cards to promote Preschool Promise sites. She will also share an update about childcare sites in Lake County at the June meeting.

Lake District Wellness – Heidi Martinez shared there have been increased self-referrals for mental health services. Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) training for Lake District Wellness personnel will be starting in May. For the training to move forward, there need to be at least five children between the ages of two and six enrolled. There are currently three families enrolled, at least two more families need to enroll in the PCIT program. If you know of a family that would benefit from PCIT, contact Heidi Martinez.

Heidi will be teaching a Mental Health First Aid class to the Lakeview school faculty next week. There is a potential opportunity to teach this class in North Lake as well.

There is one wrap-around referral to be approved after the Lake County Governance Council meeting is closed.

Additional Updates

Amy Hutchinson advised that if anyone needs to email all Lake Community Governance Council members, they can use the email address: earlylearning@lakecountylibrary.org. All members of the council will receive the correspondence.

Next Meeting: May 25, 2021 at 1:00 pm

HB 3073 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood

Action Date: 04/12/21

Action: Do pass with amendments. Refer to Rules, then to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-0-0-0

Yeas: 8 - Lively, Neron, Power, Reynolds, Schouten, Weber, Wright, Zika

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/22, 2/24, 4/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Makes Early Learning Council responsible for leading cross-sector strategic planning for statewide early learning system. Establishes purposes of statewide early learning system. Modifies duties of Early Learning Council. Modifies membership and duties of State Interagency Coordinating Council. Modifies Employment Related Day Care subsidy program provisions. Makes Department of Human Services and Early Learning Council jointly responsible for program rules. Requires sliding scale for copayments, not to exceed seven percent of household income. Requires Early Learning Council to establish process for determining true cost of child care compared to market rate by July 1, 2022. Requires report to legislature by December 31, 2022. Repeals Oregon Department of Education's Early Learning Division. Establishes Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) as independent state agency, led by Governor-appointed Early Learning System Director beginning July 1, 2022. Establishes purposes of DELIC. Transfers responsibility to administer funds received pursuant to federal Child Care and Development Block Grant and Child Care and Development Fund, other federal funds and grants received by the State of Oregon, and resource and referral system from Office of Child Care to DELIC. Requires annual report to Legislative Fiscal Office. Allows family child care providers who are parties in contested case hearings to be represented by a labor union representative. Modifies provisions of Preschool Promise Program. Changes quality rating system to quality recognition system. Requires Superintendent of Public Instruction to collaborate with Early Learning System Director for provision of early intervention/early childhood special education programs. Requires State Board of Education to consult with Early Learning Council on promulgation of related rules. Requires Department of Education and Early Learning Division to develop and implement a plan that provides for seamless transfer of duties, functions, and powers. Requires Director of Oregon Department of Education to deliver to the Early Learning Authority all records and property, as well as employees. Transfers fund balances. Transfers Employment Related Day Care subsidy program to DELIC beginning June 30, 2023 and requires Department of Human Services to deliver related records and property. Requires transition reports to legislature September 15, 2021, December 31, 2021, and September 30, 2022. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Early learning in Oregon
- Child care system
- Needs of providers and families
- Governance in other states

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

HB 3073 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND:

The Early Learning Division of the Oregon Department of Education was established by passage of House Bill 3234 in 2013. That measure transferred certain duties previously assigned to the Early Learning Council to the Division. Since that time, the Division has served to govern and manage most of the state's early child care and education programs and services.

House Bill 3073 A makes the Early Learning Division into an independent state agency, titles the new agency the Department of Early Learning and Care, modifies related definitions and duties, and transfers the Employment Related Day Care subsidy program currently managed by the Department of Human Services to the newly created agency.