

Best Beginnings Committee Membership Recommendations

Best Beginnings Committee

The Best Beginnings Committee is charged with advising the ELC on the issues, challenges, successes and priorities related to serving at-risk families who are pregnant and/or have children aged 3 years old or under. Areas of responsibility include, but not limited to defining a set of core prenatal through age 3 priorities for the ELC in accordance with the strategies and tactics adopted in the 2015-2020 strategic plan. The subcommittee will serve as the Advisory Committee to the Healthy Families Oregon program, as required by Healthy Families America and the standards for this program.

The following expertise will be sought to fill seats on the Best Beginnings Committee

Three (3) seats: Early childhood advocates

Two (2) seats: HFO and home based services program knowledge

One (1) seat: A researcher with expertise evaluating early childhood programs.

Two (2) seats: Foundations/Community Leaders & Partners

Two (2) seats: A representative from the health sector and a representative from human services.

One (1) seat: ELC Representative

Four (4) seats: Flexible

Membership

The Best Beginnings Committee is comprised of the following members:

Early Childhood Advocates (Three Seats):

James Barta, Legislative Director, Children First for Oregon

Cindy Bond, Prevention Manger, Old Mill Center for Children & Families

Elena Rivera, Health Policy & Program Advisor, Children's Institute

HFO/Home-based Services Program – *Required for HFA Accreditation* (Two Seats):

Marguerite Kenagy, HFO Program Manager - Marion Polk Counties

Jessica Britt, HFO Program Manager - Umatilla & Union Counties

Early Learning Researcher (One Seat):

Beth Green, Director of Early Childhood and Family Support Research, PSU

Foundations/Community Leaders & Partners (Two Seats):

Theresa Martinez, Early Learning Coordinator, Eastern Oregon Early Learning Hub

Christy Cox, Early Childhood Development Program Officer, The Ford Family Foundation

Health Sector (One Seat):

Lindsey Manfrin, Public Health Manager, Yamhill Public Health

Human Services Sector (One Seat):

VACANCY

Flexible (Four Seats):

Donalda Dodson, Early Learning Council Member

Janet Dougherty-Smith, Early Learning Council Member

Mercedes Castle, Pedagogical Director, Portland Montessori Collaborative

Susan (Lisa) Harper, Assistant, Grassharper Foundation – *Pending Approval*

Early Learning Council Members:

Martha Brooks, Early Learning Council Member – ***Committee Chair***