



## Early Learning Council

March 23, 2018

9:00am-2:00pm

### Engagement Agenda

Early Learning Division  
Grand Ronde Conference Room  
700 Summer St NE, Suite 350  
Salem, OR 97301

### Agenda

SUE MILLER  
*Early Learning Council  
Chair*

PATRICK ALLEN

MARTHA BROOKS

DONALDA DODSON

JANET  
DOUGHERTY- SMITH

COLT GILL

HOLLY MAR

FARIBORZ PAKSERESHT

EVA RIPPETEAU

SHAWNA RODRIGUES

DONNA SCHNITKER

TERI THALHOFFER

KALI THORNE-LADD

CARMEN URBINA

BOBBIE WEBER

MIRIAM CALDERON  
*Early Learning System  
Director*

*Advisors*  
Sarah Drinkwater, ODE

Cate Wilcox, OHA

Kim Fredlund, DHS

*Staff*  
Alyssa Chatterjee,  
Council Administrator

*The Early Learning Council will not be accepting testimony at their March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. All meetings of the Early Learning Council are open to the public and anyone wishing to provide testimony may do so at the April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

- I. Setting Up the Early Care & Education Conversation 9:00-9:45  
Miriam Calderon, Early Learning System Director  
Lindsey Capps, Education Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Kate Brown

### Strategic Planning Stakeholder Engagement Session

- II. Early Learning Hubs 9:45-10:30  
Lisa Harnisch, Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub, Inc.  
Molly Day, Early Learning Multnomah

- III. Provider Panel 10:30-11:30  
*The Early Learning Council will hear from a panel of providers from the following groups:*  
Family Child Care  
Center Director: Kelly Skopil, Executive Director, YMCA Columbia-Willamette (Portland)  
Head Start Provider: Leticia Flores, Head Start Teacher (Mt. Hood)  
Healthy Families Oregon Home Visitor: Juan Galan, Supervisor/Home Visitor, Healthy Families Oregon at Family Building Blocks (Marion & Polk)

- IV. Provider Panel Continued: Focused Child Care Networks 11:30-12:00  
Jill Ramirez, Quality Improvement Specialist, Child Care Resource Network, Southern Oregon ESD  
Candy Sanchez, Provider (Medford)

*15 minute break – working lunch*

- V. Advocates & Philanthropy 12:15-1:15  
Dana Hepper, Children's Institute  
Chris Coughlin, Children First for Oregon  
Sadie Feibel, Latino Network  
Caitlin Shockley, FACT Oregon

VI. Strategic Planning Debrief	1:15-2:00
Carey McCann, State Services Assistant Director, BUILD	
Alyssa Chatterjee, ELD	
VII. Adjournment	2:00

*\*Times are approximate; items may be taken out of order, meetings may conclude early and breaks may be added as needed. All meetings of the Early Learning Council are open to the public and will conform to Oregon public meetings laws. The upcoming meeting schedule and materials from past meetings are posted [online](#). A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for accommodations for people with disabilities should be made to Alyssa Chatterjee at 971-701-1535 or by email at [Alyssa.Chatterjee@state.or.us](mailto:Alyssa.Chatterjee@state.or.us). Requests for accommodation should be made at least 48 hours in advance.*



**Children First for Oregon Background Information**  
**Early Learning Sector Engagement**  
**March 23, 2018**

*1. What region(s) of the state does your organization focus on or work in?*

Children First for Oregon is a statewide organization working in four program areas:

- Legislative Solutions
- Foster Youth Advocacy
- Child Abuse Prevention
- Research and Data

Over the past year, Children First hosted conversations in communities across the state to discuss the priority issues and concerns facing Oregon children. In 2017 we reached 13 counties, with 10 of them rural counties and had 53 meetings with advocates, service providers, and local agencies to learn the needs and successes each community has for its children. In 2018, Children First is focusing our Community Conversation outreach primarily on rural communities (populations 40,000 or less). We will be traveling to at least 11 counties this year in each region of the state.

*a. If statewide, does your organization have a regional “network” that either does or could collaborate with our Early Learning Hubs?*

We do not have our own regional network, but, in 2017, we partnered with the following Early Learning Hubs to host Community Conversations:

- Southern Oregon Early Learning Services
- Four Rivers Early Learning Hub
- Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub
- South Coast Regional Early Learning Hub

In 2018, we plan on continuing our Community Conversations and will reach out to the Early Learning Hubs in each of the regions we visit. We are in the process of determining those sites now, and will have counties identified by the end of March.

*2. What work is your organization doing to advance cross-sector collaboration to help develop an early learning system – or “to get children ready for K and support families in doing so”?*

Each legislative session beginning in 2015, Children First through its United for Kids initiative has created the Children’s Agenda. More than 100 advocate partners spanning a wide range of sectors are invited to submit legislative concepts that they plan to advance in the legislative session. At first glance, it may not always be immediately apparent how the legislative concepts link directly to an early learning system, but in a closer look there are many ways that the items on the Children’s Agenda supports upstream needs that help to “get children ready for K and support families in doing so.”

The goal of the United for Kids initiative and the Children’s Agenda is to encourage cross-sector collaboration. One recent example is the prioritization of restoring cuts to Employment-Related Day Care (ERDC) and Culturally



Specific Early Learning. Many of the groups listed as supporters of one of these two priorities or the restoration of cuts to early learning programs, all concepts in the 2018 Children's Agenda, would not necessarily track on child care or early learning issues. However, groups including the Oregon Nurses Association, Oregon Pediatric Society, and the Oregon Women's Rights Coalition, signed on as supporters during the process we go through with our partners to develop the Children's Agenda. The 2017 and 2018 Children's Agendas are included in the packet to give a sense of the scope of the Children's Agenda in a long and short session.

In our advocacy, Children First is in regular communications with the Early Learning Division and the Department of Human Services' Self Sufficiency and Child Welfare divisions. In each of these subject areas we work with a wide array of advocates to encourage all to look beyond their silos. We are happy to see that Early Learning and Self Sufficiency are in regular communication at the leadership and programmatic levels, which did not occur as much in years past.

As part of our Research and Data Program, Children First publishes the County Data Book funded by the Annie E Casey Foundation. This valuable resource offers advocates and legislators an easy reference to see how children are doing county by county on more than 20 indices, many of which directly reflect the performance (and funding) of Early Childhood programs. Indicators include immunization rates, adequate prenatal care, early education enrollment, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade math and English Language Arts proficiency.

### *3. What are the outcomes in prenatal-5 that you are most focused on?*

Providing the resources, whether policies or financial, that support effective programs developed with an equity lens that prepare children for future learning, stabilize families, and ensure adequate services for children in need. In particular, Oregon needs to support investments that will have tangible, positive impacts on children's lives in ways that can begin to bring equity for children of color, children with disabilities, children in rural communities, and other disparately impacted populations in our communities.

### *4. What are the strategies that you have been most focused on to achieve those outcomes?*

We work to empower communities to advocate for kids so all children in Oregon can thrive. A team of three legislative staff works with our more than 100 partners in the United for Kids initiative, helping to shape legislative proposals, providing strategic advice, and either developing new or supporting existing coalitions that will support specific policy initiatives.

Our Community Conversations project provides opportunities for Oregonians to come together to find solutions for kids. Parents, educators, employers, and constituents discuss the day-to-day challenges for children in their communities and their ideas for solutions.

### *5. Who have been your key community partners in this work?*

The 100+ Children's Agenda partners are our fellow advocates. Through our Community Conversations project, we are building relationships with community organizations (i.e., Rotary, Kiwanis) school districts, Early Learning Hubs, local elected officials, service providers, and others.

### *6. What is your relationship with Early Learning Hubs?*

As noted above we are building relationships with Early Learning Hubs through our Community Conversations, particularly in rural areas, and hope to both expand and deepen those relationships in the coming year.



*7. What is your “wish list” for the legislature for 2019?*

We are still working with our partners to develop our wish list but some of the early learning legislative ideas that were not enacted in 2018 should move forward. In particular, the creation of a Culturally Specific Early Learning Equity Fund would enable existing, effective programs to expand their reach and serve more children and their parents that need their services.

We are also looking to the Early Learning Council through its strategic planning process to develop a roadmap for a comprehensive early learning system with milestones over several biennia that we can partner to support.

Finally, 2019 will likely be another session when new opportunities for additional revenue will be discussed. Some of this focus is likely to emerge from the Joint Committee on Student Success. We think that it is critical for early learning to be part of that conversation, both because it is a critical component of student success, but also because it can help build the case for the need for increased state revenue.



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**Latino Network  
Presentation to the Early Learning Council  
Early Learning Sector Engagement – Advocates & Philanthropy  
March 23, 2018**

**1. What region(s) of the state does your organization focus on or work in?**

Latino Network's early learning programs are currently located in Multnomah & Washington Counties. Latino Network operates a state-wide executive level leadership development program for Latino leaders.

**a. If statewide, does your organization have a regional "network" that either does or could collaborate with our Early Learning Hubs?**

Not currently.

**2. What work is your organization doing to advance cross-sector collaboration to help develop an early learning system – or "to get children ready for K and support families in doing so"?**

Our work is grounded in the principles of community self-determination, positive cultural identity, and racial equity. Latino Network's early learning programs partner closely with the K-12 system to foster family engagement, promote advocacy & systems change, and support families to be ready for school and schools to be ready for families. We actively engage with our Early Learning Hubs, All Hands Raised Cradle to Career Collaborative, COSA, the Coalition of Communities of Color, Children's Institute, Children First for Oregon and others to promote system alignment.

**3. What are the outcomes in prenatal-5 that you are most focused on?**

- Family support and engagement
- Early literacy
- Early math
- Social emotional development
- Cultural identity development
- Connection to health and social services



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**4. What are the strategies that you have been most focused on to achieve those outcomes?**

- Preschool-like classes
- Parent workshops
- Home visits
- Parent-child learning groups
- Resource navigation
- Culturally specific curriculum & instruction
- Popular Education methodology
- Staff who reflect demographics and lived experiences of families served
- Culturally specific and accessible professional development
- Partnerships between schools, families and CBOs

**5. Who have been your key community partners in this work?**

- Families
- Schools & districts
- Early Learning Hubs – Multnomah and Washington Counties
- Libraries
- Community Capacitation Center – Multnomah County Health Department
- Coalition of Communities of Color
- Children's Book Bank

**6. What is your relationship with Early Learning Hubs?**

Latino Network partners closely with the Early Learning Hubs in Multnomah and Washington Counties. Our partnership with the Washington County Early Learning Hub has allowed us to bring Juntos Aprendemos to the Tigard Tualatin School District. In Multnomah County, we partner with ELM on numerous projects including:

- Community Education Worker program
- Early Literacy Kits
- Early STEM Kits
- P3 Schools Project
- Culturally Specific Parent Child Development Services
- Parent Accountability Council



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## **7. What is your “wish list” for the legislature for 2019?**

We’d like to see the state invest directly in culturally specific early learning programs. If HB 4066 does not pass in 2018, we’d like to see an equity fund established to support culturally specific, early childhood programs serving children of color. If HB 4066 does pass, then we’d like to see greater investments in these targeted early childhood programs and some equitable reforms to existing programs and practices to make the entire system more responsive, inclusive, and equitable.

We would also like to see expanded opportunities, supports and professional development pathways for early learning and family support providers from diverse backgrounds reflective of the children they serve – in particular providers of color, providers who speak languages other than English, providers who come from immigrant, refugee, and mixed status families.





# Early Learning Council Questionnaire

FACT Oregon

1. *What region(s) of the state does your organization focus on or work in?*

a. *If statewide, does your organization have a regional “network” that either does or could collaborate with our Early Learning Hubs?*

FACT Oregon is a statewide organization serving families experiencing disability of all ages. Our administrative office is in the Portland Metro area, but we have remote staff as well who support families on the coast, in the mid-Valley, and in eastern, central, and southern Oregon.

2. *What work is your organization doing to advance cross-sector collaboration to help develop an early learning system – or “to get children ready for K and support families in doing so”?*

We partner with EI/ECSE providers, child care providers, school districts, and social services providers in a variety of ways, supporting young families:

- Introducing ourselves as a resource for staff and families, and building relationships
- Providing training to staff on family engagement and ways to improve the transition to kindergarten process
- Providing training to an agency or center’s families on person-centered planning, EI/ECSE, and transition to kindergarten.

3. *What are the outcomes in prenatal-5 that you are most focused on?*

We want families of infants, toddlers, and young children with disabilities connected with their local communities, equipped to engage in systems, and having high expectations for their children’s future. We believe that just as early intervention can change a child’s developmental trajectory, when we reach a parent early, that parent is better equipped to be an effective advocate and dream bigger dreams for their child.

4. *What are the strategies that you have been most focused on to achieve those outcomes?*

Community partnerships. We are highly motivated to expand our partnerships, to reach more providers and families early.

5. *Who have been your key community partners in this work?*

EI/ECSE providers, school districts, and children’s medical providers are our main partners. We have an outreach plan to begin building relationships with additional providers, WIC offices, CaCoon nurses, and other partners for the 18-19 program year.

6. *What is your relationship with Early Learning Hubs?*



We have connected with or collaborated with several hubs: Marion-Polk, Multnomah, Clackamas, Northwest, southern and central Oregon. We may not have capacity to serve, but would love to get connected, learn more about the work of each hub, share resources, and provide stakeholder input as representatives of families experiencing disability.

*7. What is your “wish list” for the legislature for 2019?*

We do not have a formal legislative agenda, and are grateful for growing partnerships with the advocates at Children’s Institute and Children First for Oregon. We would like to see universal pre-k, and of course our lens is ensuring that young children with disabilities have equitable access to high quality early learning programs in the most natural, inclusive environments.