

# February 2019 Director's Report

## Child Care Desert Report

ELD commissioned an Oregon State University report – [Oregon's Child Care Deserts: Mapping Supply by Age Group, Metropolitan Status, and Percentage of Publicly Funded Slots](#)<sup>i</sup> – to study the supply of child care across Oregon. The findings have informed the design of Division policy. The report, prepared by Drs. Megan Pratt, Michaela Sektnan, and Bobbie Weber, has garnered some media attention that I wanted to share with the Council. Here is some select coverage of the report:

- Dr. Pratt and I spoke about the report on Oregon Public Broadcasting's Think Out Loud:
- <https://www.opb.org/radio/programs/thinkoutloud/segment/oregon-childcare-donna-hayes/>
- Baker City Herald: <https://www.bakercityherald.com/news/6966847-151/child-care-crisis>
- KOIN-TV: <https://www.koin.com/news/oregon/osu-report-not-enough-child-care-in-oregon/1782198381>

## Legislative Session

The Early Learning Division has presented to a number of committees in the past several weeks. I finished my introductory presentation to the Education Subcommittee for Joint Ways and Means Committee this week, as well as presentations to the Joint Committee on Student Success's ECE Subcommittee. The Joint Ways and Means Committee's Education Subcommittee will hear public testimony from early learning stakeholders on March 6.

## Lead Rules Implementation Update

In 2018, the Early Learning Council adopted new rules for licensed child care facilities that included mandatory lead testing: **OAR - CC – 414-300-0205(3)(a)(d)**, **CF – 414-350-0165(3)(a)(d)**, **RF – 414-205-0105(3)(a)(d)**. The rules became effective on September 30, 2018 and required facilities to submit lead testing results and/or mitigation strategies to the Office of Child Care (OCC).

As of February 26, 2019, the OCC licenses 3,773 facilities consisting of Registered Family, Certified Family, and Certified Centers facilities. Of these facilities, 3,748 have submitted lead testing results or a mitigation strategy to the OCC. 232 or 0.06% of the facilities that are in compliance are using an alternative water source declaration as their mitigation strategy. Additionally, of the 3,748 lead testing results, 48 facilities have submitted results that indicate a failed faucet, which equates to a 99.99% pass rate. These facilities have implemented an OCC approved mitigation strategy.

There are 26 facilities not in compliance. 7 of those facilities have an expiring license that will not be renewed, leaving 18 facilities not in compliance. A deadline to submit lead test results or a mitigation strategy to the OCC was communicated to these providers. The Licensing Specialist will be alerted when deadline has passed and the provider will be issued a non-compliance. The OCC will pursue civil penalties to facilities that do not correct the non-compliance within the specified timeframe.

The Early Learning Division is continuing to work with stakeholders on implementation and reporting of these rules.

## Hiring and Recruitment Updates

This month, the Division welcomed Lois Thawley as a Senior Operations Analyst focused on supporting the Division's procurement and budget work. We are completing recruitments for a number of positions, including a Deputy Director.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://health.oregonstate.edu/sites/health.oregonstate.edu/files/early-learners/pdf/oregon-child-care-deserts-01-29-2019.pdf>