



Early Learning Hub Monitoring Report 2019

Individual Hub Summaries



Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub



Monitoring Report 2019

Backbone Organization: Intermountain ESD

Counties in Region: Morrow, Umatilla, Union

Sq. Miles in Hub Region: 5,677

Hub Directors: Amy Hoffert & Erin Bartsch

Website: bluemountaineearlylearninghub.org

Children 0–6 Years in Priority Population: 8,077

Cross-Sector Agency Partners: 1 CCO, 1 ESD, 2 DHS

ELD Early Learning Hub Investment: \$797,519.36

PARTNER SURVEY FINDINGS AT A GLANCE

Overall, there was a decrease in partner survey participation from 2017 to 2019 and no surveys received from partners in health and human services. However, three respondents indicated they were Tribal members.

Both community partners and the Governance Council noted a need for more parents and child care providers to participate in the work:

- “Cannot have enough parental input.”
- “Child care could be more strongly represented. It seems that we have organizations that work with child care providers but not the providers themselves.”

Several respondents noted success with Professional Learning Teams (PLT) and the local focus on “Conscious Discipline” (social-emotional curriculum) trainings:

- “The Hub is building an Early Care and Education (ECE) system, more mutual understanding between ECE educators and public school teachers and joint training that has led to aligned curriculum and philosophy.”

PROMISING PRACTICES

Training the early learning workforce on trauma-informed practices: The Hub has focused on a region-wide implementation of “Conscious Discipline,” a social-emotional education and behavior management program based in neuroscience. All school districts in the region have the opportunity to train and utilize Conscious Discipline and more than 200 people across the region have been trained. This has included training completely in Spanish, a first for the region. The Professional Learning Teams (PLT) have made Conscious Discipline their focus for improving pre-kindergarten to third grade best practices and alignment. In addition to the Conscious Discipline trainings for educators, they have collaborated with their local Tribe, Head Start, and Parenting Hub to provide a series of four Conscious Discipline parenting classes at the local early learning center.

SUMMARY

Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub has a strong foundation for success with an active Governance Council and strong integration with their backbone organization. They are also co-convened by an ESD and Head Start, creating a strong relationship within prenatal to third grade systems. They continue to excel in their use of data as a tool to bring partners together for regional approaches and strategies.

They are system leaders in their professional development approach with early and continuing success with PLTs in every school district in the region. The areas for growth and improvement include a more intentional and culturally responsive approach to working with all of their priority populations and a strategy for parent voice as part of the Governance Council structure. This Hub continues to be a strong catalyst for change for children from birth to school age and beyond.

Early Learning Hub of Central Oregon



Monitoring Report 2019

Backbone Organization: High Desert ESD

Counties in Region: Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson

Sq. Miles in Hub Region: 7,833

Hub Director: Brenda Comini

Website: earlylearninghubco.org

Children 0–6 Years in Priority Population: 9,878

Cross-Sector Agency Partners: 1 CCO, 2 ESD, 1 DHS

ELD Early Learning Hub Investment: \$939,953.47

PARTNER SURVEY FINDINGS AT A GLANCE

The Governance Council has all required sectors actively participating in a shared vision:

- “We have become broad thinkers. We aren’t disconnected and [we] have more of a shared vision of how we serve the community... I now say ‘we’ when talking about the work we do.”

Partners were appreciative of the deepening focus on equity:

- “Disparities are being addressed by the hard work of connecting with members [families] of the community we never seem to hear from. I am excited about this work and look forward to what we learn...”

Respondents expressed a desire for more parent voice in the governance of the Hub.

PROMISING PRACTICES

Parent Engagement Coordinator meeting parents where they are: The Hub’s investment in a bilingual Parent Engagement Coordinator has led to much stronger parent engagement and connection with families from priority populations. Their Coordinator holds events that offer meals and activities, support a family’s basic needs, and give parents an opportunity to share what their children need to succeed. The Coordinator is able to meet with parents individually as needed, providing various direct supports or navigation of services. A family engagement survey helped identify the families in need of additional support as well as direct the continued development of family voice in the Hub. Engaging families in this way makes Hub initiatives and services much more accessible to those who are often the hardest to reach. The Hub will continue to build on its developing relationships with families and continue to build active parent voice in Hub decision-making.

SUMMARY

This Hub is supporting or leading an impressive number of initiatives its regional partners have underway – from the early learning professional development pathways (Partners in Practice), to the Culture of Care Initiative, to TRACES (trauma-informed care initiative). The transition to the High Desert ESD as the Hub’s backbone has been a success, enabling the Hub to leverage resources. In particular, the addition of administrative support and a data support person has been impactful.

During these past two years, the Hub has initiated a regional conversation around child care, and worked with the regional health council to initiate developmental screening and closed loop referral pathways with the OR Pediatric Improvement Project (OPIP). It also led to the region becoming a Baby Promise pilot site, increasing subsidized infant-toddler care in the region. The Hub will leverage the project-specific evaluative work to develop Hub-wide evaluation practices across its many initiatives to evaluate the collective impact of various strategies on children and families in Central Oregon. The Hub is also working on increasing parent voice in the governance.

Clackamas Early Learning Hub



Monitoring Report 2019

Backbone Organization: Clackamas County Children, Youth & Families Division

Counties in Region: Clackamas

Sq. Miles in Hub Region: 1,883

Hub Director: Annette Dieker

Website: earlylearninghubofclackamascounty.org

Children 0–6 Years in Priority Population: 11,791

Cross-Sector Agency Partners: 1 CCO, 1 ESD, 1 DHS

ELD Early Learning Hub Investment: \$1,093,345.09

PARTNER SURVEY FINDINGS AT A GLANCE

The early learning sector had many survey respondents, who expressed the high value of the work of their Hub.

Numerous respondents called out the improved system coordination on behalf of young children and families:

- “[The Hub’s]... system partner engagement process seems robust – leaders actively and routinely address system barriers with one another.”

Appreciation for the Hub’s two Parent Advisory Councils was mentioned repeatedly, along with a desire to more closely integrate parent voice from these Councils into governance.

Many respondents noted an increase in shared community values around resiliency and the support of parents resulting from the close partnership between the Early Learning Hub and the Parenting Hub.

PROMISING PRACTICES

Focus on family resource management: This Hub has invested in and grown a network of Family Resource Coordinators (FRCs) as a regional strategy since early in its formation. The FRCs increasingly serve more families with complex needs in a strengths-based, culturally appropriate relationship. This includes annual events, such as the Make a Splash Campaign with more than 1,700 families meeting FRCs, gaining parenting education information, and engaging in activities with their kids. Hosted by the Hub, “Clackamas Parenting Together,” and “Clackamas County Health, Housing and Human Services,” Make a Splash has become a family engagement event that the community coalesces around. The Hub is now developing a FRC client-tracking database to guide future system development and investments.

SUMMARY

Clackamas Early Learning Hub is well-integrated with its backbone organization, Clackamas County. Clackamas County participates in the Governance Council and shares several strategies, most notably shared equity strategies. The Governance Council is engaged and has two Parent Advisory Councils (one holds meetings in English and another in Spanish) operating, setting them up to have true parent voice engaged in planning and investment decisions.

Data use is strong and the Hub’s active partnership with both public health and their CCO will continue to grow their effectiveness in serving the children and families of Clackamas County. This Hub intends to build on its successes with parent engagement to build a stronger tie between its Parent Advisory Councils and the Governance Council.

Eastern Oregon Early Learning Hub



Monitoring Report 2019

Backbone Organization: Malheur ESD

Counties in Region: Baker, Malheur, Wallowa

Sq. Miles in Hub Region: 16,170

Hub Director: Kelly Poe

Website: malesd.org/what-we-do/early-learning

Children 0–6 Years in Priority Population: 4,255

Cross-Sector Agency Partners: 1 CCO, 3 ESD, 2 DHS

ELD Early Learning Hub Investment: \$534,427.33

PARTNER SURVEY FINDINGS AT A GLANCE

Early Learning partners had a strong response rate, and expressed a high value in the work of their Hub.

Numerous respondents expressed appreciation for the Hub’s “Equity for Common Good” work actively underway in each county:

“Our Hub is acutely aware of disparities/inequities and is working hard to address these.”

Partners noted a greater level of collaboration:

- “We have a regular way to come together. It gives us a central place to go to when trying to collaborate and coordinate.”

PROMISING PRACTICES

Shared professional development: The Eastern Oregon Hub region has a strong commitment to professional development. The Malheur ESD hosts three professional development events a year and all three counties are invited to participate at no cost. These events engage K-12, early learning providers, and less traditional partners such as public safety and DHS. The Hub also coordinates Professional Learning Teams (PLT) in all three counties that are comprised of early learning providers, K-12 teachers, and administrators. Additionally, they offer a variety of ongoing professional development opportunities, including dyslexia awareness training and training on “Conscious Discipline,” a social-emotional education and behavior management program based in neuroscience. The Hub is currently working to develop a cadre of “Master Trainers” to expand the offering of OCCD-approved intermediate and advanced trainings for child care professionals.

SUMMARY

Eastern Oregon Early Learning Hub is well integrated with their backbone organization, the Malheur ESD, which has resulted in significant successes in shared professional development between K-12, early learning, and other community partners. Their Governance Council has strengthened its governance processes and engagement of its members over the last biennium, building a strong foundation to engage communities and utilize data to drive the Hub’s decision-making processes.

The Hub has engaged in community-wide equity work that they will now draw on as they engage in community planning work focused on priority populations. The Hub intends to deepen parent engagement and voice in governance over the next biennium.

Four Rivers Early Learning Hub



Monitoring Report 2019

Backbone Organization: Sherman County

Counties in Region: Gilliam, Hood River, Sherman, Wasco, Wheeler

Sq. Miles in Hub Region: 6,697

Hub Director: Christa Rude

Website: 4relh.com

Children 0–6 Years in Priority Population: 2,954

Cross-Sector Agency Partners: 2 CCO, 2 ESD, 1 DHS

ELD Early Learning Hub Investment: \$483,572.54

PARTNER SURVEY FINDINGS AT A GLANCE

Survey respondents reported a stronger regional focus on early childhood than in the past, and good cross-sector collaboration.

- “I feel that our communities have a much stronger focus on early childhood than we have ever had in the past.”

Numerous respondents described the challenge of communicating with diverse and remote communities across all five counties in a way that actively engages families and the general community in Hub activities.

There was a significantly lower response rate compared to 2017, with no responses from K-12 or DHS in either the Community Partner or Governance surveys. Hub staff reported hearing survey fatigue from many stakeholders.

- “Our two largest school districts are largely absent. One of the two has expressed interest in early childhood, but neither have offered commitment to engaging with Hubs. The smaller school districts have had some involvement, but K12 is the least engaged/invested partners.”

PROMISING PRACTICES

The Family Network (TFN): TFN is an exciting collaboration between early learning, public health, and the region’s Coordinated Care Organization (CCO). Once running, TFN will provide a universal touchpoint for families, connecting with all pregnant women in the five-county region to ensure they are supported and have access to services. TFN is developing a web-based platform that will provide a single point of contact for families needing multiple services, an access point for medical providers, and a place for parents to get information about local activities and resources. The Hub, public health, and CCO are also working together to share data about their families and young children, as well as develop universal referral processes. The Hub is also applying to be a “Family Connects” (a Universal Home Visiting system) pilot site through OHA. Family Connects, as well as their recent success in becoming an Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative (OPEC) Hub, could strengthen TFN’s capacity to connect with pregnant women and connect them to a comprehensive network of supports.

SUMMARY

This Hub has strong governance processes that have enabled it to work effectively and inclusively across all five counties within the Hub region. It has also sought additional resources to support early childhood in the region. It has recently become an OPEC Hub, is leveraging funding from a behavioral health partner toward TFN, and is applying to be a Family Connects pilot site. This kind of blending and braiding of funds strengthens the development of early learning systems locally, and this community’s natural ability to share resources is encouraging. The Hub’s partnership with K-12 is a work in progress. The Hub has effectively engaged all school districts in a “Bridge to K” program, and meets annually with each district to discuss their data and priorities. K-12 involvement in early learning systems through the Hub is developing. The Hub also intends to focus on parent engagement this next biennium, leveraging existing local connections with families to strengthen parent voice in the Hub governance. Four Rivers Early Learning Hub is initiating a backbone change. The Hub currently has backbone functions shared between Sherman County and the Columbia Gorge ESD, but will eventually have only one backbone agency. They anticipate this will streamline their operational processes and enable them to utilize limited resources more effectively.

Frontier Early Learning Hub



Monitoring Report 2019

Backbone Organization: Harney ESD

Counties in Region: Harney, Grant

Sq. Miles in Hub Region: 10,226

Hub Director: Donna Schnitker

Website:

harneyesd.sharpschool.com/e_c_c/harney_grant_frontier_hub

Children 0–6 Years in Priority Population: 596

Cross-Sector Agency Partners: 1 CCO, 2 ESD, 1 DHS

ELD Early Learning Hub Investment: \$380,189.63

PARTNER SURVEY FINDINGS AT A GLANCE

Numerous partners noted both the strong collaboration developing between early learning and K-12, and the success of increasing developmental screening:

- “K-12 and the Early Learning providers are now connected. [Ages & Stages Questionnaires] ASQ metric has been met (parents have been educated on importance of early detection and screening).”

Partners expressed optimism about the Hub’s recent success in becoming an Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative Hub (OPEC) and the opportunity this brings to strengthen both parent education and parent voice in the region.

PROMISING PRACTICES

Regional vision of kindergarten readiness: This Hub has fostered a collective vision of kindergarten readiness and has worked across a number of initiatives to make progress on this goal. They have invested in joint curriculum that is being used across the region, helping to align children’s preschool and kindergarten experiences. The region now shares Kindergarten Readiness Assessment scores, and has developed a shared understanding of Oregon’s Kindergarten Guidelines. Kindergarten teachers have adapted home visiting practices for incoming students in Grant County. In Harney County, preschool scholarships give all children access to preschool. There is also a growing relationship between K-12 and early childhood providers as they engage in shared activities. Lastly, the focus on developmental screening and utilization of Early Intervention has enabled young children to get needed, individualized supports before heading to school. This is becoming particularly successful as pediatricians get involved.

SUMMARY

Frontier Early Learning Hub has actively worked on their governance structure and processes this biennium, resulting in a backbone change from Harney County to the Harney ESD. They have also made progress in their collection and use of data as a driver in their region, which has unique challenges related to the small size of their schools. They have a collective vision around providing early education opportunities and preparing children for kindergarten that has actively engaged their cross-sector partners. This Hub has shown a strong ability to leverage the relationships in their small, tight-knit communities, addressing the challenges inherent in their geographic size and distance from services. The Hub will focus on family engagement and family voice this next biennium, and will ensure they continue to keep their Governance Council engaged. The Hub is moving steadily forward with available resources, utilizing their close-knit communities to serve children and families.

Lane Early Learning Alliance



Monitoring Report 2019

Backbone Organization: United Way of Lane County

Counties in Region: Lane

Sq. Miles in Hub Region: 4,554

Hub Director: Bess Day

Website: earlylearningalliance.org

Children 0–6 Years in Priority Population: 16,383

Cross-Sector Agency Partners: 2 CCO, 1 ESD, 1 DHS

ELD Early Learning Hub Investment: \$1,412,922.17

PARTNER SURVEY FINDINGS AT A GLANCE

A strong collaboration with K-12 was indicated by both the number of respondents and their responses:

- “Efforts towards early literacy have paid off... Our students are entering kindergarten in line with state averages and in the past they have generally been below the state averages in early academic skills.”

Many respondents indicated strong community commitment to a shared kindergarten readiness strategy, Kids in Transition to School (KITs).

Partners would like to see more providers and parents included in Hub governance.

This Hub has engaged three different culturally-specific organizations (CSOs) as experts in addressing the needs of the growing population of families whose first language is Spanish.

PROMISING PRACTICES

Aligning health and early learning: An early innovation was the establishment of a Pediatric Advisory Committee which has benefited several initiatives including increasing developmental screening rates from 17% to 71% over five years. By working with Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE), Coordinated Care Organization (CCOs) and other community services, they were able to align and improve the referral process and cross-sector communication for children with potential developmental delays, strengthening how these community partners coordinate services for children and families.

SUMMARY

Lane Early Learning Alliance (ELA) is supporting or leading an impressive number of cross-sector initiatives and campaigns that benefit young children and families. The Hub’s high level of integration with their backbone organization enables them to mutually leverage partnerships and resources, maximizing the benefits for priority populations. Lane ELA also uses data quite well; the ELD looks forward to hearing more about the Hub’s efforts with school districts to tie duration and dosage of early learning experiences with Oregon Kindergarten Assessment (OKA) data and third grade reading.

The Hub is still developing avenues for parent engagement and voice in the governance of the Hub. This is an area of focus in the 2019-2021 biennium. They also will be advancing numerous strategies initiated in 2017-2019 that will strengthen their ability to respond in a culturally-responsive manner to their priority populations.

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties



Monitoring Report 2019

Backbone Organization: Linn-Benton Community College

Counties in Region: Benton, Lincoln, Linn

Sq. Miles in Hub Region: 4,182

Hub Director: Kristi Collins

Website: lblearlylearninghub.org

Children 0–6 Years in Priority Population: 11,811

Cross-Sector Agency Partners: 1 CCO, 1 ESD, 1 DHS

ELD Early Learning Hub Investment: \$1,077,384.60

PARTNER SURVEY FINDINGS AT A GLANCE

Hub governance has all sectors participating although there were no surveys from business. Both partners and governance respondents noted a need for more parents and businesses at the table.

- “Engagement with the business community could be enhanced.”
- “It would be great to have more families engaged in the decision making process.”

There is a strong theme around increased collaboration and alignment due to the work of the Hub.

- “Pre-hub we struggled to come together as a three-county group around common needs, goals and resources. We now have a system that brings us all together to talk about shared vision, needs and resources.”
- “More unified efforts, improved access to early childhood education, better coordination, more opportunities for families.”

PROMISING PRACTICES

Pollywog, a successful closed-loop referral system: Pollywog staff assist families in signing up for prenatal and parenting classes, accessing parenting support, and referring families to appropriate primary health care, child development, and early learning opportunities. This web-based service constitutes a partnership between five local hospitals, social service organizations, public health, and education partners. It leverages the Hub’s parenting education collaborative, the Parenting Success Network.

SUMMARY

The Linn-Benton-Lincoln Early Learning Hub continues to excel in regional early learning work, advancing the statewide early learning system by identifying replicable, successful system components. This is particularly clear in their use of data and their innovative development of a closed-looped referral system that involves all partners and is easily accessible. They have a strong governance structure and a supportive backbone. The Hub recognizes that, even as they are doing well, there is always room for improvement and development.

Since the last monitoring process, the Hub improved parent engagement efforts and has included parent voice in Hub governance. We look forward to the continued work of this Hub as they finalize their data book, continue to advance the Pollywog system, and work jointly with the CCR&R on professional development and coaching.

Marion-Polk Early Learning Hub, Inc.



Monitoring Report 2019

Backbone Organization: Marion Polk Early Learning Hub, Inc.*

Counties in Region: Marion, Polk

Sq. Miles in Hub Region: 1,937

Hub Director: Lisa Harnisch

Website: parentinghub.org

Children 0–6 Years in Priority Population: 26,161

Cross-Sector Agency Partners: 2 CCO, 1 ESD, 1 DHS

ELD Early Learning Hub Investment: \$2,137,805.58

*This Hub is an independent 501(c)(3).

PARTNER SURVEY FINDINGS AT A GLANCE

The early learning sector expressed appreciation for the Hub's ability to bring people together:

- “We have managed to quell the sense of competition between providers, which has been wonderful to see. More shared understanding and perspective taking. The Hub in some ways operates like a neutral third party which really helps with bumps in the road.”

Numerous partners called out the Hub's focus on equity; one noted that the Hub's staff reflects the diversity of the population in the region.

Many partners noted the strength of the Hub's parent education work. Other partners recognized a need for more parent participation in governance.

PROMISING PRACTICES

Pioneers of coordinated enrollment: Strong public outreach, along with coordination of early learning providers, has translated to effective coordinated enrollment in the region. After coordinating all the providers, the Hub leads a “Preschool Rocks” campaign. Flyers are handed out at local community events, WIC/Self-Sufficiency offices, at kindergarten registration, to pediatric clinics, etc. They also lead an outstanding brand awareness campaign with advertisement on public transit and via social media. As one stakeholder noted in the partner survey: “The most significant thing that has happened as a result of the Hub is that alignment, collaboration, momentum and funding opened preschool spots for thousands of children in our community, at least three times more spots... So many spots were opened that empty spaces were waiting for children. Then with successful and collaborative outreach, those spots filled and there became another waiting list. Then the process was repeated each year. It has been a monumental and successful effort.”

SUMMARY

Marion-Polk Early Learning Hub, Inc. has numerous strengths. They continue to be a leader in the use of data in developing their priorities, strategies, and investments. The Hub does in-depth analyses of Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) data in conjunction with other sources, leading to their ability to determine how Preschool Promise children fare compared to others in the K-12.

They have a strong level of evaluation built into many of their strategies and activities, including their work with parents. They honor that they have a significant Latinx population and invest in the success of these families. These investments include the training of providers, increasing access to services such as Preschool Promise, and increasing availability of materials, events and staff that are bilingual and bicultural. Parent education is a major initiative that has a strong parent engagement component built in as well. This Hub continues to be challenged by the integration of their two counties into one Hub and this will continue to be an area they focus on in this next biennium. As they strengthen their cohesion as one regional entity, the overall effectiveness of their many strengths will continue to grow as well.

Early Learning Multnomah



Monitoring Report 2019

Backbone Organization: United Way of
Columbia-Willamette

Counties in Region: Multnomah

Sq. Miles in Hub Region: 466

Hub Directors: Molly Day & Frances Sallah

Website: earlylearningmultnomah.org

Children 0–6 Years in Priority Population: 34,351

Cross-Sector Agency Partners: 1 CCO, 1 ESD, 1 DHS

ELD Early Learning Hub Investment: \$2,763,741.79

PARTNER SURVEY FINDINGS AT A GLANCE

There was a substantial increase in the number of survey respondents (including parents) from 2017 to 2019, better reflecting the size of the region. The early learning sector was the lowest in response rate.

- “I don't think it's possible to effectively engage all relevant early learning and system partners in Multnomah County. The focus on allocating resources for programs and the work that comes with that limits or impacts their capacity to engage everyone discretely in [Early Learning Multnomah] ELM though ELM partners are collaboratively engaged in large community efforts they helped create.”

Several partners from every sector commented on the success of the Hub's Parent Advisory Council (PAC):

- “The Parent Accountability Council is a game-changing shift in the way our community centers family voice in prioritizing and funding work.”
- “They are the only local organization that has developed a clear and consistent family feedback loop and as a result families are driving decisions.”

PROMISING PRACTICES

Regional initiatives: The Hub created two multi-sector collaborations that are working in tandem to support the vision of an early learning system that is centered in family voice and rooted in racial equity. Preschool for All is a county-specific, multi-sector collaboration supporting universal preschool. Work is currently at the feasibility planning stage and includes partners from business, community-based organizations, culturally-specific organizations, philanthropy, city government, social services, higher education, housing, child care, health care, local elected officials, and state legislators. The Kindergarten Readiness Network is a tri-county, multi-sector collaboration addressing the social determinants of health and school success.

SUMMARY

Early Learning Multnomah (ELM) has made excellent progress on building out their Governance Council, utilizing parent voice first and foremost, and being more inclusive of sector and community partners. Their work with two large regional initiatives, Preschool for All and the Kindergarten Readiness Network, has been a huge focus in the last few years and reflects the active role ELM has with its partners.

Additionally, the partner survey indicates a high level of support from the sectors. The responses also show an appreciation of the Hub's focus on including parent voice as the umbrella of their work. They are a leader in their use of data to determine priorities and evaluate their investments. They will continue to grow in this area with the regional initiative work and through the continued engagement of the community in their collective work. With a number of competing priorities, the Hub maintains a focus on consistently evaluating these priorities and being intentional with the work.

Northwest Regional Early Learning Hub



Monitoring Report 2019

Backbone Organization: NW Regional ESD

Counties in Region: Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook

Sq. Miles in Hub Region: 3,105

Hub Director: Dorothy Spence

Website: nwelhub.org

Children 0–6 Years in Priority Population: 5,062

Cross-Sector Agency Partners: 1 CCO, 1 ESD, 1 DHS

ELD Early Learning Hub Investment: \$580,496.28

PARTNER SURVEY FINDINGS AT A GLANCE

All sectors are actively engaged in the Hub except business; these Governance Council representation spots were vacant at the time of the site visit.

Respondents noted positive collaborations with K-12 and noticeable impacts from Hub strategies and activities:

- “We notice an impact on our incoming students' comfort in using school facilities, and their readiness to learn in terms of classroom routines and expectations.” (K-12 respondent)

A few partners noted a need for better communication. A few partners mentioned the challenges in successful outreach and engagement in very rural communities.

Partners expressed appreciation for the commitment and creativity the Hub has shown in actively listening and addressing disparities, particularly in rural areas and through partnerships with culturally-specific organizations (CSOs).

PROMISING PRACTICES

Preschool expansion plan: In this biennium, the Hub has grown from serving ten to all thirteen school districts, maximizing the reach of its Kindercamps and Preschool Promise resources. In preparation for future expansion, the Hub initiated a feasibility study in 2016, which led to the successful procurement of a Meyer Memorial grant for developing a regional preschool expansion plan. Currently, local preschool task forces are being developed and mobilized in all three counties. These task forces are building public participation with local champions leading each task force. The Hub is also actively listening to families, laying the groundwork and recruiting for Parent Advisory Committees in each county as well. These parents will provide leadership and guidance in regional plan development. Ultimately their participation will add parent voice to Hub governance. The Hub is now well-prepared to utilize the ELD sector planning process to continue its work, culminating in a five-year plan for expansion in 2020.

SUMMARY

The NW Regional Early Learning Hub has a strong emerging vision for their region that is aligned with their backbone, with whom they are highly integrated. The NW Regional ESD is highly invested in supporting the Hub's goals, and they have numerous mutually-supporting activities. This Hub's backbone also includes their regional CCR&R and Preschool Promise office, enabling them to work seamlessly across numerous early learning systems.

They have shown an adaptive ability to adjust their strategies and maximize impact based on numerous inputs, for instance shifting from having “Health Screening Days” to investing in increasing developmental screenings and referral pathways with their Coordinated Care Organization (CCOs). This has led to more children being identified who need services, improved referral pathways, and an increased awareness of where more services are actually needed. Looking forward, the Hub is intending to develop parent leadership opportunities in partnership with the Lower Columbia Hispanic Council, with whom they have developed a very strong partnership.

South-Central Oregon Early Learning Hub



Monitoring Report 2019

Backbone Organization: Douglas ESD

Counties in Region: Douglas, Klamath, Lake

Sq. Miles in Hub Region: 19,628

Hub Director: Gillian Wesenberg

Website: douglassesd.k12.or.us/early-learning-hub/home

Children 0–6 Years in Priority Population: 11,071

Cross-Sector Agency Partners: 5 CCO, 3 ESD, 2 DHS

ELD Early Learning Hub Investment: \$996,343.79

PARTNER SURVEY FINDINGS AT A GLANCE

Several Hub partners reported seeing a decrease in silos and an increase in local collaboration.

- “The Hub has helped to break down silos, and align goals surrounding early learning.”
- “The Hub provides great opportunity for collaboration.”

Many Hub partners reported an increase in specific strategies in their community, whether that be a community baby shower, dialogic reading, coordinated home visiting, or kindergarten readiness programs. Descriptions of collaboration tended to be at the county rather than regional level.

Some partners expressed excitement about the equity work initiated. Other partners stated the region would benefit from more focus in equity.

PROMISING PRACTICES

Community UpLiFT: Regionally, 27 community partners have come together to create “Community UpLiFT,” a closed-loop intake and referral system. They will launch a data system in early 2019 called ELRS, which will securely and accurately track data gathered through this project and share information with community partners. Since the launch of the project, there have been over 200 families connected to services who would have otherwise slipped through the cracks.

SUMMARY

South Central EL Hub has made impressive strides from 2017 to 2019 to operationalize a governance structure across the largest Hub region in the state. The Hub now has both a central governing body and county-based professional advisory committees that convene partners and tailor activities to meet local needs.

The Hub has developed a process for analyzing data and utilizing it for local decision-making. This Hub has also initiated equity training for all Hub staff, Governance Council members, Parent Advisory Committee members, and Professional Advisory Committee members. Their goal is to infuse an equity lens into their practices and to build capacity to recruit and maintain stronger representation from priority populations in their governance. In the 2019-2021 biennium, the Hub will implement a region-wide strategic plan that coalesces its stakeholders around a vision focused on Raise Up Oregon.

South Coast Regional Early Learning Hub



Monitoring Report 2019

Backbone Organization: Oregon Coast Community Action
Counties in Region: Coos, Curry, & Coastal Douglas County
Sq. Miles in Hub Region: 3,894
Hub Director: Heather Baumer
Website: screlhub.com
Children 0–6 Years in Priority Population: 4,345
Cross-Sector Agency Partners: 3 CCO, 1 ESD, 1 DHS
ELD Early Learning Hub Investment: \$550,380.85

PARTNER SURVEY FINDINGS AT A GLANCE

Hub governance has all sectors participating. Several responses noted a desire for more inclusive participation – i.e., more than two or three K-12 partners, more parents, and more business representation.

- “Would love to see more opportunities for stakeholders not engaged in the steering committee to participate in conversation and affect change.”

Several community partners noted the high level of collaboration and interaction with Hub staff and other partners in the region. There is also a desire to see more parents and more partners participating.

PROMISING PRACTICES

Incoming kindergarten parent survey: The Hub has worked to successfully engage 11 of their 13 school districts in surveying parents of incoming kindergartners. The total response rate is up to 64% of families. After compiling data, the Hub facilitates follow-up conversations and planning with the schools using the parent perspective. This has resulted in the development of culturally-responsive family engagement materials and a deeper awareness of the parents’ perspective for districts and teachers. Data is also being shared with parents in English and Spanish.

SUMMARY

South Coast Regional Early Learning (SCREL) Hub has made tremendous strides in the last two years. Their governance structure is in place and operating soundly. They have an excellent grasp on how to gather, utilize, and share data throughout their region. They have worked hard to be inclusive of all communities from Brookings to Reedsport and of all children in their region, particularly strengthening their focus on priority populations. Like many Hubs, they continue to struggle with parent engagement at the governance level, with developing strategies and investments, and with overall evaluation. They recognize these areas for improvement and the ELD recommends these as their priorities in the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP).

Southern Oregon Early Learning Services



Monitoring Report 2019

Backbone Organization: Southern Oregon ESD

Counties in Region: Jackson, Josephine

Sq. Miles in Hub Region: 4,444

Hub Director: Rene Brandon

Website: soesd.k12.or.us/early-learning-hub

Children 0–6 Years in Priority Population: 17,330

Cross-Sector Agency Partners: 2 CCO, 1 ESD, 1 DHS

ELD Early Learning Hub Investment: \$1,480,091.37

PARTNER SURVEY FINDINGS AT A GLANCE

The Governance Council has participation from all sectors and all sectors responded to the survey.

There was a consistent theme throughout the survey around the need for increased funding and resources for early learning programming.

Several respondents positively noted an increase in understanding the importance of early learning and available programming in the region:

- “There is greater awareness and participation in vital programs focused on parent education, kindergarten readiness, and increasingly strong partnerships with our K-12 districts.”
- “I see that community awareness about the importance of early learning has improved.”

PROMISING PRACTICES

Aligning for professional development: Southern Oregon Early Learning Services (SOELS) has made some outstanding progress in shared professional development for early learning from 2017 to 2019. In collaboration with their CCR&R, Rogue Community College, Head Start, Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC), and Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE), they designed The Early Childhood Enhancement Project. This cohort model program offers college credit in social and emotional development of children, and onsite, practice-based coaching and peer support for our early learning workforce at no cost. The pilot cohort launched with 20 educators. The more recent Southern Oregon Early Learning Professional Development Consortium’s cohort model focused on supporting English and Spanish-speaking child care providers in earning their one-year basic certificate in early childhood education at no cost. 60 providers are participating. Additionally, the Kindergarten Readiness project, Kids in Transition to School, is designed to increase early educators’ knowledge of kindergarten readiness and best practices for kindergarten transition.

SUMMARY

SOELS is a Hub with impressive community collaborations. Southern Oregon ESD is the backbone organization, supporting the region’s STEM Hub, Regional Achievement Collaborative (RAC, which is Southern Oregon Success), EI/ECSE, and Migrant Education. The Hub has active partnerships with all of these entities, as well as its two Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) and local mental health and addiction service agencies. This has enabled strong community-led strategies – trauma-informed care, mental health supports for young children and families, and a proliferation of facilitated family play and support groups (Kaleidoscope) – to creatively take root in a variety of settings across the region. SOELS has also initiated strong data analysis practices, showing a direct tie between their priority populations, Hub investments, and the needs of their communities. This biennium, the Hub has identified the need to strengthen its governance processes and develop parent engagement and equity processes that build parent and community voice in Hub Governance.

Early Learning Washington County



Monitoring Report 2019

Backbone Organization: United Way of
Columbia Willamette

Counties in Region: Washington

Sq. Miles in Hub Region: 726

Hub Director: Adam Freer

Website: co.washington.or.us/HHS/childrenyouthfamilies

Children 0–6 Years in Priority Population: 19,513

Cross-Sector Agency Partners: 1 CCO, 1 ESD, 1 DHS

ELD Early Learning Hub Investment: \$1,675,744.02

PARTNER SURVEY FINDINGS AT A GLANCE

The Governance Council has all sectors participating in the partner survey except Business.

There was clear improvement in K-12 responses from the 2017 to 2019 partner survey:

- “We have finally seen a true and honest collaboration between school districts and early learning organizations. We have representatives from both fields at the same table creatively discussing the support children and families need.”

Other partners expressed a desire to have K-12 participating even more regularly in Hub governance.

Many partners expressed either a commitment to, or gratitude for, the Hub’s efforts to build diverse parent voices in Hub governance that is representative of their population:

- “Parent voice and parent involvement has seemed to broaden and become a given in every aspect of decision making. This has greatly helped parents to take ownership of change.”
- “ELWC is doing an excellent job in listening and applying feedback from parents and communities of color and non-native English speaking communities. Equity has been apparent in everything they do.”

PROMISING PRACTICES

Targeted supports decrease preschool suspension and expulsion region-wide: The Hub reports that the push to keep all Preschool Promise children enrolled led to the implementation of a number of targeted support strategies, which have since been shared across the early learning community. Children needing individualized supports are finding it with Preschool Promise. The PAX Good Behavior Game is teaching self-regulation skills and supporting a smooth transition to kindergarten. Coaching and support are offered to both child care providers and parents. The Hub is utilizing Teachstone, an online Professional Learning Community with Spanish interpretation available, to offer additional support to providers. These proven supports are being offered beyond the Preschool Promise community, expanding impact. With this multi-faceted approach, the region is seeing new outcomes, with parents impressed at the supports available to them and their children, and children who have been suspended or expelled elsewhere successfully integrating into classrooms.

SUMMARY

Washington County continues to make impressive strides in identifying and serving their priority populations in a culturally responsive way. With an active Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) and parents starting to take an active lead in Hub governance, this Hub is a state leader in building parent voice. This Hub actively responded to their K-12 partners who, in 2017, expressed the need for better collaboration. This has strengthened their partnership with K-12 significantly.

They also have strong input and engagement processes that enable them to adjust approaches or activities based on regular stakeholder input throughout the lifespan of a project. This Hub has piloted strong project-focused Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) processes. In the next biennium, they will analyze their various project-focused CQI processes, strengthening their ability to evaluate their overall impact as a Hub. They will also continue to build parent voice and develop an outreach and engagement plan.

Yamhill Early Learning Hub



Monitoring Report 2019

Backbone Organization: Yamhill Community Care Organization

Counties in Region: Yamhill

Sq. Miles in Hub Region: 718

Hub Director: Jenn Richter

Website: yamhillcco.org/early-learning-hub

Children 0–6 Years in Priority Population: 4,979

Cross-Sector Agency Partners: 1 CCO, 1 ESD, 1 DHS

ELD Early Learning Hub Investment: \$569,135.76

PARTNER SURVEY FINDINGS AT A GLANCE

The Governance Council has all required sectors participating in the partner survey.

Partners have observed an increase in coordinated services, and awareness of other services:

- “Better county-wide coordination of resources and personnel. I've lived here and worked in education for 14 years, and didn't know about family resources available, or other [school] districts until I started working with the Hub.”

Others expressed seeing their Hub making an impact for children:

- “Definitely see an increased readiness for kindergarten.” (K-12 respondent)

Respondents frequently mentioned the need for improving access to culturally-responsive services for the Latinx community and rural communities with high amounts of abuse and neglect. This is an area of focus for the Hub.

PROMISING PRACTICES

Community Wellness Fund: Supporting the Yamhill Early Learning Hub is a key strategy in its CCO's (Community Care Organization) overall commitment to upstream prevention and wellness. Accordingly, when the Yamhill CCO initiated a Community Wellness Fund, it naturally focused on Hub priorities. The Fund is actively leveraging Hub and CCO investments to garner additional philanthropic and community donations to increase the community's capacity to support early childhood and family health and wellness. While Hub investments in the Fund are supporting home visiting and parent education, other investments are supporting early learning through activities such as the PAX Good Behavior Game and Positive Family Supports. The Community Wellness Fund has great potential not only as an important financial resource for community efforts, but as a catalyst for community awareness and capacity-building around the importance of supporting parents and young children. The potential impact on kindergarten readiness is high. As one partner survey respondent observed: “... in my conversations with school district staff, I have heard about a lot of struggle – not related to ‘academic’ skills, but attendance, emotional regulation, the ability of children to follow a routine...”

SUMMARY

This Hub has been successful in building strong sector partnerships and is well-integrated with its backbone organization, Yamhill CCO. As a result, it has been able to build robust community partnerships, resulting in strong collaborations. The Hub developed region-wide trauma-informed care campaign. The next step is to develop a county-wide trauma-informed community plan. The Hub has also collaborated in adaptive strategies such as shifting from Ready for K (effective in larger school districts) to “Transition Camp” (more effective for smaller districts). The Hub has initiated some strong relationship-building activities with parents from priority populations, with next steps focused on leveraging those relationships to develop a Parent Leadership Council, and strengthen parent voice in Hub governance.