hub inc.
MARION & POLK EARLY LEARNING HUB

earlylearninghub.org

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, October 1, 2020 |3:00-5:00 PM

Virtually via Zoom

Meeting ID- 829 9456 9360 **Password-** 818454

Action	Time	Topic	Page #
	3:00	**Welcome and Introductions** • Review agenda for real or potential conflicts of interest – All • Establish any conflicts of interest	
		Public Comment Period • Comments should be limited to three (3) minutes • Please provide copy of written materials to the Executive Director, if available	
Action	**3:05**	**Consent Agenda** *Staff Recommendation: Approve* 1. September 2020 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 2. September 2020 Parent/Caregiver Advisory Committee Notes 3. Executive Director Report	**3-8**
Action	**3:10**	**Financial Report** – David Rheinholdt • Approve August 2020 Financial Reports • Revised budget update only	**9-12**
Action	**3:20**	**Hub System Advocacy –** Lisa (see attached document) • Approval to act as fiscal agent for Hub Director advocacy activity • Approval to earmark up to $10,000 of non-state funds for activities related to legislative advocacy	**13**
Discuss	**3:30**	**Thinking into the Future** – All (see legislative report for partial background) • Hubs will likely be out for bid this next year due to state contracting rules. CCRR will likely be up for recontract. Without knowing what, when or how the state will proceed, let us have a conversation looking at some scenarios and options for our approach.	**14-25**
Inform	**3:55**	**Executive Director Report** • KPI planning • Family Connects • Communities of Practice • Preschool Promise	
Inform	**4:15**	**Program Spotlight – Preschool Promise Coordinated Enrollment –** Skye Hibbard Swanson • Overview of process • Review of numbers filled, and the numbers to be filled	

Inform	**4:30**	**Board Member Announcements**	
Next Meeting Date		Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 3:00-5:00pm- Virtual via Zoom	

Meetings of Interest

MPELH Parent/Caregiver Advisory Committee

Dates	Time	Location
2nd Wednesday of Every Month* *Hiatus during summer months (July and August)	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Virtual

Regional Implementation Team

Date	Time	Location
Second Friday of Every Month	10:00-11:30am	Virtual

Collective Action Team

Date	Time	Location
Recurring 3rd Thursday of month	9:00 am to 11:00 am	Virtual

October 2020 Consent Agenda – Action Item

Staff Recommendation: Approve

1. September 2020 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
2. September 2020 Parent/Caregiver Advisory Committee Notes
3. Executive Director Report

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, Sept 3, 2020|3:00-5:00 PM

	Angie Blackwell, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	X	Phil Blea, Marion County Children's Behavioral Health	X	Kerry Blum, Polk County Children's Behavioral Health	X	Donalda Dodson, Oregon Child Development Coalition
X	Levi Herrera-Lopez, Mano a Mano	X	Andy Gardner, North Santiam School District	X	Stacy Lake, DHS Child Welfare	X	Dave Novotney, Willamette Education Service District
	Kim Parker-Lleranas, Willamette Workforce Partners		Christy Perry, Salem-Keizer Public Schools	X	David Rheinholdt, Rheinholdt Insurance	X	Jimmy Jones, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action
X	Jim Seymour, Community Member	X	Carina Ventura, Parent/Caregiver Advisory Committee				
MPELH Staff							
	Valeria Atanacio, Preschool Promise Coordinator	X	Lisa Harnisch, Executive Director		Margie Lowe, Performance & Fiscal Officer		Veronica Mendoza, Family Engagement Coordinator
X	Tiffany Miller, Program and Communications Support		Skye Hibbard, BCN Project Coordinator		Kiara Yoder, Screening & Care Systems Coordinator		

Guests: Stephanie Whetzel, Salem-Keizer School District.

Action Summary

- Consent Agenda;
- June and July 2020 Financial Reports

Topic
Welcome and Introductions Board members introduced themselves.
Conflict of Interest No conflicts of interest were declared.
Consent Agenda The September consent agenda was included in the Board packet. *Dave Novotney moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Andy Gardner seconded. Motion passed.*
Financial Report David presented the June and July 2020 Financial Reports. June 2020 included revenues of $634,509 and expenses of $579,006 that included final payments to Preschool Promise providers. Balance sheet has $3,678,072 of assets and current liabilities of $486,730. June 30 was the end of the fiscal year so there may be additional invoices still to come. July 2020 included revenues of $68,782 and expenses of $68,039. In addition to employee salary and benefit

expenditures, this includes subcontracts for family support and communications outreach expenditures. Balance sheet has $2,967,118 of assets and current liabilities of $99,478. The assets include what is required by the state. The July reserves went down due to the removal of Preschool Promise reserves.

The Hub was approved for $124,500 loan from the Paycheck Protection Program funding to continue work without a loss to the programs. , The primary requirement is the Hub does not have staff layoffs as a result of Covid. There will be a n updated budgetrevised budget once all of the state contracts and budget reductions from the ELD. The revised budget will include the PPP repayment plan. It is possible that Congress will take action resulting in the PPP transition into a grant, but no action as of yet.

Donalda Dodson moved to approve the June and July 2020 financial reports. Jimmy Jones seconded. Motion passed.

Coordinated Enrollment/Preschool Promise Updates

The Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub applied for a Preschool Promise (PSP) grant to be a provider that would then be subcontracted out. Approved for 18 slots with four home based providers, three in Salem and one in Gervais. Two monolingual Spanish. All serve families in high need catchment areas. Just received this week the contract for the 18 slots. Staff is combing through the details of the contract as there are some changes from the last time. Through conversations with the Executive Committee, and with the reduced amount in required reserves, the Hub has added an additional nine PSP slots to be spread across the four home-based providers. Twenty seven (27) children being served under our contract with the Early Learning Division (ELD). Due to changes in staffing, Veronica the Parent Engagement Specialist is taking on leadership responsibilities with their providers.

The role for Hubs is changing to be responsible for coordinated enrollment as it relates to Preschool Promise (PSP). The Hubs will be responsible for the outreach, recruitment, and eligibility. Over the years through outreach the Hub has partnered with all programs whether they're PSP or not to do coordinated outreach and marketing. The purpose was to ensure all publicly funded preschool programs are filled. We will continue to work with all Head Start/Oregon Prekindergarten programs and PSP entities to help put these pieces together. The Hub will be engaging in Memorandum of Understandings with the Head Start/OPK and PSP partners. We will come together as programs that have PSP and those that do not have it to make sure we work together.

Given the news that the ELD reduced funding for the coordinated enrollment to around $35,000 the Hub did not hire someone for a coordinated enrollment. Skye Hibbard Swanson is the point person for coordinated enrollment. The ELD has a prescribed process for coordinated enrollment across the state. Priority is given to the returning students, newly qualified students, and the remainder of the slots be open to families. Families will then be selected by a "lottery" process. As part of the role with PSP is a strong connection with the Child Care Resource and Referral, continue to have a great relationship. As we have been connecting with PSP providers we go arm in arm with the CCR&R.

The ELD has signaled that they may be able to increase funding for Coordinated Enrollment function. When and if that happens, this will be included in the revised budget for Board consideration

Strategic Planning Process

The Hub is not as far along as we had hoped to be in this process due to competing demands. Since the committee has met we have had great conversations with the Regional Implementation Team, Parent/Advisory committee, Collective Action Team and staff with the focus on mission, vision, goals and value statements. The next steps include:

- Continued refinement of language.
- Seek broader community input: survey, community café type events with community partners and parents.
- Connect with more multi-cultural community-based organizations to identify if there are more ways the Hub can fill some gaps and how is the Hub currently a resource.

Executive Director Report

- **Equity and racial justice conversations** around building a more equitable early learning system. Will continue to be part of the strategic planning committee. Continuing to have conversations with community partners and woven into all the work we do with the Hub.
- **Mid-Valley Economic Recovery team**- child care is one of the most common things that get talked about. Polk County is looking to invest CARES Act funding to support child care providers and increasing the level of care.
- **Kindergarten Partnership & Innovation (KPI)-** did not receive the anticipated reduction in the last legislative session. KPI is being locally retooled to focus on kindergarten transition through family engagement. We are not doing much around vertically aligned professional development. As part of the Student Success Act there was additional funding for parent education. The Marion Parenting Hub will be receiving about an additional $30,000 to support parent education and will be included in the updated budget.
- **Family Connects** is the nurse home visiting program that is now in law. The state of Oregon has adopted the Family Connects model that originated out of North Carolina. It is anticipated that the Oregon Health Authority will fund the coordinating entity (MPELH in our case) for the coordination activities/position, community training, marketing, and outreach materials.
- **Legislative updates**- in the last legislative session early learning (EL) fared well overall. Approval to the system for the SSA funds. There were 3 reductions:
    - Focus child care networks would not be funded for the last year of the biennium
    - Healthy families will receive a reduction in the last year of the biennium, the ELD is working to relieve those pressures.
    - Early Learning Hubs in coordination, the reduction is about 13% out of general funds. In the budget report that was the note it was a permanent cut to EL Hubs.
- The next legislative session in February is anticipating to be a brutal session with large reductions for all public agencies. What are board members hearing?
    - Oregon Department of Human Services submitted a 10% reduction across 5 programs except child welfare. There is a variety of reasons for that. Had guiding principles.
    - A lot of unknowns still to come at the federal and state levels.
    - K12 side is the second session is coming up for policy. COSA lobbyist do not anticipate drawing down the reserves as much in the next year.

Program Spotlight- Family Support

Family Connects Coordinator Kiara Yoder presented on the Title IVB2 Family Support program. Some highlights:

- The Hub has grants out to community based organizations to meet emergent needs of families around housing, transportation, health/safety and education.
- Families can access up to $300 for emergency needs in one calendar year. If there is a COVID related need and family can provide proof of the need, then they can receive up to $600 and not the general $300.
- For the quarter of April-June, 99 families of which 262 children served with 133 of them ages 0-6.
- The biggest need across all the different organizations is housing/utilities. The Hub anticipates that to continue with COVID and unemployment.

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 1st 2020 at 3:00-5:00pm- Virtually via Zoom

Parent/Caregiver Advisory Committee

Wednesday, September 9, 2020 |6:00-7:00pm

Becca Blessing, Lucy Briseno, Sharon Anderson, Teresa Urban, Autumn David, Lindsay McElroy, Carina Ventura, Tiffany Miller and Veronica Mendoza

Topic
Updates/Executive Director Report Veronica shared the Hub was awarded some Preschool Promise slots for the 2020-2021 academic year. The Hub is coordinating all coordinated enrollment.
Hub Marketing/Branding – A conversation was held on additional marketing strategies the Hub should consider in the next year: • Videos on Facebook and Instagram. Bring forward faces to the work of the Hub. • Volcanoes stadium when it gets going again. Sponsor family nights with the Volcanoes. • Salem Keizer Assistance league, operation school bells program. • Share resources and information with therapists and specialists at the Willamette Education Service District. • Hang flyers at Athletic Edge birthday rooms. • More books and resources in the Little Free Libraries. More stickers with diapers. • Connect with the parole and probation program to share about Parent Education. • Hub logos on t-shirts, pens, car decals/bumper stickers, masks and hand sanitizers for PAC members to distribute. • Develop a PAC member perspective electronic flyers from the parents that they can share on their FBs • Cherriots advertisement • SmileKeepers and Capital Dental • Grocery cart advertisement plaques
Last two PAC meetings of 2020 Veronica shared the final two PAC meeting dates. One was Veteran's Day so parents agreed to move the November and final meeting one week earlier to October 4th. The Zoom will start 30 minutes prior for visiting and checking in with official business from 6:00-7:00pm.
Next meeting: Virtual via Zoom- October 14th 5:30-6:00pm- visit and check-in 6:00-7:00pm- official business

Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub – Executive Director Report

October 2020 – representing the work for September 2020

Preschool Promise & Coordinated Enrollment	• Continued work on setting up Coordinated Enrollment processes, including working to get COPA set up as our data system. • We have been meeting with all the PSP providers individually to answer questions and develop a relationship with them in our new role. • We have signed our contract for Preschool Promise to be able to sub-contract with four home-based providers.
Oregon Community Foundation	• Oregon Community Foundation asked me to participate in a session for donors as part of their Education Committee. The goal was to share broadly what is happening in communities to support families in the transition to school. I highlighted the work with pivoting parent education, Ready for Kindergarten, and the focus of KPI on kinder transition through family engagement. I also shared about the need for longer-term social emotional supports for families during this challenging time.
Parent Education and Parent Supports	• Through the Student Success Act, Parenting Hubs will receive approximately $30,000 to support parent education. We have yet to receive clear information on when and how this will be coming to our community. • We have updated our mini-grant application for community partners to apply for funding to support parent education. This new application allows for virtual options, as well as greater expanse into research-based programming.
Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)	• PAC members will be attending Community Café training. This training is being hosted by Catholic Community Services and will be a valuable tool for our PAC in their work. In addition to connecting our PAC members with other community members and advisory groups, they will be able to use the Community Café skills to gain additional parent input on our work.
Kindergarten Partnership & Innovation	• Ready! For Kindergarten (R4K) will be a key part of the KPI plans across the region. Each of the high priority zip code areas defined by our ECE Sector plan will be guaranteed and English and Spanish R4K. • KPI plans will be regional and focused on kindergarten transition through family engagement. In addition to R4K, communities will be able to select
Family Connects	• Polk County Public Health will be taking a “pause” on the planning for this initiative, and likely a slower start in the project. Public Health staff have been focusing all time on the COVID responses • An intern who is completing his master’s in public health will provide support in the implementation planning. • We have submitted a budget to OHA for funding Care Connects coordination at approximately the $100,000 level. This includes staffing, communications, and training activities.

Summary of Financial Results Period Ending: August 2020

Revenue:

August 2020 included revenues of $109,329. Funds from the Oregon Department of Education Electronic Grants Management System (EGAMS) are recorded as receivables this month for Hub Coordination and other grants as MPELH awaits receipt of the funds.

Expenses:

Total expenses for July 2020 were $80,836. In addition to employee salary and benefits expenditures, this includes subcontracts for family emergency aid and communications outreach expenditures.

Balance Sheet

As of August 31, 2020, MPELH has assets of $3,445,279 and current liabilities of $200,288. The increase in liabilities is due to the receipt a loan of $124,500 from the Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program that is convertible to a grant if the proceeds are used to maintain the previous year's staffing level. The state required reserve of approximately $500,000 is met with a portion of the Unrestricted Net Assets

MPELH's contract with the State Early Learning Division requires the Hub to maintain a six-month operating reserve. MPELH calculates the reserve estimate based on six months' of staff salaries and benefits and three months' of phase-out operations for subcontractors. All subcontracts contain a dis-appropriation clause allowing rapid discontinuation.

Changing Grants and Contracts

- The Early Learning Division proposed budget reduction plan for 2020-21 reduces Hub Coordination funds by $143,888; the proposed reduction in the Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation grant for Year 2 of $593,159 has been restored. The Hub Coordination reduction will be restored in part through a convertible loan from the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program of $124,500.
- OPEC Marion County Parent Education Program (Decreasing from $75,000 to $67,500) and funding from the Student Success Act will be approximately $30,000 for Marion County parent education. Polk and Yamhill will receive a similar amount through their parenting hub.
- In the second year of the 2019-21 biennium, Preschool Promise funds for all programs will be directly contracted by the state to most if not all area providers; this program represents almost $4.2 million of the MPELH annual budget. MPELH has been awarded $216,000 for 18 Preschool Promise placements and will subcontract with four in-home providers to deliver these services for children.

- The Preschool Promise Coordinated Enrollment agreement has been awarded at an initial $30,500, although the Early Learning Division advises that the program will be restored to the original amount or more.
- The Oregon Community Foundation has awarded MPELH $50,000 to provide support to Latino early care and learning providers during the pandemic.

Match Requirements

- Oregon Hub Coordination Funds 25% Match ($160,741 non-state funds). This match has been met in the past year through WVP In Kind, WVCH and BCN grants, and OPEC grant totaling $590,590. Recent meetings with the Early Learning Division have resulted in approval to include the added value of the Preschool Promise program to the other students in the providers' classrooms in mixed delivery sites as a matching funds source; 131 children benefited from these improved services that are not identified as Preschool Promise eligible. This source of program match will include 37 children beginning in July 2020 as the state directly contracts for for most of these services.
- Oregon Family Support Funds 25% Match ($68,471 non-state funds). This match has been met by funds (approximately $65,000) provided through local partners as a part of the Emergent Family Support Program and surplus match from the WVCH grants mentioned above; the match in the current fiscal year will include the resources identified by local partners in the Emergent Family Support Program and the Oregon Community Foundation grant for Latina child care providers.
- OPEC Grant Match ($18,750). This match has been met by the Hub Coordination and KPI funds provided by the Early Learning Division and the WVCH Parent Education grant; in the coming year, Hub Coordination and KPI funds will meet this requirement.

State Administrative Expenditure Limit

- Family Support Funds -- 10%
- Preschool Promise – Funds included in the Preschool Promise Coordination Account
- All Other State Grants – 15%

Early Learning Hub, Inc.
Statement of Position (Balance Sheet)
August 31, 2020

ASSETS

Current Assets			
Petty Cash	$	300	
Cash in Bank-Operating		2,938,444	
Prepaid Expense		2,045	
Accounts Receivable		501,232	
Total Current Assets			3,442,021
Fixed Assets		3,258	
Total Fixed Assets			3,258
Total Assets			**$ 3,445,279**

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	$	26,040	
Accrued Wages/Benefits		47,348	
Unearned Revenue		2,400	
Paycheck Protection Program		124,500	
Total Current Liabilities			200,288
Total Liabilities			200,288
Net Assets			
State Required Restricted		500,000	
Unrestricted		2,098,031	
OPEC Marion Region		362,891	
Preschool Promise		0	
Other State and Local Grants		284,069	
Total Net Assets			3,244,991
Total Liabilities and Capital			**$ 3,445,279**

Early Learning Hub, Inc.
Statement of Activities
Year-to-Date for the Period ending August 31, 2020

	Month Actual	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	YTD Budget %
Revenues				
Hub Coordination	47,165	93,283	439,568	21%
Parenting Education	0	0	0	0%
Preschool Promise Funds	10,422	17,412	161,375	11%
School Readiness/KPI	9,883	17,841	566,322	3%
Other Grants & Contracts	15,616	80,322	273,882	29%
Paycheck Protection Program Accrual	26,243	26,243	0	0%
Total Revenues	109,329	235,101	1,441,147	16%
Expenses				
Salaries and Benefits	72,273	123,926	710,128	17%
Professional Development	0	0	7,579	0%
Supplies/Materials/Equipment	565	2,430	22,363	11%
Subcontracts and Local Grants	0	0	357,140	0%
Family Support/Aid	1,704	8,606	134,000	6%
Parent Education Series	0	0	80,979	0%
Parent Support Activities	0	0	4,003	0%
Special Proj/Collaborations	1,558	1,558	0	0%
Facilitator Support/Training	0	0	20,238	0%
Training & Curriculum	2,485	2,485	187,881	1%
Travel/Trans/Meetings	79	115	27,947	0%
Facilities	0	0	49,479	0%
Parent Advisory Committee	0	25	15,290	0%
Communicatons/Outreach	990	17,198	102,035	17%
Administrative Costs	1,182	7,135	55,306	13%
Total Expenses	80,836	163,478	1,774,368	9%
Net Income (Loss)	**28,493**	**71,623**	**(333,221)**	

The Board Approved budget anticipates a draw down of a portion of the Restricted Balances, causing a negative net income in the overall budget.

	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	YTD Budget %
Expenditures by Program			
Hub Coordination	46,928	436,110	11%
KPI/School Readiness	17,841	566,322	3%
Focused Childcare Networks	0	0	0%
Focused Childcare Networks	2,151	0	0%
Parent Education Grant	13,002	213,996	6%
Preschool Promise	19,759	161,375	12%
BCN Care Connect Contract	7,232	122,683	6%
Family Support	30,322	273,882	11%
PPP Expenses	26,243	0	0%
Total Expenses	**163,478**	**1,774,368**	**9%**

Hub Advocacy Proposal

Issue: Hub leaders across the state have decided to come together to support a unified legislative advocacy platform. The goal of this is to ensure that Hubs are seen and viewed as a valued part of the early learning system. Hubs have a system building role and held to the purposes set out in the initial legislation. Hub leaders will be contributing funding to hire a lobbyist for this legislative session.

I am seeking approval for two actions to support this work:

1. MPELH be able to serve as fiscal agent for the purposes of receiving other Hub contributions for costs associated with hiring lobbyist.
    - *MPELH would receive and track dedicated contributions from other Hubs to support this work and process payments associated with this work. We would have a dedicated cost center and tracking for this work.*
    - *Because we are a 501c3, Hub leaders are supportive of our entity being the fiscal agent for this.*
2. MPELH ability to contribute up to, but not greater than, $10,000 toward the cost of lobbyist and lobbying activities.
    - *Unclear the cost per Hub to contribute but estimate $5-10,000 per Hub depending on ability to contribute.*
    - *MPELH funds will be reserve non-state funds that were contributed in 2014 as MPELH was getting started.*

Preliminary Report on Regional Entities: Child Care Resource & Referral Entities and Early Learning Hubs

Report to the Legislature from the Early Learning Division

EARLY LEARNING DIVISION 2/1/20 SUBMITTED TO LEGISLATURE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary 2
Child Care Resource & Referral System 2
Early Learning Hubs 2
Recommendations for Further Reporting 3
Introduction 4
Regional Entities 4
Child Care Resource & Referral Regional Entities 4
Early Learning Hubs 4
Legislative History and Charge 5
Child Care Resource & Referral System 5
Early Learning Hubs 5
Comparison of Charge 6
Administration of Early Learning Hubs and CCR&Rs 6
Budget and Description of Activities 6
Areas of Overlap and Roles 7
Capacity Building 8
Recommendations for Further Reporting 8
Appendix A. Map of Hubs and CCR&Rs 9
Appendix B. List of Backbone Entities – Child Care Resource & Referral Regional Entities 10
Appendix B. List of Backbone Entities – HUBS 11

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report gives background and purpose for Early Learning Hubs and Child Care Resource and Referal Entitites in relation to the following budget note included in the Early Learning Division's 2019-21 Legislative Approved Budget:

> The Early Learning Division of the Oregon Department of Education will study the feasibility of consolidating Early Learning Hubs and Child Care Resources and Referral entities to better align its regional entities into one regional body while maintaining the scope, purpose, and legislatively intended function of both. The ELD shall report its findings to the Legislature before February 1, 2020. The report will include, at minimum, findings around fiscal and programmatic efficiencies, effect on organizational capacity, and anticipated effect on abilities to meet Early Learning Council designated outcomes. If the study determines that consolidation is deemed fiscally or programmatically efficient, it will present a plan to implement this consolidation as part of its report.

While the Early Learning Division (ELD) has worked to maintain separate functions between these entities, some overlap may remain. This report provides a description of each of the entities (16 Hubs and 13 CCR&Rs).

Legislative History and Charge

Child Care Resource & Referral System

The Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) system is the result of national grassroots movements in the 1960s and 1970s around building the supply of child care.[1] CCR&Rs were first codified into federal legislation in 1986 through Title XX legislation and most recently through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Law of 2014. CCDBG provides the impetus for a CCR&R system in each state that provides information to families, helps communities build the supply and improve the quality of child care; and meet employers needs for adequate child care.[2]

Oregon state law mirror federal policy. Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 329A.100 through 329A.135 defines the CCR&R system for our state. This includes requirements for each entity within the CCR&R system to provide the following services, at minimum:

a) Training and technical assistance for existing and potential child care providers that includes, but is not limited to, coaching, mentoring, consulting and advising on professional development;
b) Referrals for parents or guardians seeking child care providers; or
c) Recruitment of qualified individuals to meet the child care needs of a community.

Early Learning Hubs

In 2015, Oregon Senate Bill 213 (creating ORS 417.827) and the 2015 Oregon Legislature codified the Early Learning Hub system into law after the completion of a two-year "demonstration project". This legislation established 16 regional Hubs across the state. Each Hub was required to engage partners

[1] Child Care Aware of America. 2018. "Child Care Resource & Referral: The Secret Solution" https://info.childcareaware.org/blog/child-care-resource-referral-the-secret-solution
[2] Ibid.

from five sectors: early care and education, human services/mental health, health, K–12 education, and the business/private sector. A backbone agency that is responsible for fiscal and operational accountability from one of these sectors and a governing body that is responsible for multisector coordination oversee each Hub.

The legislation created the mandate for each Hub to:

1. Create an aligned, coordinated, and family-centered system of early learning services;
2. Increase coordination and collaboration among entities involved in, and providers of services related to, early learning services, education, and health and human services;
3. Increase the focus on outcomes relate to these areas; and

Improve outcomes related to these areas (e.g., improve school readiness; promote early learning within healthy, stable, and attached families)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER REPORTING

The ELD is requesting additional time to complete its report to the Legislature around Hubs, CCR&Rs, and potential consolidation. In order to explore this opportunity fully, the ELD is requesting until December 31, 2020 to complete its report. This will allow time for stakeholder engagement and will allow time to adequately plan for this issue in a way that will not impact Student Success Act implementation negatively and will not interrupt work to strengthen each of these entities overall. Should the ELD recommend changes to this regional system, it wants to ensure these to be true. As it contracts to complete this report, the ELD is seeking to answer the following questions and welcomes the Legislature's input on additional questions to be answered.

Research Questions for Final Report:

- Where is there remaining overlap in duties or functions (e.g., professional learning activities) and what is the rationale?
- What other funds do each entity receive within their community (e.g., from grants to philanthropy)?
- What other, non-statutory functions is each entity serving within its community?
- What is the alignment with other relevant regional efforts – Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative Parenting Hubs, Regional Educator Networks, Coordinate Care Organizations, Education Service Districts, etc.?
- How do staffing models support current functioning? What does an optimal staffing model look like for each and how, if at all, can those be combined?
- Is consolidation possible without significant negative consequences?
- What is national best practice around regional entities for early childhood?

Regional Early Learning Entities

INTRODUCTION

The following report gives background and purpose for Early Learning Hubs and Child Care Resource and Referal Entitites in relation to the following budget note included in the Early Learning Division's (ELD) 2019-21 Legislative Approved Budget:

> The Early Learning Division of the Oregon Department of Education will study the feasibility of consolidating Early Learning Hubs and Child Care Resources and Referral entities to better align its regional entities into one regional body while maintaining the scope, purpose, and legislatively intended function of both. The ELD shall report its findings to the Legislature before February 1, 2020. The report will include, at minimum, findings around fiscal and programmatic efficiencies, effect on organizational capacity, and anticipated effect on abilities to meet Early Learning Council designated outcomes. If the study determines that consolidation is deemed fiscally or programmatically efficient, it will present a plan to implement this consolidation as part of its report.

The ELD presents descriptive information about each entity. This report is meant to be a first step in grounding the conversation and the ELD is requesting additional time from the legislature to complete its full analysis.

REGIONAL ENTITIES

Child Care Resource & Referral Regional Entities

There are thirteen regional Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) entities within Oregon. These thirteen entities make up only a part of Oregon's CCR&R system, which also includes partnerships with

- Western Oregon University to operate a quality improvement system (i.e., Spark) and provide central coordination for the entire system,
- Oregon Center for Career Development at Portland State University for the administration of a workforce registry and the creation of training, and
- 211 for the operation of parent referrals.

For the purpose of this report, ELD will focus on the 13 regional entities across the state. A directory of these entities can be found in Appendix B and C.

Early Learning Hubs

There are 16 Early Learning Hubs (see below) across Oregon. These Hubs each have unique backbone agencies (Appendix C)

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY AND CHARGE

Child Care Resource & Referral System

The Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) system is the result of national grassroots movements in the 1960s and 1970s around building the supply of child care.[3] CCR&Rs were first codified into federal legislation in 1986 through Title XX legislation and most recently through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Law of 2014. CCDBG provides the impetus for a CCR&R system in each state that provides information to families, helps communities build the supply and improve the quality of child care; and meet employers needs for adequate child care.[4]

Oregon state law mirror federal policy. Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 329A.100 through 329A.135 defines the CCR&R system for our state. This includes requirements for each entity within the CCR&R system to provide the following services, at minimum:

d) Training and technical assistance for existing and potential child care providers that includes, but is not limited to, coaching, mentoring, consulting and advising on professional development;
e) Referrals for parents or guardians seeking child care providers; or
f) Recruitment of qualified individuals to meet the child care needs of a community.

Early Learning Hubs

In 2015, Oregon Senate Bill 213 (creating ORS 417.827) and the 2015 Oregon Legislature codified the Early Learning Hub system into law after the completion of a two-year "demonstration project". This legislation established 16 regional Hubs across the state. Each Hub was required to engage partners from five sectors: early care and education, human services/mental health, health, K–12 education, and the business/private sector. A backbone agency that is responsible for fiscal and operational accountability from one of these sectors and a governing body that is responsible for multisector coordination oversee each Hub.

The legislation created the mandate for each Hub to:

4. Create an aligned, coordinated, and family-centered system of early learning services;
5. Increase coordination and collaboration among entities involved in, and providers of services related to, early learning services, education, and health and human services;
6. Increase the focus on outcomes relate to these areas; and
7. Improve outcomes related to these areas (e.g., improve school readiness; promote early learning within healthy, stable, and attached families)

Figure 1. Early Learning System

[3] Child Care Aware of America. 2018. "Child Care Resource & Referral: The Secret Solution" https://info.childcareaware.org/blog/child-care-resource-referral-the-secret-solution
[4] Ibid.

Comparison of Charge

Hubs and CCR&Rs play distinct roles within the system. Hubs are responsible for coordinating the entirety of the early learning system – including Health, Human Services, K-12, Early Care and Education, and Housing and Community Supports, as well as engaging the business sector. Figure 1 represents this system. This includes roles to bring partners to a common table to coordinate services on behalf of children and families. It may also include collaborating with a CCR&R to build the supply of child care or work with businesses.

In contrast, CCR&Rs are primarily responsible for the Early Care and Education (ECE) sector and – by virtue of the way ECE programs are delivered – have a role within the K-12 system as well. This includes a role around supporting families to understand the system, but is primarily focused on training and technical assistance to the ECE workforce in family child care, child care, and other programs, as well as support to assist individuals or groups in navigating the process to start a child care business. This includes support to navigate the child care licensing system, among other duties.

ADMINISTRATION OF EARLY LEARNING HUBS AND CCR&RS

As stated previously, there are 16 Early Learning Hubs divided into regions. Five Hubs cover a single county – Washington, Multnomah, Lane, Clackamas, and Yamhill – and remaining counties are grouped by region.

The 13 Child Care Resource & Referral Entities are grouped in similar, but varying counties. The difference is primarily accounted for in Eastern Oregon, where one CCR&R entity is responsible for Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, and Wallowa Counties. In contract, this area is broken into three distinct Hub regions. The ELD requested and received federal funding limitation to correct this.

Two Early Learning Hubs and CCR&Rs share a backbone agency: Northwest Education School District and Umatilla-Morrow Head Start.

Governance Hubs are required to have governing bodies with representatives from across the early learning system (represented in Figure 1, above). CCR&Rs do not have this requirement.

Monitoring Each entity receives onsite monitoring annually from ELD staff, as well as desk monitoring of financials. In addition, the Hub monitoring process includes feedback from partners from across the early learning system.

BUDGET AND DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

Funding for Regional Entities – 2019-21 Legislatively Approved Budget Overview

	General Funds	**Federal Funds**	**Other Funds**	**Total**
Child Care Resource & Referral Entities	$1,500,000	$22,753,195	-	**$22,753,195**
Early Learning Hubs	$15,041,667	-	$2,901,235	**$17,942,902**
			Total	**$ 40,696,097**

Each entity received a reduction in General Fund in the 19-21 LAB. In addition, the CCR&R system received a significant increase of over 25% in funding compared to 19-21 CSL due to an increase in federal funding through the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF).

Child Care Resource & Referral System

2019-21 CCR&R Budget

As of the 2019-21 LAB, CCR&Rs are funded nearly exclusively with Federal Funds. Examples of CCR&R responsibilities include:

- Administering health and safety training with new providers
- Supporting Quality Improvement Specialists (QIS) to work with Focused Child Care Networks (supported by GF and FF) and other providers to complete their Spark quality improvement and self-assessment activities.
- Administering other training to help providers meet training hours throughout the year
- Supporting the supply of child care by helping providers navigate the system
- Maintaining accurate enrollment numbers for licensed child care providers
- Partnering with community colleges and universities to offer coursework
- Supporting infant and toddler educators through an infant-toddler focused Quality Improvement Specialist

Early Learning Hubs

The 2019-21 EL Hub Budget. Examples of Hub responsibilities include:

- Managing referral systems that support families to find services across the early learning system – from mental health to early care and education
- Supporting collaboration between partners by convening
- Convening stewardship bodies and completing regional Early Care and Education plans
- Preparing to coordinate applications and enrollment for preschool, including the Preschool Promise program
- Building data capacity within their region to analyze needs of families
- Providing support to parent/family-led initiatives, such as parent advisory councils
- Funding Kindergarten Partnership Innovation activities, such as kindergarten-readiness programs within schools and shared professional development across ECE and early grades educators in K-12

Hubs work to be responsive to the needs of their region. Each Hub provides unique services to their region in order to meet the needs of young children and their families.

AREAS OF OVERLAP AND ROLES

The ELD has been working to clarify and align roles between the regional entities, as well as build capacity in each role. As previously stated, the ELD is also working to better align geographies by adding additional capacity to Eastern Oregon. In the past year, ELD has moved administration of the Focused Child Care Networks (FCCN) – a strategy to create communities of practice primarily between Family

Child Care educators – primarily to CCR&Rs. The exception, as noted above, is within the Eastern Oregon Hub, which is challenged by geography and operated its own FCCN in order to effectively reach educators.

Capacity Building

Through the Student Success Act (SSA), the Hubs will build capacity in their ability to coordinate partners and engage families across the region. This primarily includes implementing HB2025, which clarified Hubs roles as conveners of coordinated enrollment in preschool programs across their community. This will include new FTE focused on this role, as well as capacity to bring Head Start and CCR&R partners together. In addition, Hubs completed ECE Sector Plans, which required them to convene families and other key partners within their region to identify priority populations for services, a key role of Hubs since their inception. With this responsibility came additional resources to gather input from their communities to

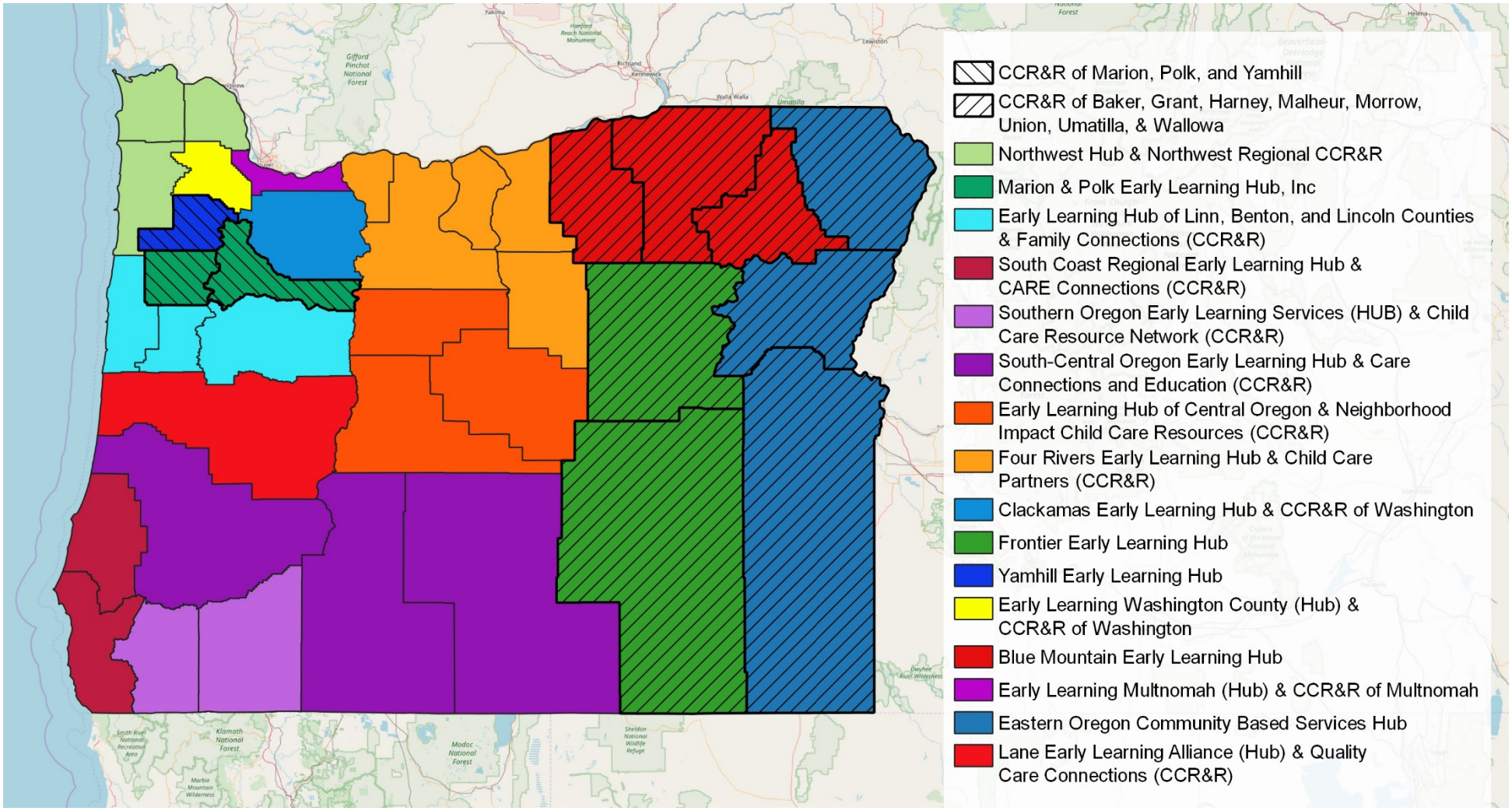
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER REPORTING

The ELD is requesting additional time to complete its report to the Legislature around Hubs, CCR&Rs, and potential consolidation. In order to explore this opportunity fully, the ELD is requesting until December 31, 2020 to complete its report. This will allow time for stakeholder engagement and will allow time to adequately plan for this issue in a way that will not impact Student Success Act implementation negatively and will not interrupt work to strengthen each of these entities overall. Should the ELD recommend changes to this regional system, it wants to ensure these to be true. As it contracts to complete this report, the ELD is seeking to answer the following questions and welcomes the Legislature's input on additional questions to be answered.

Research Questions for Final Report:

- Where is there remaining overlap in duties or functions (e.g., professional learning activities) and what is the rationale?
- What other funds do each entity receive within their community (e.g., from grants to philanthropy)?
- What other, non-statutory functions is each entity serving within its community?
- What is the alignment with other relevant regional efforts – Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative Parenting Hubs, Regional Educator Networks, Coordinate Care Organizations, Education Service Districts, etc.?
- How do staffing models support current functioning? What does an optimal staffing model look like for each and how, if at all, can those be combined?
- Is consolidation possible without significant negative consequences?
- What is national best practice around regional entities for early childhood?

APPENDIX A. MAP OF HUBS AND CCR&RS



APPENDIX B. LIST OF BACKBONE ENTITIES – CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL REGIONAL ENTITIES

Local Child Care Resource & Referral Agency	County
Child Care Resource & Referral of:	Multnomah
Child Care Resource & Referral of:	Marion, Polk & Yamhill
Northwest Regional Child Care Resource & Referral	Clatsop
	Columbia
	Tillamook: 503-815-4448
Family Connections	Linn, Benton & Lincoln
Quality Care Connections	Lane
CARE Connections	Coos
	Curry
Child Care Resource Network	Jackson & Josephine
Care, Connections, Education	Douglas
	Klamath & Lake
Child Care Partners	Gilliam, Hood River, Sherman, Wasco & Wheeler
NeighborImpact Child Care Resources	Deschutes, Crook & Jefferson
Child Care Resource & Referral of:	Baker
	Grant
	Harney
	Malheur
	Morrow
	Union
	Umatilla
	Wallowa
Child Care Resource & Referral of:	Clackamas
Child Care Resource & Referral of:	Washington

APPENDIX B. LIST OF BACKBONE ENTITIES – HUBS

Hub Backbone Organization	Hub County Coverage
Early Learning Hub, Inc	Marion, Polk
United Way of Columbia-Willamette	Multnomah
United Way of Lane County	Lane
Douglas ESD	Douglas, Lake, Klamath
Yamhill Community Care Organization	Yamhill
Harney ESD	Grant, Harney
InterMountain ESD	Umatilla, Morrow, Union
Southern Oregon ESD	Jackson, Josephine
WEBCO	Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson
Washington County Health & Human Services	Washington
Malheur ESD	Baker, Malheur, Wallowa
Linn-Benton Community College	Linn, Benton, Lincoln
Northwest Regional ESD	Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook
Clackamas County	Clackamas County
Oregon Coast Community Action	Coos, Curry
Sherman County	Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Wheeler