

MINUTES

Early Learning Council



Thursday, October 9, 2025

ATTENDEES: Alejandra Marquez, Amanda Lamb, Amy Egli, Angie Brown, Ann Stevenson, Dan Cushing, DawnDee Walraven, Dorie Vickery, Jeanne McCarty, Jenn Laine, Jenna Sanders, Julia Peralta, Julie Smith, Kelly Williams, Lauren Berg, Maribel Dobbins, Matthew Kintner, Odi, Campos, Peg Miller, Petricia Wright, Sean Cavaghan, Suey Linzmeier, Tiffany Busby

ABSENT: Lindsey Manfrin, Mindy Larson, Tonya Coker, Tonya Hill

SCRIBE: Petricia Wright

1. Call to Order 4:00 PM

- Welcome and announcements:
 - Behavioral Health Training on October 10th.
 - Please share the survey for Head Start's Community Assessment with any families who have kids under 6 years old.
 - Fraud, Waste, and Abuse and Conflict of Interest forms will be emailed to ELC members.

2. Strategic Plan Update:

A comprehensive overview of the Early Learning activities was provided, that focused on medical and behavioral health initiatives, professional development, childcare and workforce development, community partnerships, and parent engagement efforts. Key achievements included the development of a tool for medical providers to share referrals with parents, the addition of FamilyCore Referral Form to EPIC Systems, and the launch of various training programs and campaigns. Challenges identified included difficulties in scheduling empathy interviews with high-need families, staffing issues affecting Latinx childcare outreach, and delays in the child success model implementation due to lack of funding. Plans include a digital awareness campaign on screen time impacts, a childcare profession campaign, and efforts to improve postpartum depression screenings and early maternal care initiation.

The group discussed a digital awareness campaign that partnered with McMinnville School District, which began in January 2023 and included parent education nights about screen time and childhood development. The campaign, inspired by the book "The Anxious Generation," reached approximately 100 attendees per session and expanded to include public library events, with copies of the book being made available to the community. The

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discussion highlighted successful community engagement through early childhood programming and emphasized the importance of limiting screen time for young children, with the American Academy of Pediatrics providing guidance on appropriate exposure.

3. KPI Kinder Cohorts Presentation:

The presentation focused on work CCR&R did within four school districts this spring. It focused on early learning and K-12 education transitions, highlighting challenges and successful practices across various programs. Key themes included the need for shared systems, consistent expectations, and aligned goals between pre-K and K-12 educators. Participants discussed barriers such as information sharing, funding limitations, and delays in evaluations, emphasizing the importance of trauma-informed practices and professional development. The group agreed to prioritize trauma-informed training and develop shared readiness tools, with a focus on supporting children's social-emotional development and addressing behavioral challenges.

4. KPI Planning:

The group discussed kindergarten transition challenges, noting lower enrollment numbers and increased mistrust in the educational system due to recent political and historical issues. They reviewed a successful P3 initiative from last year that involved four districts, with plans to continue similar meetings to engage more districts. The discussion highlighted concerns about family childcare providers and small centers, who often struggle with staffing and behavior management issues, and emphasized the need for better support systems for these providers.

5. CCR&R Advisory:

An update on the Early Learning Apprenticeship program was given, highlighting its growth with 16 active apprentices in Yamhill County, including 7 who have completed their probationary period. The program has expanded to Marion, Polk, and Clackamas counties, with a waitlist established for interested applicants. Key changes include shifting the program stipend to a one-time \$3,000 stipend for employers and moving towards a classroom coaching model with aligned coaching across apprenticeship and other programs. The program is also transitioning to a new asynchronous learning platform and working towards becoming bilingual to better support Spanish-speaking educators.

The program has received continued funding through various sources, including grants from Willamette Workforce and the CCO, as well as a Department of Labor grant. The

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possibility of using DELC funding to support the program was mentioned, aligning it with CCR&R's role in early learning recruitment and retention. While current funding is sufficient until June, creative funding solutions are needed. The program's success in demonstrating its value to potential supporters was highlighted.

The results of CCR&R's Passion to Profit grant program, which provided funding and support to childcare providers, were also reported. The program impacted 217 childcare slots, with 11 grantees completing the program and 300 hours of coaching. Key lessons learned included the need for a longer recruitment timeline, addressing pre-qualification gaps, and providing more funding flexibility. Looking ahead, recruitment has started for round two, offering a community of practice for existing programs, with more opportunities for funding potentially through DELC and additional grants.

- Action Item: Send out and collect Fraud, Waste, and Abuse and Conflict of Interest forms to ELC members.

Owner: Petricia Wright

Due Date: 10/30/2025

Meeting Adjourned: 5:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Petricia Wright, Administrative Assistant

Next meeting: November 13, 2025, 4:00 PM