

**Testimony for Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee  
on Education**

**April 28-30, 2015**

**Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub**  
**Testimony**

## Early Learning Hubs

### Education Ways and Means Sub Committee

April 17, 2015

Co-Chairs Senator Monroe and Representative Taylor and Members of the Committee,

For the record, I am Becky Rasmussen, Owner of Just Like Home Nursery School. I run a Certified Family Childcare in my home. Prior to this, I owned and operated two large childcare centers in Pendleton. I am submitting testimony in support of the Early Learning Hubs becoming permanent and continuing the work local communities have undertaken to align early learning systems, support thriving families and ensure children are ready to succeed in kindergarten.

#### *Value of the work*

- A child's brain develops more in the first five years of life than at any other time, creating the foundation for all future learning and development.
- During the first few years of life, 700 new synapses (neural connections) are formed every second. If a child is in child care for 8 hours a day, that equates to over 20 million new synapses formed while in child care. Early learning experiences are focused on a child's learning and development can make a tremendous impact on a child's future.

#### *How Hubs add value*

- The Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub is drawing upon the experience and expertise of early learning providers and working to amplify our work through cross sector collaborations.
- The Hub is leveraging and coordinating existing programs such as home visiting, Head Start, and relief nurseries to build on the good work of these programs, share lessons learned across service providers, and encourage the reduction of duplicated services in order to provide the most relevant and effective services to families.
- As part of the hub, we are all asked to think beyond the mission and reach of our individual programs to ensure that the children and families in our region who most need services are receiving them. We are accepting collective responsibility for the underserved children and families in our region.

My experience with the Hub this year has been so positive. To be honest, in the past I have felt that my career choice, as an early child educator/caregiver, wasn't seen as a profession. I have known for years how important the early years are and how much impact we can have on the development of infants, toddlers and preschool age children. I feel that the Hub has brought this to light for the teachers and administrators in the public school system.

It was so helpful to me to learn exactly what kindergarten teachers are looking for upon entry to kindergarten. And I think it was valuable for them to see how much I do in my setting, and how we really can work together. Being a part of the Hub also motivated me to want to be better, do better, have more of an impact than I already have. I can't express enough how wonderful this experience has been for me and the children I serve. I hope that it continues next year and that I can be a part of it again.

Sincerely,

Becky Rasmussen

Owner/Provider

Just Like Home Nursery School

Early Learning Hubs

Education Ways and Means Sub Committee

April 17, 2015

Co-chairs Senator Monroe and Representative Komp and Members of the Committee,

For the record, I am Lacey Sharp a Kindergarten teacher in Stanfield School District. I am submitting testimony in support of making the Early Learning Hubs permanent and continuing the work local communities have undertaken to align early learning systems, support thriving families and ensure children are ready to succeed in kindergarten.

We know that a child's brain develops more in the first five years than at any other time. As a HUB we are working with child advocates who work one on one with children and parents in this age range. If Oregon wants to get on top of Early Education, continuation of the work we are doing is a must. I have more connections with Head Start and Preschool teachers than ever before. We are sharing information and working to align with one another for the betterment of each child and family. Oregon's 40-40-20 will require investing in children before they enter the school doors. The HUB is helping us do this.

It is our responsibility as a community to ensure that the experiences a child has during those early years creates a strong foundation for future success. As an educator I am used to having very little knowledge of the experiences students are having before they enter the classroom. Being connected to early learning programs and services in my community has given me greater insight and helped me strengthened my own practices in the classroom. The HUB has given me opportunities to talk to other teachers who are doing the same things I am daily. We can talk about how to best help students because we have made these connections. We are sharing workshop ideas, inviting each other to conferences about Early Learning, and working to create a safe, friendly environment that will appeal to parents.

As a result of our partnership and innovation grant, our school is giving more information to our community about early learning opportunities and ideas on how to get involved. We are sending flyers about pre-school, library events, and school sponsored little learner's nights.

The Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub is changing the way we meet the needs of children and families in our community. It is changing the way we talk to our colleagues in other early learning venues and it is changing the way we think about early childhood education.

Thank You

Lacey Sharp

**Clackamas Early Learning Hub**  
**Testimony**



**CLACKAMAS  
EARLY  
LEARNING  
HUB**

April 15, 2015

TO: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education  
RE: Early Learning Hubs

Co-Chairs Representative Komp and Senator Monroe and Members of the Committee:

Michael Anderson-Nathe  
Health Share of Oregon

Cassie Archer  
Family Care, Inc.

Rodney Cook  
Clackamas County Children, Youth &  
Families

Bridget Dazey  
Workforce Investment Council

Milt Dennison  
Clackamas Education Service District

Donalda Dodson  
Oregon Child Development Coalition

Brenda Durbin  
Clackamas Social Services

Pat Duke  
Libraries in Clackamas Consortium

Sue Elder  
Clackamas County Children's  
Commission, Inc.

Denise Glascock  
Family Stepping Stones Relief Nursery

Dawn Hendricks  
Clackamas Community College

Chris Hoy  
Clackamas Community Corrections

Maurita Johnson  
Oregon Department of Human Services

Elizabeth Lien  
Community Member

Dana Lord  
Clackamas Public Health

Diane Meisenheimer  
Community Member

Mary Rumbaugh  
Clackamas Behavioral Health

Bob Stewart  
Gladstone School District

Matt Utterback  
North Clackamas School District

For the record, I am Rodney Cook, Co-chair of the Clackamas Early Learning Hub and I am submitting testimony to urge you to fund Early Learning Hubs at a level that adequately supports the work ahead.

Clackamas County has over 20,000 underserved children who are less likely to receive services and supports and as a result, are more likely to struggle in school. We must close this opportunity gap and give all children the best chances for success. To this end, the Clackamas Early Learning Hub is holding itself accountable by better understanding the needs of families and children and working together to meet them.

Hub partners have worked together to identify ways to improve outcomes for families and children and they are driving resources and leveraging programs achieve these goals. With the support of the Legislature, the Clackamas Early Learning Hub can continue to implement its strategies to meet early learning metrics.

Examples of work implemented by the Clackamas Early Learning Hub includes:

- **Family Resource Coordination Services for At-Risk Families** – service providers who assess family needs and directly connect them to early childhood programs, medical providers, child care, housing, food, etc.
- **Kindergarten Partnerships and Innovation Initiatives**
  - Innovative engagement, support and connections for isolated families
  - Resources and technical assistance to child care providers to improve child care quality.
  - Support for Early Engagement and Development of STEM (SEEDS) in the communities of Oregon City and Gladstone.
  - Early Childhood/Elementary School PreventNet programs in Sandy Grade School (Sandy) and Lot Whitcomb Elementary (North Clackamas).
  - Early Literacy Outreach Training-of-Trainers in the "Every Child Ready to Read" curriculum.

Early Learning Hub partnerships impact the leveraging of resources for the Early Learning System and increase coordination of services. I urge your support of this work by funding Hubs at a level that enables their success.

Thank you on behalf of the children and families we serve.

Sincerely,

Rodney A. Cook  
Co-Chair – Clackamas Early Learning Hub  
Director, Clackamas County Children, Youth & Families Division  
rodcoo@clackamas.us  
503-650-5677

**Wellness and Education Board of Central Oregon**  
**Testimony**



## WELLNESS & EDUCATION BOARD OF CENTRAL OREGON (WEBCO)

BOARD

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**John Rexford**  
Superintendent  
High Desert ESD

April 14, 2015

**TO:** Education Ways and Means Sub-Committee  
Co-Chairs Senator Monroe and Representative Komp

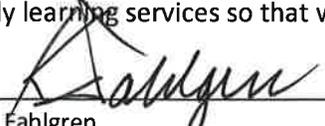
**RE: Early Learning Hub Funds – To establish a solid foundation for children’s long-term success**

On behalf of the Wellness and Education Board of Central Oregon, we are submitting this letter of support for increased investments in the Early Learning Hubs and local early learning services. Increased funding will allow our local communities to continue the work being undertaken to ensure all children in our region have the opportunities and supports they need to enter school ready to succeed and with health and development on track. The research is very clear, investing early makes a significant impact on later life, not just in terms educational outcomes but in long term health outcomes as well.

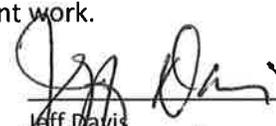
Our region has 17,456 birth through six year olds and approximately 10,243 (59%) of those children meet the statutory definition of “at risk” and are significantly less likely to receive the supports and opportunities they need to be successful. It is our responsibility as a community and state to close the opportunity gap and to ensure the experiences a child has during those early years creates a strong foundation for future success. Through the region’s Hub we are not only gaining a common understanding of the issues and needs of our communities and children but we are making progress and holding ourselves accountable for working together to address the needs. A few examples\* of our progress include:

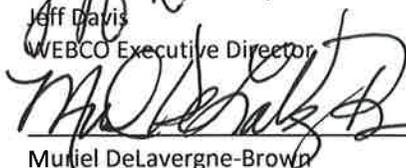
- Expansion of Relief Nursery services to Crook County – now available in all three counties
- Medical provider agreements to implement Reach Out and Read program in 8 regional sites
- Improved quality of child care from two sites qualifying as 3-Star or higher in 2014 to 24 in 2015
- Pre-K Teams working in five demonstration schools across the region and incorporating the Growth Mindset approach
- 85 early childhood scholars are participating in professional development opportunities through COCC Partners in Practice program to improve quality of child care in region’s underserved areas
- A unified and concerted effort to coordinate home visiting programs from prenatal to head start

Healthy children and families are the cornerstone of a healthy and prosperous society. Strengthening early learning and our regional efforts through the Early Learning Hub is benefiting the families and young children in our region – we urge you to support increased investments in the Early Learning Hubs and local early learning services so that we can continue this important work.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ken Fahlgren  
WEBCO Chair, Crook County Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Rexford  
EL Leadership Council Chair and WEBCO Board Member  
Superintendent, High Desert ESD

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Davis  
WEBCO Executive Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Muriel DeLavernie-Brown  
EL Leadership Council Vice Chair  
Director, Crook County Health Department

**Early Learning Multnomah  
Testimony**



## David Douglas School District

Don Grotting, Superintendent  
1500 SE 130th • Portland, Oregon • 97233-1719  
(503) 252-2900 • Fax (503) 256-5218

Re: Funding for the Early Learning Hubs

Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

April 14, 2015

Co-Chair Senator Rod Monroe, Co-Chair Representative Betty Komp and Members of the Committee,

For the record, I am Don Grotting, Superintendent of David Douglas School District. I am submitting testimony in support of funding for the Early Learning Hubs at a level that lets them do the powerful work they have been charged to do: align early learning systems, support thriving families and ensure children are ready to succeed in kindergarten.

I know that every child has an unlimited capacity to learn. We need to be smart about how we tap into that capacity. At David Douglas we've seen the power of early childhood education. Instead of investing scarce resources in programs and interventions that struggle to close the achievement gap after the third grade, we believe the key to preventing that gap in the first place is to unleash the capacity of very young children to learn. And that means looking at what families need before they come in the school door at kindergarten. We have to connect earlier and that's what we are trying to do in our district. It's the best investment we can make.

It's a tough challenge to move outside of the school walls and connect with families before they start school. It takes a lot of work and it takes a lot of time and in some instances it takes a lot of resources. It takes expertise that we don't have. It takes services that we don't have. We need partners from culturally-specific organizations, early learning programs, human services, healthcare and the business community. We can't do the legwork to convene those partners and direct the action across the county, but our Early Learning Hub can.

We are working with our local Early Learning Hub to connect the two Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation grants in our county and expand the connections between early learning and K-3 education. Together we are offering group coaching and individual student consultations with Kindergarten teachers as a follow up to their training in Early Childhood Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (EC PBIS).

I believe if we are really going to move Oregon's education forward and be able to support a world class economy we need to think outside the box. Our district has been energized by the partners we've met as we open our doors to families with young children. I urge your support for full funding of the Early Learning Hubs to codify the real and intentional effort we have been putting into coordination and alignment.

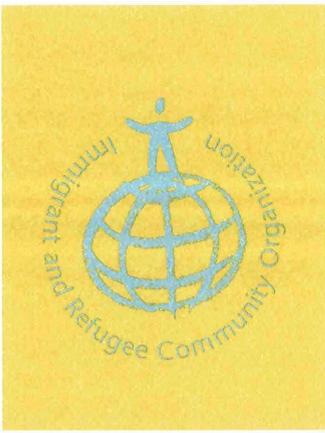
Sincerely,

Don Grotting  
Superintendent

Visit our web page: [www.ddouglas.k12.or.us](http://www.ddouglas.k12.or.us) E-mail: [David\\_Douglas@ddouglas.k12.or.us](mailto:David_Douglas@ddouglas.k12.or.us)

School Board

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April 21, 2015

Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Funding for Early Learning Hubs

Co-Chair Senator Rod Monroe, Co-Chair Representative Betty Komp and Members of the Committee,

**IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE  
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION**

**MISSION:**

TO PROMOTE THE INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES, IMMIGRANTS, AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE INTO A SELF-SUFFICIENT, HEALTHY AND INCLUSIVE MULTIETHNIC SOCIETY.

[www.irco.org](http://www.irco.org)

**IRCO LOCATIONS:**

**IRCO Headquarters**

10301 NE Glisan Street  
Portland, Oregon 97220  
Tel: 503-234-1541

**IRCO Africa House &  
Skill Center**

631 NE 102nd Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97220  
Tel: 503-802-0082

**IRCO Asian Family Center**

8040 NE Sandy Boulevard  
Portland, Oregon 97213  
Tel: 503-235-9396

**IRCO East Portland  
Community Center (EPCC)**

740 SE 106th Ave  
Portland, OR 97216  
503-988-6073

**IRCO Mid County  
Senior District Center**

106515 SE Cherry Blossom Dr.  
Portland, Oregon 97216  
Tel: 503-988-5480

**International Language Bank  
ILB**

10301 NE Glisan Street  
Portland, Oregon 97220  
Tel: 503-234-0068

For the record, I am Lee Po Cha, Executive Director of the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO). I am submitting testimony in support of funding for the Early Learning Hubs at a level that lets them do the powerful work they have been charged to do: align early learning systems, support thriving families and ensure children are ready to succeed in kindergarten.

IRCO's mission is to promote the integration of refugees, immigrants, and the community at large into a self-sufficient, healthy, and inclusive multiethnic society. We have a reputation for excellence built for almost 40 years providing culturally specific wraparound services to diverse communities of all ages.

There is a strong need for culturally specific services for the rapidly growing number of immigrant and refugee families with young children in our region. We know that the children of these families are less likely to access preventative health care or early childhood/pre-kindergarten learning environments.

Our local Early Learning Hub helps fund IRCO's Parent and Child Development Services (PCDS) which provides parenting, child development, and brain development information for immigrant and refugee families. Our certified parent educators visit with families in their homes or other safe spaces, answer questions, offer positive parenting advice, and connect families with community resources. We partner with our local Early Learning Hub through an Early Literacy grant. We created Russian and Vietnamese culturally-specific materials for our families with young children. Our parents from the Somali, Russian and Vietnamese communities participate in the hub's Parent Accountability Council. The Early Learning Hub funds our staff to provide support for the parents as they grow in leadership skills and provide guidance for the hub's decisions.

Our Early Learning Hub utilizes the wisdom and resources of committed individuals and organizations to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities, address economic barriers, and align quality supports for young children and their families. We appreciate the opportunity to be a part of a partnership that prioritizes our community and draws together key stakeholders to empower communities, families, and individuals to become self-sufficient and contributing members of society.

Strengthening early learning through the hubs will benefit children, families and our region. I urge your support for full funding of the Early Learning Hubs.

Sincerely,

Lee Po Cha  
Executive Director





# Native American Youth and Family Center

5135 NE Columbia Blvd, Portland, OR 97218 | p 503.288.8177 | f 503.288.1260 | nayapdx.org

April 14, 2015

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Matthew Morton  
*Squaxin Island*

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Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

## RE: Funding for Early Learning Hubs

Co-Chair Senator Rod Monroe, Co-Chair Representative Betty Komp and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Matt Morton, and I am the Executive Director of the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA). I am submitting testimony in support of **funding for the Early Learning Hubs** at a level that lets them do the powerful work they have been charged to do: align early learning systems, support thriving families and ensure children are ready to succeed in kindergarten.

NAYA has served self-identified Native American youth and their families throughout the Portland Metropolitan Area for over 40 years. Our mission is simple: "To enhance the diverse strengths of our youth and families in partnership with the community through cultural identity and education." As an urban Indian community-based organization, NAYA impacts the lives of nearly 10,000 individuals annually, representing over 380 tribal backgrounds annually. As you may be aware:

- Portland, Oregon, is the 23rd largest city and the **9th largest Native American community in the United States.**
- Over 40,000 Native American people live in Multnomah County, with two-thirds of those living in the city of Portland.
- Out of every 100 Native students who begin as freshmen in high school, **only 34 will graduate from Portland public high schools** in their senior year. Of those 34, a mere 17 will receive a standard diploma.
- In Multnomah County, according to the 2000 census, 25 percent of the Native population earns less than \$10,000 per year, and 25 percent earns less than \$24,000 per year. This means that fully **half of the Native population lives in deep poverty.**

Even with our large population and the strong evidence of need, resources and opportunity have not been equitably distributed to our community. Persistent stereotypes, chronic undercounts and false perceptions of our community continue

Youth Centered • Family Driven • Elder Guided

to perpetuate our invisibility. It is commonly believed that our education, health care, and other social support systems are “fully paid” for by government entitlement or gaming/casino revenues. These misconceptions lead to policies and decisions that limit our access to social services and other community resources in the city where we live, work and raise our families.

We believe that traditional cultural values are integral to regaining sovereignty and building self-esteem. NAYA is an innovator and leader in quality culturally-specific early childhood programming. Our programs and services have grown out of a community need to support and prepare our young children with relevant opportunities that set them on paths of success.

Our local Early Learning Hub is partnering with us through two grants to develop new materials and increase our impact in the community. Through the Early Literacy grant, we created culturally-specific materials for our families with young children to support them as they play, sing, write, read and talk together and prepare for school success. Through the Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation grant, we trained Native American community health workers to support families with young children to prepare for kindergarten entry. Our parents participate in the hub’s Parent Accountability Council alongside parents from five other culturally-specific communities. We are not invisible in our Early Learning Hub.

NAYA continues to seek solutions to community needs. As evidenced by our outcomes, and supported through evidence-based research, creating additional resources for culturally-specific programming represents the best option for Multnomah County’s most vulnerable community. Our Early Learning Hub understands and supports this.

Strengthening early learning through the hubs will benefit children, families and our region. I urge your support for full funding of the Early Learning Hubs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Morton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matt Morton  
Executive Director



April 14, 2015

RE: Funding for Early Learning Hubs

Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Co-Chair Senator Rod Monroe, Co-Chair Representative Betty Komp and Members of the Committee,

For the record, I am Tony Hopson, Sr., President and CEO of Self Enhancement, Inc. I am submitting testimony in support of funding for the Early Learning Hubs at a level that lets them do the powerful work they have been charged to do: align early learning systems, support thriving families and ensure children are ready to succeed in kindergarten.

Nationwide and right here in Portland, growing numbers of children are exposed to a host of risk factors such as poverty, abuse, neglect, jailed parents and/or siblings, gangs, substance abuse, absentee or abusive parents, and hunger. As a result, the number of young children with aggressive, noncompliant and acting-out behaviors in schools has been steadily rising.

We are Self Enhancement, Inc. (SEI), a nonprofit organization supporting at-risk urban youth. In 31 years, SEI has grown from a 1-week summer basketball camp to a flourishing agency serving thousands of students each year in the greater Portland, Oregon area, with plans to replicate across the country.

SEI's Community and Family Programs are designed to provide families with the resources, supports, and wrap-around services needed to help ensure they are safe, stable, and have their critical social, emotional, and economic needs met. SEI's Community and Family Program's services address economic and race-based disparities by providing a broad continuum of anti-poverty, family stabilization, and employment services that are culturally specific for African American families and culturally responsive for other families in need.

Our local Early Learning Hub helps to fund our Parent Child Development Services which promotes positive parenting, healthy child development and school readiness for children (birth through age 5) and their parents. Using the *Parents As Teachers (PAT)* framework, all child development services include a range of activities including groups and home visits, designed to promote parent competence and healthy child development, with the goals of helping parents become their child's first teacher and to help children become kindergarten ready. This work is crucial for a child's later success in school.

Our parents participate in the hub's Parent Accountability Council alongside parents from five other culturally-specific communities. Our staff work with our local Early Learning Hub to give voice to issues and perspectives of high priority for our families. The voices of parents in our classes and support groups inform the direction and action of our Early Learning Hub.

At SEI we are working to keep students in school, graduate from school and go on to college or vocational training or a family-wage job. Strengthening early learning through the hubs will magnify our work and benefit children, families and our region. I urge your support for full funding of the Early Learning Hubs.

Sincerely,

Tony Hopson, Sr.  
President and CEO  
Self Enhancement, Inc.

# Early Learning Hub of Central Oregon: Overarching Goals with State and Local Strategy Examples



## Mission – Shared Purpose

To create an efficient and effective early learning system to ensure all children, prenatal through eight, receive the opportunities and supports they need to be healthy and successful in school.

**Common Agenda** – EL Hubs are called upon to work collectively with communities to achieve a “Common Agenda” and the following 3 goals:

### GOAL 1: Families are healthy, stable & supported (Parent and/or Care Giver Focused)

#### Statewide Strategy Examples:

- Child Care – Expand access to low-income families
- Home Visiting Programs (Public Health, Healthy Families, Head Start, Relief Nurseries, and Early Intervention)
- DHS Reform: Safe Children – Strong Supportive Families (Differential Response)
- Involve parents and care givers in developing strategies to improve outcomes
- Address disparities in access, quality and health outcomes (Utilizing State’s “Equity Lens”)

#### Local/Regional Strategy Examples -Empowering & engaging families to find solutions:

- Parent/Care Giver Survey and Parent Focus Groups to ID needs at demonstration sites
- OPEC Parenting Education Hub – expanding Evidence-based parenting education capacity in region (OCF Grant)
- Professional Development (Partners in Practice early care & ed. professional development grant, ASQ-3 cross-train, Trauma Informed Practice, Grow Healthy Kids)
- Tri-County expansion of the Safe and Equitable Foster Care Reduction Initiative
- Tri-County expansion of Relief Nursery (federal, state, local and private funding)
- Partnering with existing community groups addressing disparity issues (CCO/COHC, WEBCO, HETF, etc.)

### GOAL 2: Children enter school ready to succeed and with health and development on track (Child Focused)

#### Statewide Strategy Examples:

- Quality Child Care (Work force development and Quality Rating Improvement System or QRIS)
- All children have access to health care provider
- Early Intervention / Early Special Education
- Developmental Screenings (early identification, addressing developmental issues early)
- Oregon Pre-K and Early Head Start. Oregon Head Start Collaboration office and partnership with QRIS for Head Start sites
- Ed. Reform: P-20 Regional Achievement Compacts
- All day kindergarten 2015

#### Local/Regional Strategy Examples –

#### Phased in & Continuous Improvement approach:

- Universal health & developmental screenings for all young children from the time they are born
- Universal vision & hearing screens for all children before entering kindergarten (min. 1X at ≥ 3 yrs.)
- Early Literacy community outreach campaign (ELD Grants) and Early Literacy PSA
- Reach Out & Read initiative with Mosaic Medical, St. Charles Medical, & Indian Health Services
- Regional PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> Initiative – Implement a PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> approach in elementary catchment areas to connect, integrate, & align birth to 5 programs & experiences with K-12 system (OCF & ELD Grants)
- Partners in Practice – Professional Dev. for Early Care & Education Providers (ELD Grant)

### GOAL 3: Early childhood services are coordinated, effective, accessible and family-centered (System Focused)

#### Statewide Strategy Examples:

- Utilize a Cross-Sector and Collective Impact approach to coordinate and align early learning services
- Data Informed decisions, shared metrics and accountability in partnership with education, DHS & Health Services/CCO
- Not “business as usual”: “Braided and Blended Funding” and breaking out of program silos

#### Local/Regional Strategy Examples –

#### Phased in & Continuous Improvement approach:

- Build a Tiered Early Learning System – a three-leveled structure that organizes the delivery of early learning services on a continuum to best meet children and families’ needs
- Integration of growth mindset across the P-20 continuum (ELD Grant)
- Invest in evidence-based and best practice programs, projects and/or initiatives
- Resource development to address needs and maximize use of existing resources
- Coord. and aligning professional development and training (i.e. ASQ-3, ASQ-SE)
- Mapping of developmental screening available assets, capacity/needs and barriers
- Long-Term: Dev. common system of referrals
- Long-Term: Attain collaborative alignments in efforts with CCO and private medical providers

## Challenges:

- Accountability with limited authority
- Lack of Universal Identifier among services for young Children (exceptions: EI & Head Start - SSID)

- Lack of formalized data sharing agreements as well as addressing FERPA and HIPPA Privacy Laws
- Lack of common and/or centralized data collection and sharing system
- Limited capacity and resources



**Early Childhood Wellness**

LASTS A LIFETIME

EARLY LEARNING HUB OF CENTRAL OREGON

## Early Learning HUB of Central Oregon

# Our Work: Early Learning & Wellness

Prenatal through 8 years (3rd grade)

### A coordinated approach to early learning

The Early Learning & Wellness partners are aligning efforts to ensure that each and every child and family in Central Oregon receives the services and support they need from before birth through age eight. Our goals, strategies and initiatives are fundamentally based on collaboration and coordination. From needs assessments and resource development through professional development and referrals, we are working together to improve outcomes using evidence-based and best practice programs.



**Better Together**

Central Oregon Reaching Higher

### Goal #1

Families have access to quality services and the knowledge and skills needed to support the positive development of their children.

### Goal #2

Children receive the opportunities and supports needed to enter school ready to succeed and with health and development on track.

### Goal #3

Children have access to primary care medical provider and receive health screenings at least once a year.

## Strategies & Initiatives

### Healthy, Stable and Supported Families

OPEC Parenting HUB

Relief Nursery Expansion

Safely Reducing Foster Care Initiative Expansion

Coordinating Home Visiting System

### Ready for Kindergarten, Ready for School

PreK-3 Approach/Growth Mindset

VROOM: Creating a Brain Building Community

Quality Rating & Improvement (QRIS)

Partners in Practice Professional Development

Read It Literacy Project

### Health and Development On Track

Universal Health & Development Screening

Access to Audiologist Warm Springs/Madras

Reach Out and Read at Well-Child Visits

Early Learning & Wellness Goals

**Lane Early Learning Alliance**  
**Testimony**

April 14, 2015



CO-Chairs Komp & Monroe

**Joint Committee On Ways and Means SubCommittee On Education**

900 Court St NE

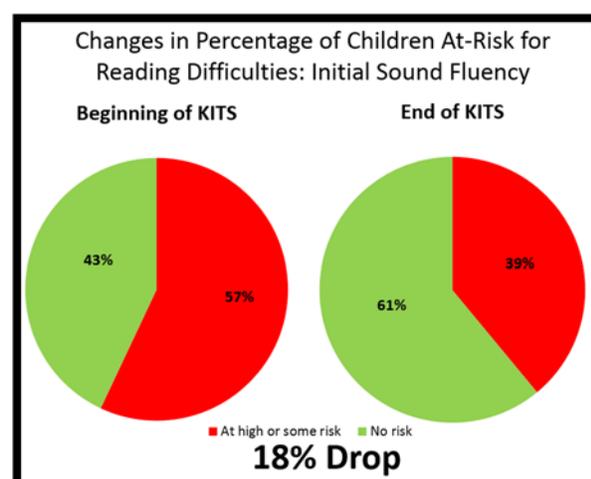
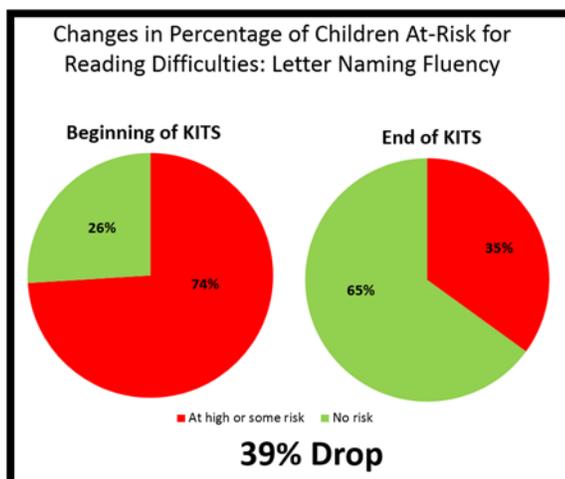
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs Komp & Monroe and Members of the Committee,

For the record, I am Colt Gill, Superintendent for Bethel School District in Eugene. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 213. SB 213 makes the Early Learning Hubs permanent and continues the work local communities have undertaken to align early learning systems, support thriving families and ensure children are ready to succeed in kindergarten.

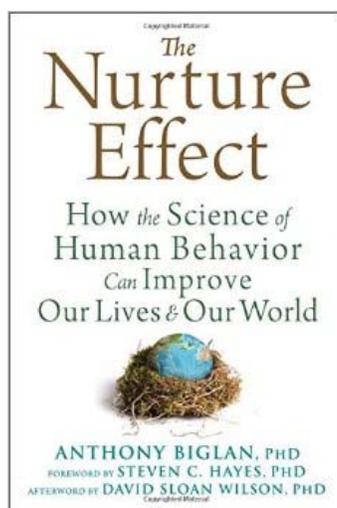
We value the work of the Lane County Early Learning Alliance. It is making a difference in preparing children for kindergarten. Our hub is a standout in the state. It has formed solid partnerships across the county that support young children and their families. We focus on evidence-based programs that deliver outcomes for the most underserved populations in our community. We have many programs in place, but one I'm most proud of is KITS: Kids in Transition to School.

KITS is a program developed in partnership with the Oregon Social Learning Center, the United Way of Lane County, and local school districts. This program has grown to serve both urban and rural communities and it is showing great outcomes in terms of preparedness for kindergarten. Take a look at these results:



These are results from a 16-week program before and during the beginning of kindergarten. Think about what could be accomplished with the continuation of the hubs and more funding for early interventions. Programs with success like this could be replicated across the state.

We all know that a child's brain develops more in the first five years than at any other time. This is the time to invest in our kids and their support systems: families, child care, health care, and education. Doing this will help to ensure future economic prosperity for our citizens and our state. Early intervention is without a doubt the best return on investment. We work closely with a local researcher at the Oregon Research Institute who has developed a path to improving the lives of individuals and the success of our communities. It all starts with early intervention and support, which is exactly what the hubs are designed to do. He has recently written a book that is highly accessible and provides the recipe that starts with projects like those the early learning hubs make possible. Take a look:



You can watch a book trailer at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mhV5Ag4bCul>

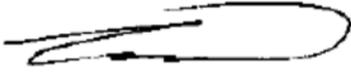
Getting to 40-40-20 will require investing in children before they enter the school doors and continuing that investment through their K-12 experience to ensure they are college, career, and *citizenship* ready!

Hubs help ensure this happens. They give our local community the responsibility *and* some incentive and outcome-based resources to ensure that the experiences a child has during those early years creates a strong foundation for future success. The hub and our regional achievement collaborative ([Connected Lane County](#)) are strengthening partnerships across K-12 schools, early education, health, human services and businesses in Lane County. This is changing the way we support young children and families in our region and is leading to more effective and efficient services. As a result of these partnership we are not only offering more focused and evidence-based supports, we are tracking outcomes for our students from early childhood through college. This is a first for Oregon and Lane County is a stellar example of the progress that can be made. However, this is only possible because of opportunities created by the hubs and the RACs.

It is clear, the Lane County Early Learning Alliance Hub is changing the way we meet the needs of children and families in our community. The hub work is based on solid and proven practices. And, we have results to prove its effectiveness.

I urge you to support SB 213 and this transformation of early learning in Oregon. Oregon legislators will not authorize another dollar this session that has a better return on investment for our children or the future of our state. When Oregon's children thrive, Oregon's future flourishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colt Gill". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke that loops back to the right.

Colt Gill  
Superintendent

April 20, 2015

Ways and Means Education Subcommittee  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

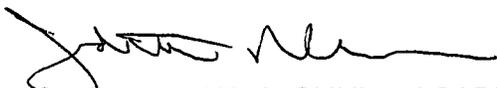
Dear Co-chairs Senator Monroe and Representative Komp,

On behalf of Early Childhood CARES I am pleased to submit this letter of support of full funding for the Early Learning. Early Childhood CARES is the early intervention and early childhood special education program for Lane County. We serve children from birth to five years of age who have developmental delays, disabilities and/or sensory impairments. We have been an integral part of the planning and implementation of the Early Learning Alliance from the beginning. As more developmental screenings are completed. We receive more referrals for services. This is a win-win because identifying children early and linking them to needed services is a shared priority between EI/ECSE and Early learning Hubs.

Our community has been fortunate to have one of the first Early Learning Hubs funded in Oregon. The Lane Alliance for Early Learning has only been operating slightly over a year and the list of accomplishments is long!. A few of the most noteworthy accomplishments to date include: the close relationships that have formed between early childhood and the K-12 and work to align these systems; the shared metrics with the CCO has encouraged collaboration and shared work especially around developmental screening and prevention strategies; the leveraging of local resources directed at early learning priorities; and the engagement of many different sectors of our community including the researchers who have advised the Early learning Alliance on metrics and measurement tools for their work.

There is so much more work that must be accomplished to ensure that all children are prepared for success in kindergarten and beyond, that all families are stable and attached, and that our services are coordinated into an effective system to meet the needs of children and families. We hope that the legislature will fully fund the work of the Early Learning Hubs across the state which will allow us to continue this important work towards achieving Oregon's 40/40/20 goals. We have really just begun.

Sincerely,  
Judy Newman,



Co-director of Early Childhood CARES



## **PacificSource Testimony in Support of Early Learning Hubs**

### Education Ways and Means Sub-Committee

Co-chairs Monroe and Komp and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Oregon's Early Learning Hubs. PacificSource is an independent, not-for-profit health plan based in Oregon. We serve commercial, Medicaid and Medicare members and are the Coordinated Care Organization in Central Oregon and the Columbia Gorge. Our corporate headquarters are based in Lane County, where we have strong roots in the community. We are pleased to have membership on Early Learning Hub governance boards in both Lane County and in Central Oregon, and enthusiastically urge adequate support of Hubs, which are striving to align early learning systems, support thriving families and ensure children are ready to succeed in kindergarten.

There is voluminous evidence demonstrating the relationship between early childhood experiences, educational attainment and health outcomes over the lifespan. In recognition of this, one of the promising components within the Hub framework is the connection to Oregon's Coordinated Care Organizations (CCO). We know there is a high degree of overlap between the children and families served through CCO's and those specifically targeted by the Hubs. Currently, CCO's and Hubs are both accountable for metrics around developmental screenings and connecting kids to medical homes. This is a promising early step and fosters the need to work together to coordinate, collaborate and innovate.

Constructing this bridge between large systems is nascent, but extremely important. We believe we are on the right track and we urge your continued support of the Early Learning Hub model, through adequate funding of Oregon's unique model.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions,

Marian Blankenship

Director of Government Relations, PacificSource

Executive Director, PacificSource Foundation for Health Improvement

Early Learning Alliance (Lane Hub), Governance Consortium Member



April 14, 2015

Education Ways and Means Sub Committee  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Monroe and Representative Komp:

On behalf of Pearl Buck Center Preschool, I am pleased to submit this letter of support for funding the Hubs at a level that lets the Early Learning Alliance succeed.

Our community has firsthand experience with the capacity for change that Early Learning Hubs present. In less than a year, our local Early Learning Hub, the Lane Early Learning Alliance, has maintained a focus on closing our community's achievement gap early by focusing on children and families who stand to benefit from the most coordinated, effective programs and services. The Alliance has demonstrated a commitment to data-driven decision making and outcomes-oriented investments. The Lane Early Learning Alliance is comprised of parents and professionals passionate about making a difference in the lives of children.

The work of Pearl Buck Center Preschool is to support a life-long love of learning for young children and their families. We serve the children of parents who have cognitive difficulties in a tuition free preschool program with wrap around family services. The commitment to outcomes-oriented investments aligns directly with our mission to provide positive outcomes to at-risk children and their families. We believe we are making a difference in the lives of some of the most vulnerable families in our area. We agree wholeheartedly with the mission of the Lane Early Learning Alliance.

While the Lane Early Learning Alliance has enjoyed early successes and lessons learned, there is more work that must be accomplished to ensure that all children are prepared for success in kindergarten and beyond, that all families are stable and attached, and that our services are coordinated into an effective system to meet the needs of children and families. We believe it is critical for future generations to fund Early Learning Hubs at a level that allows the Early Learning Alliance to continue this important work towards achieving Oregon's 40/40/20 goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Renee K. Van Norman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Renee K. Van Norman, Ph.D.  
Preschool Director

## Lane Early Learning Alliance

3171 Gateway Loop  
Springfield, OR 97477  
tel 541.741.6000  
fax 541.726.4150

[earlylearningalliance.org](http://earlylearningalliance.org)



Co-Chairs Komp and Monroe  
Joint Committee On Ways and Means Sub-Committee On Education  
900 Court St NE, S-405  
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs Komp & Monroe and Members of the Committee,

As the backbone support organization for the Lane Early Learning Alliance, United Way of Lane County is pleased to submit testimony in support of funding early learning hubs. It is critical to fund hubs at a level that continues the work local communities have undertaken to align early learning systems, support thriving families and ensure children are ready to succeed in kindergarten.

We know our community has approximately 7,000 underserved children. These children are less likely to receive services and supports and more likely to struggle in school as a result. It is our responsibility to close this opportunity gap and give all children the best chances for success.

Our community has firsthand experience with the capacity for change that Early Learning Hubs present. Working with OSLC Developments, Incorporated and the Creswell and Eugene 4J school districts using funding provided through the Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation grant, this past summer we were able to begin scaling an evidence-based school readiness program that has been proven to increase the early literacy and social emotional skills of kindergarteners, the Kids in Transition to School (KITS) program.

The KITS program has been shown in randomized clinical efficacy trials to improve children's early literacy and social emotional skills prior to kindergarten. Gains continue to positively affect the children's adjustment in kindergarten and first grade. Additionally, parents' skills improve and this leads to increases in parent involvement in the children's schooling. The KITS program has worked with dual language learners and their parents as well as families from a range of ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. United Way of Lane County, and now the Lane Early Learning Alliance, has a long history of successfully partnering with the KITS program and local school districts to provide this summer learning opportunity.

Developed at the Oregon Social Learning Center, the KITS program is a 16-week school readiness intervention for children and their parents that takes place in the summer eight weeks prior to kindergarten entry and afterschool for the first eight of school. The KITS program provides a boost to entering kindergartners' literacy, self-regulation, and social skills through a 24 session school readiness group for the children and a 12 session workshop for the parents.

### GOVERNANCE CONSORTIUM

**SHELDON BERMAN**

Eugene School District 4J

**NANCY BISCHOF**

Early Learning Stakeholders

**MARIAN BLANKENSHIP**

PacificSource Health Plans

**NOREEN DUNNELLS**

United Way of Lane County

**DEBI FARR**

Trillium Community Health Plan

**COLT GILL**

Bethel School District

**TINA GUTIEREZ-SCHMICH**

Bethel School District

**ALICIA HAYS**

Lane County

**KAREN GAFFNEY**

Lane County

**JOHN LIVELY**

Oregon State Representative

**JUDY NEWMAN**

Early Childhood CARES

**SUE NORTON**

Lane Community College

**KRISTA PARENT**

South Lane School District

**JOHN RADICH**

Department of Human Services

**GEORGE RUSSELL**

George Russell & Associates,  
LLC

**ANNIE SOTO**

Head Start of Lane County

**LARRY SULLIVAN**

Lane Education Service District

**RENEE VAN NORMAN**

Early Learning Stakeholders

**JENNIFER WILKS**

Parent Representative

KITS is one component of the Lane Early Learning Alliance's comprehensive approach to closing the opportunity gap early. For example, through our Early Literacy grant efforts we have also:

- Trained over 100 local early learning providers in evidence-based early literacy curricula;
- Established a book rotation program that currently serves 350 parents through our network of school-based Family Resource Centers and 60 child care providers through our local Child Care Resource and Referral agency;
- Distributed over 2,000 books to children through our three Summer Reading Spots program held in local parks in conjunction with Food for Lane County's Summer Lunch Program.

The Lane Early Learning Alliance also has robust efforts underway to ensure that all children receive at least one developmental screening before age three. In the short time that our hub has been operating and in partnership with our local Coordinated Care Organization, Trillium Community Health Plan, the developmental screening rate has jumped from 17% to 40%. Community partners are working to ensure that not only do children receive this screening, but more importantly, are connected to the community resources and supports to address their needs.

We have done significant work in the community to build relationships and create the infrastructure of a true early learning system. We urge your support for early learning and funding of hubs at a level that will allow us to continue this important work.

Sincerely,



Noreen J. Dunnells  
Executive Director  
United Way of Lane County



Holly Mar-Conte  
Director of Education  
United Way of Lane County

**Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln  
Counties**

**Testimony**

Funding for Successful Early Learning Hubs  
Education Ways and Means Sub-Committee  
April 17, 2015

Co-Chair Komp, Co-Chair Monroe and Members of the Committee:

For the record, I am Kristi May, Coordinator for the Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties. With the recent affirmative vote on SB 213 (making Early Learning Hubs permanent) from the Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood Education, we now ask for your support in providing funding at a level that will help our Early Learning Hubs be successful.

I am writing to urge your support for additional investments in early learning systems and strategies for children and families in Oregon. Research concludes that investing in young children from birth to age 5 provides a 10:1 lifelong return through improved health, increased graduation rates, competitive workforce, reduced incarceration and stable families. (James Heckman reference)

In Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties there are 19,270 children ages 0 - 6. Approximately 12,884 live in families considered at-risk based on poverty, drug abuse, unsafe housing, unmet medical needs, parental mental illness, child abuse and/or neglect. These children are less likely to receive services and supports and more likely to struggle in school as a result. Hubs are responsible to close this gap so all children have the best chance for success.

We hold ourselves accountable to clearly understand our community needs and to working to meet them. By working together across sectors the focus is less on silos and more on families. Some of our early successes include:

- Creation of a three county region that mirrors the service areas of IHN-CCO, LBL ESD, and DHS maximizes opportunities for the integration of early learning services.
- Broad involvement, across three counties, of over 200 community partners in the RFA process and development of the successful application.
- Annual financial support - defined in an MOU with IHN-CCO - for EL Hub activities. In year one, some of these funds will be used to develop the Linn Benton Lincoln Early Learning Hub brand and communication strategies.
- A Northwest Health Foundation grant award, one of 25 community-based proposals funded. This one year planning grant supports meaningful engagement of parents and families in assessing community strengths and needs and in planning ways to improve the health of children most impacted by educational, health and social inequities. The grant award includes eligibility to apply for a five-year Community-Based Partnership with the Northwest Health Foundation to implement the plans.

We have done significant work in the community to build relationships and create the infrastructure for a true early learning system. I urge your support of this locally driven work.



Kristi May  
Early Learning Hub Coordinator

## Funding for Successful Early Learning Hubs

### Education Ways and Means Sub-Committee

April 17, 2015

Co-Chair Komp, Co-Chair Monroe and Members of the Committee:

For the record, I am Kim Whitley, COO of InterCommunity Health Network Coordinated Care Organization (IHN-CCO). With the recent affirmative vote on SB 213 (making Early Learning Hubs permanent) from the Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood Education, we now ask for your support in providing funding at a level that will help our Early Learning Hubs be successful.

#### *Value of the work*

- Healthy children and families are the cornerstone of a healthy society.
- The research is so clear that investing early makes a tremendous impact on later life, not just in education, but in health too.

#### *How Hubs add value*

- The systems transformations in health and early learning are built upon the belief that local community leaders are the best change agents we have.
- Together we are holding ourselves accountable for better understanding our community needs and working together to meet them.

#### *Impact I have seen*

- The focus on developmental screenings has led to coordination among multiple community partners to understand this work and ensure the data is tracked, gets to the primary care homes, and families are engaged and part of the process.
- The CCO and the Early Learning Hub are coordinating in areas where coordination has not previously existed. For example the relationships being forged have recently assisted in the success of “Books for Babies”. A Lincoln County School District program in collaboration with Samaritan Health Services and the Nurse Family Partnership. Additionally, the Collective Impact Model used to support the Early Learning Hub has allowed area participants and community stakeholders to have a shared vision for change leading to a joint approach with agreed upon actions.

#### *Ask*

- I have every reason to believe that Early Learning Hubs will make a positive impact on Oregon children and families, and I encourage your support to help ensure their future success.

Sincerely,

Kim Whitley, MPA  
VP COO

**Yamhill CCO/Early Learning Hub**

**Testimony**



Yamhill Community Care Organization  
Your Local Health Partner

April 14, 2015

Oregon State Legislature  
Education Ways and Means Subcommittee  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Monroe, Representative Komp and members of the Committee,

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of prioritized funding for Oregon's Early Learning Hubs.

As the Chief Executive of Yamhill Community Care Organization (Yamhill CCO), and the first Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) to formally incorporate an Early Learning Hub, I have already had many occasions to witness the benefits of shared goals and aligned efforts between health care and the important community work of early learning targets and goals. In Yamhill County, we firmly believe the research that indicates the experiences of a child in the first five years of his/her life affect both physical and mental health as an adult and their ability to be a productive contributor to society.

Our Early Learning Hub has put significant effort into helping our children arrive at kindergarten prepared to learn; however, the outreach into the community continues from there. Through our Hub's coordinated efforts, we are offering parenting classes, English as a Second Language (ESL) and financial literacy classes, family cooking and nutrition classes, as well as literacy programs that extend from the medical clinics to the soup kitchens. We have leveraged outside funds to offer bus passes to those in the community who need them, including medical appointments and employment interviews.

An example of our internal alignment includes two metrics: developmental screening for children under 36 months and enrollment in Patient Centered Primary Care Homes (PCPCH). Focus on meeting these statewide measures is a priority, and we realize that having children ready to learn upon entry to kindergarten is heavily influenced by both early screening and appropriate follow up by the physician. These efforts allows us to provide more seamless transitions to care following identification. Our Family CORE program allows anyone in the county – from a physician to a concerned neighbor – to refer a family with children under five to a central team, which coordinates extra support for that family during this crucial time in the child's development.



**Yamhill Community Care Organization**  
Your Local Health Partner

I fully support the efforts of the Early Learning Council and encourage you to grant them ample funding as a vital component to our local effort to support families and to equip children to be healthy, educated and productive members of society.

Sincerely,

**Jim Carlough**  
President and CEO

**Suey Linzmeier**  
Board Member  
Early Learning Hub Co-Chair



Yamhill Community Care Organization  
Your Local Health Partner

April 14th, 2015

Oregon State Legislature  
Education Ways & Means Subcommittee  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Monroe, Representative Komp and members of the Committee,

For the record, I am Jennifer Richter, Early Learning Coordinator with the Yamhill CCO/Early Learning Hub. I am submitting testimony to urge your financial support of Oregon's Early Learning Hubs, so that we can continue the work local communities have undertaken to align early learning systems, support thriving families and ensure children are ready to succeed in kindergarten.

Prominent business associations, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Business Roundtable recognize how essential early learning is to a prepared workforce and a strong economy. Focusing on early learning and development provides the most effective and efficient returns when it comes to investments in human capital. Our community has over 4,000 underserved children. These children are less likely to receive services and supports and more likely to struggle in school as a result. It is our responsibility to close this opportunity gap and give all children the best chances for success.

Together we are holding ourselves accountable for better understanding our community needs and working together to meet them. If our Hub receives support this session by making Hubs permanent, we will be able to continue implementing our strategic plan in order to successfully meet designated early learning metrics. For example, those resources may be used to:

- Coordinate across early learning and health systems to ensure that all children receive developmental screenings by their third birthday.



**Yamhill Community Care Organization**  
**Your Local Health Partner**

- Train our childcare providers and help to facilitate their QRIS star rating so that our children are receiving quality input from the adults in their lives from their earliest months, thus arriving at school ready to learn.
- Invest in kindergarten transition activities to help children prepare for a smooth and effective transition to the K-12 educational system.
- Hold Ready for Kindergarten workshops in each school district to teach our parents how to prepare their children to arrive at school ready to learn.
- Promote families who are stable and attached through classes and programs such as the financial literacy and ESL classes that are currently being offered, as well as parenting classes (including one for families struggling with addiction). We will soon be offering a series of family cooking and nutrition classes in each of our seven school districts, and would love to have the opportunity to continue such programs in the future.

In addition to these activities, we've brought partners to the table on behalf of children through our Early Literacy grant. Some of the opportunities that have come out of these partnerships include:

- **Reach Out and Read:** a program that trains doctors in providing literacy education and promotion to families of young children as a regular component of well child and other medical exams. The project includes distribution of free, appropriate books for children, and the reminder to parents that reading daily with their children is critical for successful development.
- **Read and Feed:** a program that provides free, appropriate children's books and opportunities for story times at locations where free meals are served, including the soup kitchens across our county.
- **Summer Library:** funds to support the staffing of school libraries to remain open one day a week in conjunction with the USDA summer foods program.
- **Professional Development:** training for child care and other early learning providers on the importance of intentional teaching in the area of literacy and numeracy to ensure children are prepared for kindergarten and beyond. This gives providers the Pre-K standards which align to kindergarten common core standards so we can be sure they are teaching effectively from the outset.



Yamhill Community Care Organization  
Your Local Health Partner

Having focused goals as a Hub has changed the conversation about early learning in our community. We've changed the way we work together to support community-wide success across sectors and how we determine who our neediest children and families are. Building relationships across sectors allows us to focus less on silos and more on families. For example:

- Our Family CORE universal referral program allows anyone in the county – from a physician to a concerned neighbor – to refer a family with children under five to a central team, which coordinates extra support for that family during this crucial time in the child's development. Our CCO funds the coordinator position, but the partners at the table include nine other agencies who are invested in the wellbeing of our youngest children.
- We have matched funds with another agency to provide bus passes and gas vouchers to folks who need them to get to DHS or WIC appointments, medical appointments, or job interviews. In a rural area such as ours, the lack of access to transportation can be crippling to families' attempts at self-sufficiency.
- Two of our partner agencies have collaborated with Yamhill CCO in a recent grant application to fund an expansion of our relief nurseries to include respite services for families in crisis *before* DHS has to step in.
- The CCO has also recently submitted an application to fund six Service Integration Teams in our communities, where community members and service partners can come together to discuss clients who have needs that cannot be met through any currently available services. In the SIT team currently operational in Willamina, a recent discussion centered on providing much needed tires for a working poor family so the husband could continue to get to his job.

While the last two projects mentioned above are dependent on receiving the outside grants that we have applied for, they show the dreams of this community and what we want to provide, if we are enabled to do so.

We have done significant work in the community to build relationships and create the infrastructure of a true early learning system. I urge your support of this locally driven work.



Yamhill Community Care Organization  
Your Local Health Partner

Sincerely,

Jennifer Richter

Early Learning Coordinator

Suey Linzmeier

ELC Co-Chair

CCO Board Member

**Early Learning Hub, Inc.**

**Testimony**



April 16 2015

**TO: Education Ways and Means Sub Committee Co-Chair Senator Monroe and Co-Chair Representative Komp**

**FROM: Early Learning Hub, Inc.**

**RE: Early Learning Investments**

Patrice Altenhofen  
Family Building Blocks

Dean Andretta  
Community Member

Rod Calkins  
Marion County Health Department

Donalda Dodson  
Oregon Child Development Coalition

Bill Guest  
Willamette Valley Community Health

David Hallett  
Chemeketa Community College

Jamie Hamilton  
ELH Parent Advisory Committee

Steve Kuhn  
Community Member

Chris Leno  
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Sue Miller  
Community Member

Dave Novotney  
Willamette Education Service District

Sam Osborn  
Oregon Department of Human Services

Annalivia Palazzo-Angulo  
Salem-Keizer Coalition for Equality

Cory Peek  
ELH Parent Advisory Committee

Christy Perry  
Salem-Keizer School District

Chuck Ransom  
Woodburn School District

Jon Reeves  
Mid-Willamette Valley Community  
Action Agency

Jim Seymour  
Catholic Community Services

Ella Taylor  
Teaching Research Institute, Western  
Oregon University

Melinda Veliz  
Community Member

We are writing to urge your support for additional investments in early learning systems and strategies for children and families in Oregon. **Research is conclusive that investing in young children from birth to age 5 provides a 10:1 lifelong return through improved health, increased graduation rates, competitive workforce, reduced incarceration and stable families.** (*James Heckman reference*)

Our community has brought together leaders in healthcare, education, social services, early childhood and business in partnership with our Parent Advisory Committee to develop strategies for preparing children for Kindergarten. Through Early Learning Hub, Inc., we are finding **new ways to collaborate to strengthen the early learning system** to reduce the unacceptable achievement gaps among our Kindergartners.

Based on low assessment scores and high rates of poverty and diversity, we have identified 16 elementary schools in 4 school districts to serve as our focus school areas. In these neighborhoods, we have:

- Established **professional development communities** of Kindergarten teachers, preschool teachers and child care providers to align and coordinate their services.
- Provided **parent education and engagement** activities for families of children ages 0-5.
- Coordinated **developmental screenings** for 0-5 year olds to identify delays early.
- Expanded the number of **high quality child care** settings for young children with both English- and Spanish-speaking caregivers.

We have **braided and blended funding** from the Early Learning Division, our Coordinated Care Organization (CCO), several statewide foundations, and private business. Parents are providing leadership in the planning and implementation of our strategies.

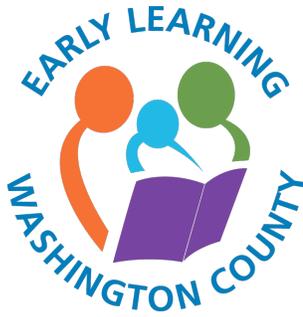
While it is too early to see Kindergarten Assessment scores changing, we are seeing other benefits from increased **cross-sector services to young children and their families** as explained on the attached sheet. It will take increased investments to expand the scope and scale of services.

To realize the benefits of these systems changes will require legislative acceptance of a long-term return on investment as well as support of our K-12 public school system. Schools are the foundation of our strategic framework for getting children ready for school and for supporting stable families.

We thank you on behalf of the children and families whom we serve,

Board of Directors, Early Learning Hub, Inc.

**Early Learning Washington County  
Testimony**



**EARLY LEARNING  
WASHINGTON COUNTY  
GOALS**

Children are ready for Kindergarten and are reading at grade level by the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

Families are healthy, stable and attached.

Early learning services are coordinated, efficient and effective.

*A partnership between  
United Way of the  
Columbia-Willamette &  
Washington County Health  
and Human Services*



**Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education  
Testimony in Support of HB 5016 Funding for Early Learning Hubs  
April 28, 2015  
Submitted by Early Learning Washington County**

Co -Chair Komp, Co-Chair Monroe and Members of the Committee:

We are writing on behalf of Early Learning Washington County (ELWC) to express the full support of our community partners for funding Early Learning Hubs at a level needed for Hubs to succeed. Over the past three years, all sectors of our community have worked collaboratively to create a Hub that meets legislative mandates. Our community has responded well to the challenges set out by successive Legislatures with the passage of HB 4165 in 2012 and HB 2013 in 2013. ELWC partners believe it is incumbent upon the 2015 Legislature to fund investments in the Early Learning System necessary for achieving our shared goals of ensuring Oregon's children and families are ready for Kindergarten and prepared to succeed in school.

United Way of the Columbia-Willamette and Washington County Department of Health and Human Services serve as Co-Conveners and Backbone Organization for our Early Learning Hub. ELWC's Steering Committee includes representatives from all five required sectors – business (including Intel Corporation and NIKE, Inc.), early childhood, health (including our two CCOs), human/social services and K-12 organizations – as well as culturally specific organizations and parents (see attached list).

Together we have developed a Strategic Framework which commits our partners to implementing common Goals, a fully-integrated Equity Lens, authentic Family Engagement, Support and Voice, and Universal Strategies with Targeted Resources for Early Literacy, Parent Education and P-3 Alignment (see attached graphic).

On behalf of families and Hub partners in Washington County, we urge members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education to support and advocate for the critical investments in Early Learning Hubs included in the 2015-17 Governor's Recommended Budget.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Harrison, NIKE Inc.  
Interim Chair, ELWC Steering Committee

William Thomas, ELWC Director

Early Learning Washington County  
155 North First Avenue, Suite 250, MS-6  
Hillsboro, OR 97124  
503-846-4539

## **EARLY LEARNING WASHINGTON COUNTY STEERING COMMITTEE – April 21, 2015**

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Organizational representatives designated as voting members on the Early Learning Washington County (ELWC) Steering Committee have operational and organizational decision-making authority related to early learning work in Washington County.

### **BUSINESS - Two Members**

1. Dana Vandecoevering, Manager, Diversity & Inclusion External Alliance, Intel Corporation
2. Marilyn Harrison, Executive Director, Child Development Programs, NIKE, Inc.

### **CULTURALLY SPECIFIC – Two Members**

3. Bridget Cooke, Executive Director, Adelante Mujeres  
*Alternate: Patricia Alvarado, Parent Education Coordinator*
4. Maria Rubio, Executive Director, Centro Cultural

### **EARLY CHILDHOOD – Four Members**

5. Renee Bruce, Director of Family and Community Resources, Community Action  
*Alternate: Karen Henkemeyer, Program Manager for Child Care Resource & Referral*
6. Donalda Dodson, Executive Director, Oregon Child Development Coalition  
*Alternate: LaRue Williams, Program Director for Washington County*
7. James Sager, Superintendent, Northwest Regional Education Service District  
*Alternates: Paul Peterson, Assistant Superintendent & Nancy Ford, Director EI/ECSE*
8. Stephanie Lind, Program Supervisor, Outreach & Youth Services,  
Washington County Cooperative Library Services

### **HEALTH - Four Members**

9. Cindy Becker, VP of Community & Government Relations, FamilyCare Health Plans, Inc.
10. Michael Anderson-Nathe, Community Engagement Director, Health Share of Oregon  
*Alternate: Dr. Helen Bellanca, Maternal Child Program Manager*
11. Amy Shea Reyes, Service Director, LifeWorks NW  
*Alternate: Mark Lewinsohn, Vice President Clinical Services*
12. Dr. Laura Byerly, Co-Medical Director, Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center

### **HUMAN/SOCIAL SERVICES – One Member**

13. Rolanda Garcia, Regional Manager District 16, Oregon Department of Human Services  
*Alternates: Alisha Carey, SSP Manger & Shirley Vollmuller, Child Welfare Manager*

**EARLY LEARNING WASHINGTON COUNTY  
STEERING COMMITTEE – April 21, 2015**

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**K-12 – One Member**

14. Mike Scott, Superintendent, Hillsboro School District (liaison for seven School Districts)  
*Alternate: Bob Huston, Superintendent, Banks School District*

**PARENTS – Two Members**

- 15-16. ELWC Parent Advisory Council will designate two Steering Committee members who are parents (at least one of whom shall be Hispanic) of At Risk children, as well as alternates

**BACKBONE ORGANIZATIONS – Two Ex-Officio/Non-Voting Members**

17. Zeke Smith, Chief Impact Officer, United Way of the Columbia-Willamette, Co-Convener  
*Alternate: Begona Rodriguez-Liern, Early Learning Senior Manager*
18. Bill Thomas, Early Learning Director, Children, Youth and Families,  
Washington County Department of Health and Human Services, Co-Convener  
*Alternate: Rebecca Collett, Early Learning Senior Manager*

# FOUNDATIONS

## 2015 EARLY LEARNING WASHINGTON COUNTY STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

**ELWC Goals** (Children are ready for Kindergarten & are reading at grade level by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade - Families are healthy, stable & attached – Services are coordinated, efficient & effective)

**Equity Lens**  
(Culturally responsive services - Equity Advisory Council – Reducing disparities for six subgroups of at risk children)

**Family Engagement, Support And Voice**  
(Family Resource Managers - Focused Child Care Network - Healthy Families - Parent Advisory Council)

**Universal Strategies With Targeted Resources**  
(Targeting 25 Highest-Need Elementary School Catchment Areas & rural areas)

# KEY STRATEGIES

## Early Literacy

Books to CC providers & families  
(Special Delivery, Traveling Books)

Information, Strategies & Tips  
(Reach out and Read, stORytime)

Workshops for CC providers & parents  
(Every Child Ready to Read)

## Parent Education

Evidence-based Classes (Abriendo Puertas, Incredible Years, Nurturing Parenting ABCs)

Information, Strategies & Tips  
(campaign & newsletter, Triple P Primary Care, centralized website)

Workshops ( Financial Resiliency, Nurturing Parenting, Triple P)

## P-3 Alignment

Attendance, interpersonal skills and self regulation (addressing chronic absenteeism, Good Behavior Game)

Preschool and Kindergarten transition (Kinder enrollment & readiness, Ready for Kindergarten)

Professional development & standards