



# **The Early Learning Division and Early Learning Council**

Presentation for The Early Childhood & Family Supports Committee

**February 2017**

DAVID MANDELL, ACTING EARLY LEARNING SYSTEM DIRECTOR  
SUE MILLER, CHAIR, EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL

# Legislative History

- **SB 909:** In 2011, the Early Learning System was created, functioning under the direction and control of the Early Learning Council with the Early Learning System Director as the administrative officer.
- **HB 3234:** ELD established as part of the Department of Education in 2013 to ensure that children enter school ready to learn.
  - Responsible for the administration of early learning and development programs in the state, for regulating licensed child care; for administering CCDF; and for the creation of a cohesive early learning system in the state.

# Governance: Early Learning Council

3

- The Early Learning Council is the policy-making body for the early learning system charged by statute to:
  - Oversee a unified system of early childhood services including funding and administration.
  - Rule-making for ELD administered programs.
  - Align services with child-centered outcomes.
  - Align work between health care, K-12, human services and early childhood education.
  - Focus on children who are at risk of arriving at school unprepared for kindergarten.
- Early Learning System Director and the Early Learning Council members are appointed by the Governor

# Goals of the Early Learning Council

- Children arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed.
- Families are healthy, stable and attached.
- The Early Learning System is coordinated, aligned and family-centered.



# Early Learning Council

5

- Composition – up to 20 members representing the geographic, ethnic, racial and economic diversity of state; early childhood professionals; and directors of ODE, OHA & DHS
- Priorities – develop initiatives and partnerships to increase the number of children ready for K, starting prenatally

# Early Learning Council

6

## Current Members:

Sue Miller, Chair	Eva Rippeteau
Harriet Adair	Shawna Rodrigues
Martha Brooks	Clyde Saiki
Janet Dougherty-Smith	Lynne Saxton
Donalda Dodson	Teri Thalhofer
David Mandell	Kali Thorne Ladd
Salam Noor	Bobbie Weber

# Population We Serve

- 230,000 children under age 5.
- 46.4% White, 28.3% Hispanic, 8.1% African American, 2% American Indian, 2% Asian, .5% Pacific Islander, 4.7% Multiracial, 8% Unknown
- 45,000 children born a year – ½ are born on Medicaid.
- Focus on 137,000 children: of color, with disabilities, living in poverty, geographically isolated and/or whose first language is not English
- 4,500 licensed child care and early learning and development program providers serving 137,000 children.

# Early Learning Division Mission

8

The Early Learning Division supports all of Oregon's young children and families to learn and thrive.



# Staffing and Funding 2015-17

□ ELD Total	113.23 FTE
□ ELD Approved Budget (GF)	\$400.76 million
▣ Total Special Payments	\$366.25 million
▣ Total Federal Funds:	\$153.87 million

# Early Learning Programs

Early Learning Hubs

Child Care Licensing & Supports

Relief Nurseries

Healthy Families Oregon

Oregon Pre-K & Head Start

Preschool Promise

# Early Learning System

11

- Employment Related Day Care (ERDC)
  - *Department of Human Services*
- Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE)
  - *Oregon Department of Education*
- Babies First
  - *Oregon Health Authority*

# Child Care Regulation and Quality



- Licensing and Compliance
  - ▣ Background checks
  - ▣ On-site health & safety monitoring of all licensed facilities
  - ▣ Complaints and public inquiries

# Child Care Licensing and Quality

## □ Child Care Supports

- Oregon's Quality Rating and Improvement System encourages licensed child care providers to meet child learning and development standards and supports them in doing so.
- Child Care Resource & Referral Network
- Early childhood professional development system

# Child Care and Development Fund

US Department of Health and Human Services

- Provides financial assistance to low income working families to help pay for child care
- Funding to improve the quality and safety of child care
- Supports increasing the supply and availability of child care for all families

# Changes to CCDF Rules

- Equal emphasis on child development and employment support
- New requirements:
  - On-site monitoring of licensed exempt providers
  - Comprehensive background checks
  - Transparent public electronic access to information about child care programs

# Relief Nurseries

- Provide therapeutic early childhood classrooms, home visits and parenting supports.
- Work with families with children under the age of six who are experiencing risk factors associated with child abuse and neglect.
- Work to keep children safe in their homes, reducing the number of children in foster care.



# Healthy Families Oregon



- HFO is an accredited, statewide home visiting program proven to reduce child abuse and neglect.
- Also promotes outcomes related to school readiness, child health and wellness, safety and family stability.
- First funded by the state in 1990 through ORS 417.788

# Oregon Head Start Pre-Kindergarten

- Ensures school readiness of three- and four-year olds living in poverty
- Provide high-quality preschool classrooms and comprehensive family support services
- 28 grantees serving all 36 counties
- Works side by side with federal Head Start program
- State and federal funding combine to serve nearly 14,000 children; 62% of eligible

# Early Head Start

- Serves children under 3-years-old; expectant mothers at or below the poverty line; children in foster care who are homeless, or have other risk factors also qualify.
- Services focus on cognitive, developmental, and socio-emotional supports; medical and dental screenings; nutritional services; mental health services; parental involvement; and referrals to social services for the entire family.
- Supplements federal Early Head Start program
- 64 children served.

# Race to the Top

- Race to the Top is a \$4.35 billion United States Department of Education competitive grant created to spur and reward innovation and reforms in state and local district K-12 education.
- The Early Learning Division received approximately \$6 million a year for three years to support early learning systems development.
- Oregon received its award in 2013 and it ended in 2016.

# Oregon RTTT Goals



- Promote quality child care
- Support early learning workforce
- Increase developmental screening
- Align early learning and elementary teaching and practice
- Increase community and family access and engagement
- Increase kindergarten readiness

# Major Initiatives

22

- Early Learning Hubs
- Kindergarten Partnership Innovation
- Spark
- Preschool Promise

# What is an Early Learning Hub?

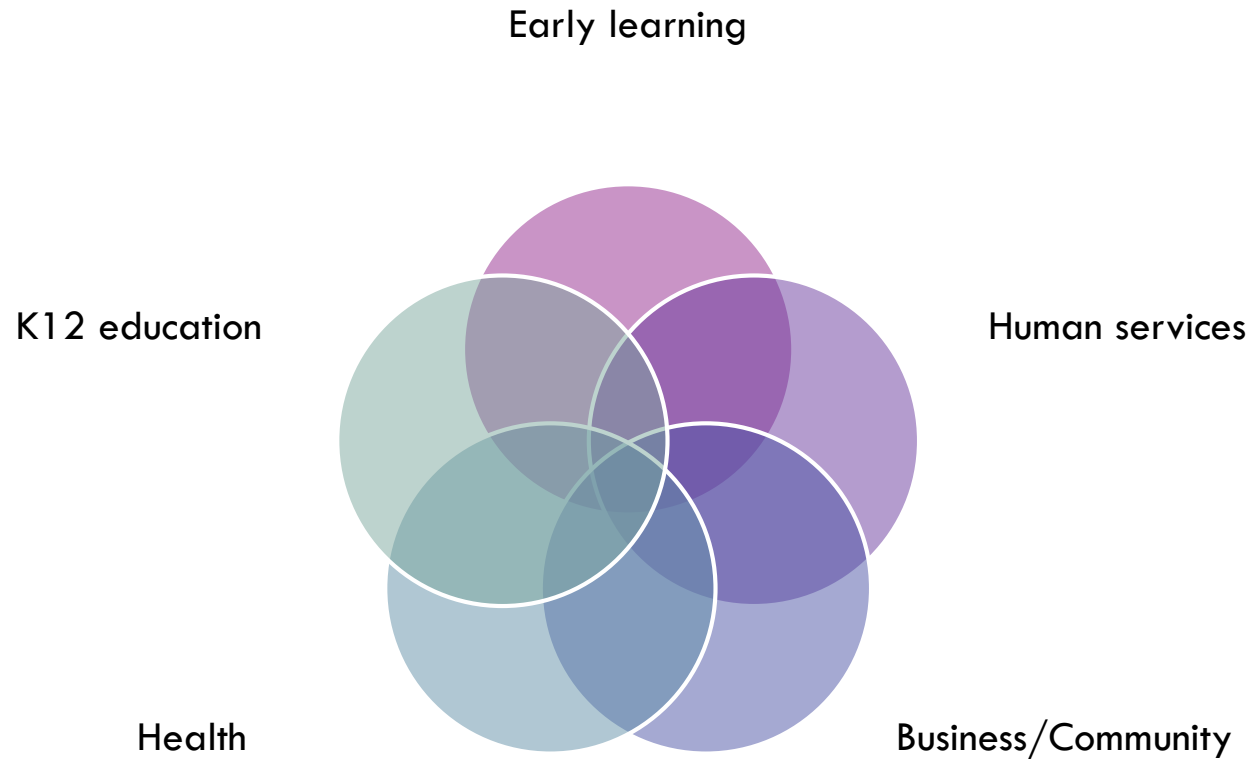
- Early Learning Hubs support underserved children and families in their region to learn and thrive by making resources and supports more available, more accessible and more effective.
- Hubs identify the underserved children in their community, evaluate the needs of those children and families, and then work to ensure that programs and services reach them and meet their needs.
- Hubs are not direct providers of services.

# Early Learning Hubs

- Building regional early learning system that connect child development programs, human services, health and K-12.
- Core responsibilities are: finding children experiencing greatest disparities, identifying their needs, working across sectors to connect them to services and accounting for outcomes collectively.
- First funded in 2013 with 16 Hubs now covering the entire state.

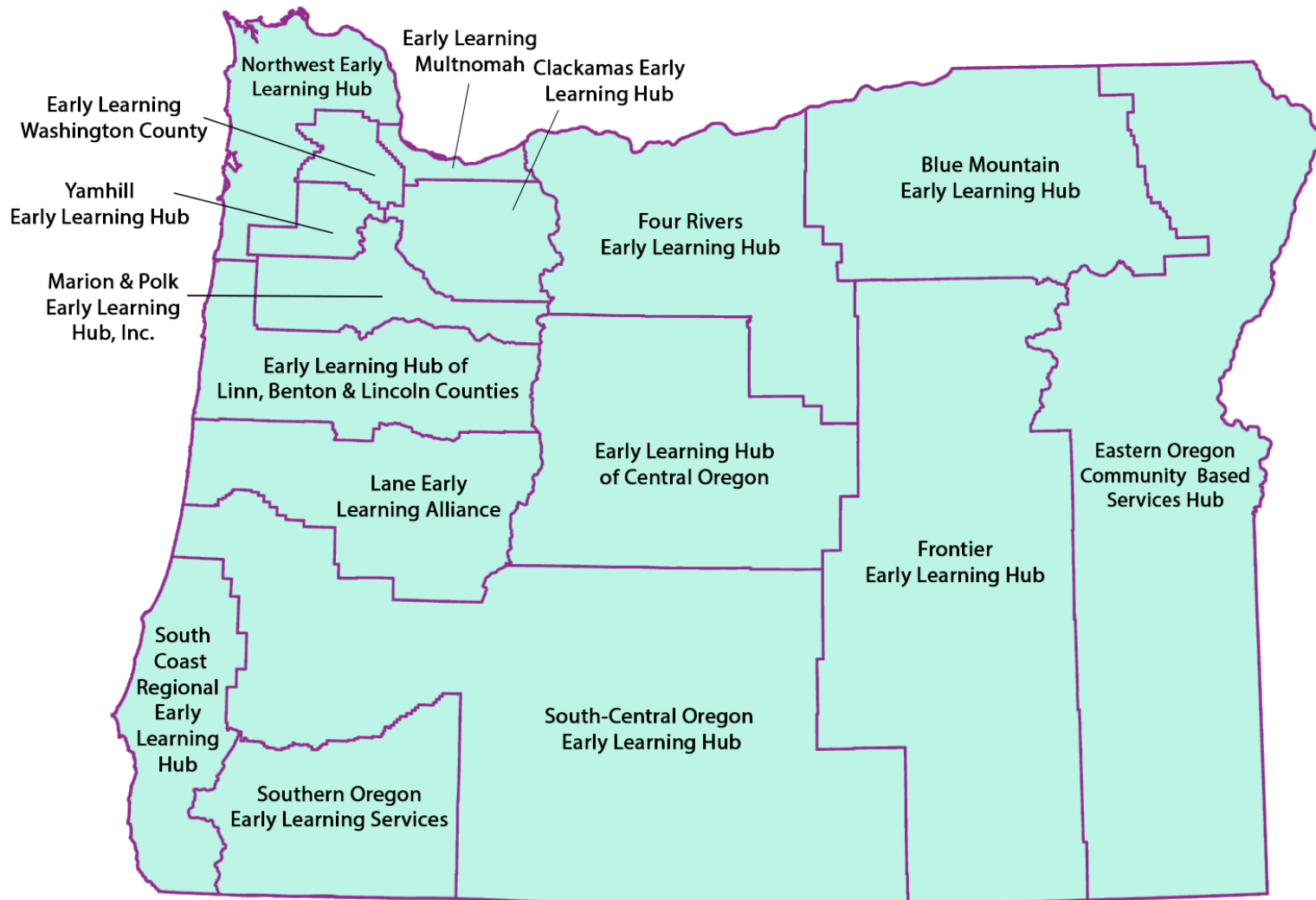


# Working across sectors



# Hubs by Location

26



# Early Learning Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation Program

- Strengthens local connections between Pre-K and kindergarten.
- Expands or pilots innovative models for early learning/K-3 integration that have the potential to be scaled and replicated.
- Engages families as key partners in children's learning and development.



# Spark/Quality Rating Improvement System

29

**Spark is a statewide resource from Oregon's Early Learning Division that is helping your constituents access quality early care and education. Spark is improving the quality of child care in Oregon in two ways:**

- By connecting families to quality early learning and care programs that prepare children for kindergarten and lifelong learning. Many kinds of early and education professionals participate, from large centers to in-home care, working with children from birth through school age. They represent many backgrounds and languages—just like Oregon's diverse families.
- By offering ongoing coaching, professional development, and resources to help early care and education professionals continue improving the quality of the care they provide.



# PRESCHOOL P R O M I S E

# Preschool Promise

31

- Preschool Promise leverages high-quality, local and culturally-relevant early child care and education programs
- Serves children up to 200% of the poverty level
- 1,300 children across 9 hubs are now participating in Preschool Promise in 93 sites



# Questions?

