

# Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, December 12, 2019

1:30 am – 4:00 pm

*The public may attend the meeting in any of the locations specified below:*

**Meeting Chair will preside at the CEED Center, KCAA location.**

**Advisory Board Members in Attendance:** Dana Balansag (for Dir. Bhanot), Kaina Bonacorsi, Justina Acevedo-Cross, Kerrie Urosevich, Matt Shim (for Dir. Anderson), Cherilyn Shiinoki, Wai’ale’ale Sarsona (for Jack Wong), Camille Masutomi (for Superintendent Kishimoto), Melodie Vega, Edeluisa Baguio-Larena, Bob Peters, Namaka Rawlins, Mari Uehara

**Absent:** Ben Naki, Leilani Au, Stephen Schatz (for President Lassner)

**Executive Office on Early Learning staff in attendance:** Lauren Moriguchi, Wimmie Wong Lui, Keopu Reelitz, Alohi Maiava, Ashley Miura, Chris Jackson

**Public in Attendance:** Danny Cup Choy, Hide Wu, Charis Sole, Robyn Chun, Aldric Ulep, Deborah Zysman, Anne Horiuchi, Christina Cox, Sam Dorios

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
<b>MINUTES:</b>		
<b>Welcome/Introductions—</b> Bob Peters	Bob welcomed the group at 1:30 p.m. and asked Kaina to read the mission statement.	
<b>Review and Approve 11/14/19 minutes—</b> Bob Peters	Meeting minutes were approved as distributed.	
<b>Public Comment—</b> Bob Peters	None were offered.	
<b>Review/Endorsement: Strategic Implementation</b>	Lily Bloom-Domingo, a facilitator contracted with PDG B-5 funds, presented a review of the PDG B-5 strategic implementation plans and	

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<p><b>Plans (Statewide Plan) ---</b> Lily Bloom-Domingo</p>	<p>their relationship to Hawaii’s Early Childhood State Plan. She reminded the Early Learning Board that the Early Childhood State Plan is a cross-agency, cross-sector, and community-informed framework that identified priorities for collective action. She mentioned that the PDG B-5 planning grant enabled Hawaii to conduct a strategic planning process, and noted that the PDG B-5 plan priorities align with the state plan, but do not address all of the priorities of the State Plan, Lily also mentioned that while a comprehensive data base and system had been mentioned by several of the work groups during the strategic planning process, this did not get included into any of the plans, and is something that the ELB and EOEL will want to address in the future. Lily reviewed the role of the “Champions” for the strategic plans and indicated that they will be convened in early 2020, most likely after January 15<sup>th</sup> (when the legislative session begins).</p> <p>A Q&amp;A session followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can you share a little more about the rationale behind not having outcomes listed? (Response: The state plan has “vital signs” identified, that articulate more closely the “outcomes,” of the recommended actions, and we did not want to replace or duplicate that. These are 2-3 year implementation plans, so they’re not going to achieve all desired outcomes, but they are going to contribute to them. Outcomes will likely be seen once some of the actions are completed, as much of the strategic planning work is infra-structure building.)</li> <li>• How did the PDG B-5 work group “Availability of More Seats” decide to focus on infant and toddler when the metaphorical “finish line” for four-year-old preschoolers has not been crossed yet? (Response: There is already a lot of momentum and attention on four-year-olds, so the conversations that happened in that group were about the younger age groups that are not getting enough attention and support. Prioritizing specific</li> </ul>	
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	<p>actions does not preclude doing other things, as well, and since expanding the 4-year-old program is in the Early Childhood State Plan, ELB and EOEL will need to continue to address this.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It's hard to see movement when what we're measuring to show progress is vague, particularly for a 2-3 year plan. (Response: Because planning for systemic change can be abstract in terms of how to accomplish goals, the state plan is very broad. On the other hand, the work group plans, while not comprised of everything that could possibly be done, is much more concrete and do-able.)</li> </ul> <p>Lily continued her presentation by reporting that on December 10, 2019, the SAC (state advisory council) endorsed the 6 strategic implementation plans and referred them to the Early Learning Board for endorsement, as well. Bob sought a recommendation from the ELB to endorse the Strategic Plans as presented. It was moved and seconded to do so. The floor was opened for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Child Care Business Coalition (CBC) does not seem to be in any of these work groups. Were they not a part of this? They are close with private providers and have an important role in the early learning field. (Response: A CBC representative was invited to participate in a work group, but was unable to attend a number of meetings. Regardless of actual physical participation, organizations were sent repeated invitations and were given the work group materials to review and provide feedback on, so they always had the opportunity to participate even without attending meetings.)</li> <li>• Bob acknowledged that there may still be some sensitivity within the private sector surrounding the emergence and growth of public pre-k, and stated that it is the job of ELB to make sure that the private sector understands that ELB wants them to</li> </ul>	
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	<p>continue their important work. EOEL is committed to making sure that everyone understands that the early childhood system needs both the public and private sectors and that EOEL is trying to develop strategies to support both.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the comprehensive database goal going to be included in any of the strategic implementation plans? (Response: The first step in that process is finding a host entity willing to be a home in order to move this goal forward. The mechanism for that has yet to be determined, so EOEL and the ELB will need to take responsibility for now)</li> </ul> <p>Lily thanked all who were involved in the strategic planning work and acknowledged that in a short amount of time, a nuanced plan that covers a lot was developed.</p> <p>Action: Unanimous approval of the PDG strategic plans.</p>	
<p><b>Director Report</b>—Lauren Moriguchi</p>	<p>Alohi Maiava, as requested by Lauren, provided Preschool Development Grant (PDG) B-5 updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facility Study Needs Assessment: MGT Consulting, the vendor contracted to analyze facilities and costs of learning environments in Hawaii, has completed its site visits and has begun drafting its final report. They are looking at a timeline of the end of February for the completion of their report.</li> <li>• Comprehensive Needs Assessment: ICF Incorporated is currently in the islands conducting focus groups and key informant interviews for a system assessment and mapping of financial resources for early childhood care and education programs. ELB members and designees were thanked for their support.</li> <li>• Strategic Planning: Strategic implementation plans were endorsed by the State Advisory Council, and now, by the ELB.</li> </ul>	

	<p>Preliminary conversations to outline the structures and processes needed to support implementation of the plans over the next two to three years have begun.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximizing Family Knowledge: Work has begun to update a transition toolkit for providers, and to review the “Embracing Your Journey” Family Guide document, with the support of a contracted casual hire. Family Hui has been contracted to implement a series of four parent workshops that build on the Family Guide document, with the intent to increase understanding of parents’ roles as their child’s first teachers and how to navigate that role.</li> <li>• Sharing Best Practices: In collaboration with Department of Health (DOH) and Hawaii P-20, technical assistance for a cohort of trauma-informed care trainers continues with Dr. Sara Watamura. The cohort will be meeting together on 12/13/2019 to share lessons they’ve learned from the field since participating in the August 2019 training. Work with a vendor to develop a framework for Communities of Practice will begin next month, the contract with the vendor still needs to be executed.</li> <li>• EOEL will be requesting a no-cost extension from the Administration on Children and Families for current activities.</li> </ul> <p>EOEL Pre-K:</p> <p>Work around the public pre-k program continues to move forward, and the EOEL office is working with HODOE- to secure signed MOA addendum in order to transfer funds to the schools. There has been a hold-up with respect to Governor’s release of CIP funds for the purpose of renovating and improving the 10 new classrooms scheduled to open in the 2020-2021 school year. EOEL has been in ongoing</p>	
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	<p>communication with the Governor’s Office and HIDOE.</p> <p>A question was raised regarding the reason why the funds have not been released. The issue is with the ability to use bonds for certain types of projects.</p> <p>Another question was raised following this regarding where the children and staff in the classrooms right now would go during renovations. Lauren explained that construction usually happens during breaks when the children are not in school.</p> <p>2020 Legislative Session: The Governor’s Office will be including only the following items of the ELB-approved budget request for EOEL: 1 FTE Contracts Specialist position, and \$300,000 to sustain contracts for family-child interaction learning programs at Kalihi Uka and Keolu elementary schools. As EOEL meets with legislators in the coming weeks, it will also inform them of the budget that had been approved by ELB.</p> <p>Lauren asked Wimmie Wong Lui to share updates about the stipend bill: A draft of the bill was sent to ELB members in advance of the meeting for review. EOEL is requesting \$600K in stipends and supports (e.g., recruitment, counseling for students, etc.) This bill builds upon HIDOE’s “Grow Our Own” program and the previous PDG stipend program. EOEL has spoken to various lawmakers regarding the stipend bill, keeping in mind the advice and input from ELB. The stipend program would cover those working in both public and private sectors. EOEL will continue to work with lawmakers so that they will understand the need to invest in workforce development. We have not yet been informed whether the Governor will include the bill proposal in his bill package.</p> <p>Action: A motion was made to support the bill, and it was approved</p>	
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	<p>unanimously.</p> <p>Updates on Recruitment for EOEL Positions: Coleen Momohara has been hired into the Educational Specialist III position, and Tania Torres-Delgado has been hired into the Secretary II position. An offer has been made for the Institutional Analyst position. Office Assistant IV and Educational Specialist II interviews will be conducted in December, while the Program Specialist V - Workforce Development Specialist position is in the middle of ongoing recruitment. The Program Specialist V – Project Management position has been posted and is currently waiting on external recruitment.</p> <p>At this time, attention was brought to the Waterford Upstart Program, which was introduced at the last ELB meeting. Lauren reminded everyone that Waterford has approached EOEL to help recruit 200+ families for a program they plan to launch in fall 2020. Waterford’s goal is to support children who are unable to attend center-based programs. Through the use of computers, and with the commitment of parents, children would be given a laptop, internet, and access to the Upstart Program. The Upstart Program is primarily a literacy program, although it is being marketed as a “kindergarten-readiness” program. A few Board members raised concerns over the Upstart Program being based solely on the use of technology, with less emphasis on social interaction and social-emotional learning, both of which are major components of early childhood education. It was reported that other entities in the State are being approached to partner with Waterford. Action: A motion was made to not have EOEL participate in support of the Upstart Program. The motion was passed unanimously.</p>	<p><b>Lauren to inform Waterford of decision.</b></p>
<p><b>Mapping Sub-Committee/Work Group Updates—Bob Peters</b></p>	<p>Kerrie introduced Sam Dorios, a systems mapping expert who is part of the Hawaii Leadership Forum. Sam has access to a computer program that can allow systems to literally be mapped out in a visual format, which gives a holistic snapshot of a particular network’s current</p>	<p><b>Kerrie to send survey out to Bob to send to ELB members to review and provide feedback.</b></p>

	<p>makeup and “brings data to life.” Programs would need to complete an online survey to help populate the map. The map would show how programs are connected to one another, show where children are, and provide a snapshot of the early childhood network’s current makeup. It was recommended that the survey be sent out so ELB can vet it and make suggestions for additional data/questions to be included. A cautionary note was made that the survey not be viewed for personal program needs/interests, but one that will serve the larger early childhood system.</p>	
<p><b>Member Updates – Bob Peters</b></p>	<p><i>Kerrie</i> reported that Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council (HEICC) is set to introduce new goals that will combine and align the plans of HEICC and Early Intervention Services Section, as well as the requirements from the federal government. Kerrie hopes to share the new goals and plans in January or February with the ELB, when they are established. She also gave a report for Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS). ECAS works closely with Early Childhood Promising Venture Studios, which puts out opportunities for early childhood providers to participate in innovation labs. Krista Olsen from Kona was selected, and will be presenting in a webinar on January 15, 2020. Kerrie invited Board members and those present to participate.</p> <p><i>Kaina</i> reported that Maui County’s Early Childhood Network Day will be held on December 16, 2019. There are over 50 brief presentations scheduled, covering different services and topics related to the early childhood field. It will be very data-informed, and over 150 people have registered. This is the first time Maui County is doing this.</p> <p><i>Cherilyn</i> reported that parent orientation for LENA (Language Environment Analysis) Words Matter will be starting in January. (This program was piloted with a substance abuse program, and while there was a steep learning curve, families were very engaged and got very excited about the feedback LENA provides.) Next Tuesday, there will be a parent orientation for families participating in the family-child</p>	<p><b>Kerrie to send out information about the January 15<sup>th</sup> webinar.</b></p>



	<p>interaction learning program at Kalihi Uka and Keolu Elementary Schools.</p> <p><i>Namaka</i> reported that Lauren Moriguchi and Deanne Goya visited Aha Punana Leo to see their K-12 program, and met with the Hawaiian Language College staff in November, and thanked them for the visit. Lauren, in turn, thanked Namaka for inviting them and said that it was a very informative visit which has opened the door to new partnerships.</p> <p><i>Justina</i> gave an update on the Promising Minds initiative at Hawaii Community Foundation. They will be starting their fourth community of practice in January, with fifteen early childhood professionals coming together to talk about trauma-informed approaches. This cohort will include the first DOE special education pre-k representative.</p> <p><i>Wai'ale'ale</i> reported that Kamehameha Schools is trying something new with EOEL, DOE, and PACT in approaching affordable housing developers to support early learning by building early learning classrooms in Kapolei. This is seen as a long-term project.</p> <p><i>Camille</i> updated ELB on behalf of DOE and Hawaii P-20 regarding the comprehensive literacy state development grant that was recently awarded to Hawaii. DOE will roll out the K-12 grants, while Steven Schatz of P-20 (not present today) will be running the birth through 5 grants. Camille asked to keep an eye out for these in the future. Hopefully, there will be many more ideas on how to promote literacy that will feed into Hawaii's schools.</p>	
<p><b>Review Agenda Outcomes</b>—Bob Peters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELB endorsed the strategic implementation plans for the PDG B-5 grant.</li> <li>• ELB is charged with looking into finding a “home” for an early childhood comprehensive database.</li> <li>• The PDG B-5 Needs Assessment has been completed and will be shared at a future ELB meeting.</li> <li>• Support for the stipend bill was approved.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELB decided to decline working with or endorsing the Waterford Upstart Program.</li> <li>• ELB will be receiving the survey from the mapping sub-committee.</li> </ul>	
<b>Announcements</b>	Bob wished everyone a happy holiday season, and Lauren thanked the board for all of their hard work. She acknowledged that when she first stepped into the role of Director several years ago, she could not imagine that progress would get as far as it has. She then gifted Hilary Rodham Clinton’s “It Takes A Village” picture book to the ELB members.	
<b>Executive Session</b>	No items from the AG.	
<b>Closing</b> —Kerrie Urosevich	“Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races, one after the other.” –Walter Elliot.	

Submitted by Ashley Miura/Chris Jackson