

Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, January 10, 2019

1:30 am – 4:00 pm

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

Main Site: CEED Center, KCAA

2707 South King Street, Honolulu, HI 96826

Advisory Board Members in Attendance: Barry Kwock (for Director Bhanot), Kaina Bonacorsi, Mike Fahey, Keiko Nitta (for Director Anderson), Cherilyn Shiinoki, Stephen Schatz (for President Lassner), Waialeale Sarsona, Bob Davis (for Superintendent Kishimoto), Camille Masutomi, Jin Chang, Edel Baguio-Larena, Bob Peters, Namaka Rawlins, Mari Uehara

Absent: Ben Naki, Ann Tom

Executive Office on Early Learning staff in attendance: Lauren Moriguchi, Jeffrey Larson, Wimmie Wong Lui

Public in Attendance: Bob Davis, Riley Fujisaki, Stephen Teves, Jordana Ferreira, Mary Ann Nemoto, Laura Nevitt, Christina Cox, Cindy Ballard, Kerrie Urosevich, Caroline Soga

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
MINUTES:		
Welcome/Mission (Bob Peters)	The meeting was convened at 1:35 p.m.	
Review and Approve 12/13/18 minutes (Bob Peters)	The minutes were approved with the following correction: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Page 16: correct typographic error in the spelling of Namaka's name.	
Public Comment (Bob Peters)	Mike Fahey introduced the new policy director for Hawaii Children's Action Network, Laura Nevitt.	
Director Report/Questions (Lauren Moriguchi)	Lauren invited ELB members to attend the upcoming legislative budget briefings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senate Ways and Means, and Education committees: 1/14 1:30pm• House Finance Committee: 1/15 9am	

Early Learning Board

<http://earlylearning.hawaii.gov/early-learning-board/>

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	<p>Vacancies in EOEL Public Pre-K Program classrooms (Jeff Larson):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received 606 applications for 500 seats across state. Average ~24/classroom. • 7 classrooms received fewer applications than seats – looking at those. Ranged from 1-9 applications short. • Half of classrooms are in remote areas and very small schools (<150 students in entire school). • Do not see any trends at the moment. • Transportation is an issue at some schools. • Reaching out to principals for more information; waiting to hear back. • Two of seven classrooms with vacant seats are on Oahu. <p>Feedback was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the availability of other options in the area (e.g., a Head Start program on campus) as a possible reason for vacancies. • Would it be appropriate to expand to 3-year-olds in certain communities (requesting consideration vs. making a suggestion)? Note this would require a statutory change. • Kindergarten enrollment may be an indication of why pre-K enrollment is low. • Adjust capacity of a classroom in certain areas? <p>Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant is for systems-building, not for classrooms. • Hawaii was 1 of 6 states that received the full amount requested. • A needs assessment and strategic plan must be completed by end of 2019. • Will use RCUH for contracting processes. • Former EC State Plan steering committee will become State Advisory Council for purposes of grant, but on a broader scale. 	
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	<p>The State Advisory Council will be a committee of ELB.</p> <p>Positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program specialist position posted Jan. 1. Would like to hire by mid- to late-February, but depends on the DOE HR process. <p>Office move: EOEL has moved to a new office at Kuhio Elementary (2759 South King Street, Rooms C-7 and C-8, Honolulu HI 96826), with new numbers: tel 784-5350, fax 973-9770.</p> <p>Early Childhood State Plan: Please take the time to review the talking points that have been drafted for members' use.</p>	
<p>Leadership Update (Bob Peters)</p>	<p>Bob and Lauren have been meeting with Superintendent Kishimoto and BOE Chair Payne. The focus of efforts: looking at statute that states EOEL may form partnerships with DOE and what partnerships may look like; looking at possible revisions in MOA, and lending clarity to how a collaborative effort will work and where responsibilities will be (e.g., professional development, additional funding needed, other issues around the EOEL-DOE relationship). Conversations – which was one of the items in the ELB action plan – are productive.</p> <p><u>Prekindergarten</u></p> <p>Lauren shared that EOEL views the success of the EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program as the result of a partnership between EOEL and DOE, and thus a shared success.</p> <p>Camille distributed the memo she sent to Bob and Lauren today:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes the legislative districts associated with the schools that have applied to participate in the EOEL Public Pre-K Program. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She deferred to the Department of Budget & Finance regarding general obligation bonds. • She provided a breakdown of the \$650,000/classroom capital improvement project cost that is included in EOEL’s budget request. DOE has already surveyed the sites of more than 20 of the school applicants, will review the results, and share. Will work with EOEL to review applications. <p>Camille said more schools are expressing interest in the Program. She hopes to have more information by the next ELB meeting regarding the flow of funding; if funding is received, hopefully EOEL will not have to execute contracts and DOE CIP staff will handle.</p> <p><u>Early Learning Board Organization</u></p> <p>Early Childhood State Plan: ELB’s role will not be authoritative but to convene and monitor progress.</p> <p>ELB organization as a governing body: Bob asked whether ELB should move forward with the three committee suggested previously – system mapping and relationship building, expanding beyond public pre-K, and policies and processes – or adjust based on the Early Childhood State Plan.</p> <p>Questions were asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is ELB’s role in interfacing with the strategic plans of the State departments? • What is the Sunshine Law requirement for committees? Bob noted that no more than half of the ELB members serving (i.e., quorum), or 7 members, should sit on a committee. He also noted that ELB would like to have expertise beyond that of ELB members on these committees. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question was asked whether members could self-nominate to participate on the committees. <p>It was suggested that ELB may need more conversations with State departments to better understand their early childhood initiatives. This would help ELB to make recommendations to EOEL about what EOEL's role could be. Lauren mentioned it should be determined how and to whom EOEL should refer individuals interested in becoming involved in Early Childhood State Plan work.</p> <p>Bob saw that the three immediate tasks before ELB as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine role in relation to Early Childhood State Plan. • Response to legislative actions. • Identify members to fill vacancies. <p>He proposed that the three aforementioned ad-hoc committees be convened for the time being until July, and look at the organizational structure needed going forward based on the Early Childhood State Plan and the results of the legislative session.</p> <p>Kaina suggested connecting the bullets to the three proposed committees so they are not forgotten:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Plan – part of relationship building committee. • Expanding beyond public pre-K - part of legislative committee, or SAC. • Policies and processes - in nomination committee. <p>Keiko proposed that the governance committee be a fourth, standing committee.</p>	
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	<p>A motion was made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue governance committee as a standing committee. • Adopt 3 committees (bullets on draft). Within those, most urgent business tackled by committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mapping & Relationship Building: State Plan. How we work and intersections of action plans. ○ Expand beyond Public Pre-K: look at advocacy and testimony that applies across the system. ○ Policies and Processes: nominating. <p>Vote: 7 ayes, 2 nos, 0 abstentions.</p> <p>Bob noted that the governance committee normally does the nominating. The responsibilities of the governance committee may be shifted, or expanded to align with State Plan.</p> <p>Bob also noted that the State Advisory Council could be a subcommittee of the mapping subcommittee. Kaina pointed out that the State Advisory Council is specific to the grant.</p> <p>A motion was made: Move nominating responsibilities under the governance committee. Vote: all ayes, 0 nos, 0 absentions.</p> <p>Bob reminded members that all are responsible for reading job descriptions associated with the committees.</p> <p>A question was asked about how membership will be identified. Bob noted that even non-voting members can participate.</p> <p>It was noted that the State Advisory Council will be drawn out of the membership of committees.</p> <p>A motion was made:</p>	
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	<p>Form a subcommittee to support the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five. Vote: all ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.</p> <p><u>Rep. Woodson’s Legislative Priorities</u></p> <p>The bill draft has not yet been completed. Rep. Woodson had welcomed input.</p> <p>Lauren clarified on Rep. Woodson’s behalf that the National Institute for Early Education Research had not ranked the EOEL Public Pre-K Program before it started in 2014. He apologized for mis-speaking. Jeff added that NIEER may have rated Hawaii previously, based on the Preschool Open Doors program, but stopped since it was not an apples-to-apples comparison.</p> <p>Namaka asked whether including three-year-olds was part of the conversation, and Bob clarified he did not understand this to be Rep. Woodson’s intent.</p> <p>Bob understood Rep. Woodson’s intent was to clarify statute.</p> <p>Lauren noted she understood his intent was not to take money from DOE, but provide a new funding allocation to EOEL.</p> <p>Namaka expressed that she thought Rep. Woodson emphasized that EOEL has jurisdiction over pre-K.</p> <p>Bob said he understood Rep. Woodson wished to see all programs part of EOEL and meeting EOEL standards, which is how Weighted Student Formula-funded pre-K classrooms entered the conversation.</p>	
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	<p>Camille stated there are no Weighted Student Formula-funded pre-K classrooms. In the past, DOE has used Title I funds. DOE’s biggest donor is Kamehameha Schools. DOE had some KALO-funded preschools. DOE would have issues about another entity telling the Department how to spend Weighted Student Formula funds. All school financial plans are approved by the Complex Area Superintendents. There are different vehicles for DOE to implement pre-K: special education, Title I, and other ways.</p> <p>Camille noted it would be hard for DOE to support such legislation. The school and community (e.g., through the School Community Council) should determine how funds are spent.</p> <p>Bob invited members to bring any input for Rep. Woodson to him.</p>	
<p>DHS Child Care and Referral Service (RFI) (Mike Fahey)</p>	<p>Barry Kwock from DHS explained that though the contract for the Child Care and Referral Service was under a contract, DHS will be issuing a new RFI/RFP for the work, with the website projected to be up toward latter 2019. Changes are guided by CCDBG. Website will include inspection reports, but Barry was unclear specifically what other kind of information would be shared.</p> <p>Feedback was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hope information will be updated regarding whether licensing certifications have been met. • Hope information will provide guidance to families about what options would work best for them and serve as a tool for parents to make better choices. • Pediatricians are concerned that providers who are trying (to meet standards) might be penalized. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The disabilities community would be more comfortable with “including referrals for children with special needs.” <p>Barry invited other feedback before 4:30pm tomorrow (which should be submitted as an individual rather than as an ELB member).</p> <p>Mike also requested that DHS inform ELB with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report on plans for Hawaii’s additional CCDBG monies (e.g., rate changes for providers, eligibility change for families, family co-pay changes). • A report on projected annual expenditures and a timeframe for changes. 	
<p>Member Updates (Bob Peters)</p>	<p>Maui Family Support Services (Edel):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MFSS applied for the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grant to expand Early Head Start on Maui County. They will be partnering with Kilohana Elementary if they are awarded the grant. • In partnership with Kamehameha Schools, MFSS will be putting on an Early Childhood Fair to provide information about early learning options for families and the associated deadlines. <p>Head Start (Ben):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hilo Child Development Center, one of the two centers impacted by Hurricane Lane, re-opened on Monday (80 slots). Hoping the second center will re-open in February. • Impacts of federal government shutdown: should have no impact on Head Start since funding has already been received; could impact those that receive Child and Adult Care Food Program 	

	<p>money as funding is only available through March</p> <p>Family Hui (Cherilyn):</p> <p>Focus groups will be held on Kauai (1/28) and Hawaii Island (Kona 1/31, Hilo tbd) to inform the development of the resource guide for families on family engagement with their providers.</p>	
Executive Session	No items from the AG.	
Review Agenda Outcomes/Announcements (Bob Peters)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new ELB committee structure was created. Bob will contact all members individually to participate on the committees. • A State Advisory Council was created as a sub-committee of the ELB to support the federal Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five. Composition or tasks have not yet been discussed, but will be in the future. • A request will be made to DHS to provide more information regarding the Child Care and Development Block Grant. • Members are invited to send feedback to DHS regarding its request for information for its proposed Child Care and Referral Service. • ELB will proceed with drafting testimony for legislative measures it has taken a position on, when needed. • ELB awaits a bill draft from Rep. Woodson; draft will be sent to members for review when received. 	
Announcements	Next meeting will be on February 14, 2019, from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.	
Closing (Mike Fahey)	<p>“Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change.” –Stephen Hawking</p> <p>“Be faithful in small things because it is in them your strength lies.” – Mother Teresa</p>	