

Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, March 12, 2020

1:30 pm – 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.

Board Members in Attendance: Dana Balansag (for Dir. Bhanot), Kaina Bonacorsi, Justina Acevedo-Cross, Kerrie Urosevich, Matt Shim (for Dir. Anderson), Stephen Schatz (for President Lassner), Bob Davis (for Superintendent Kishimoto), Edeluisa Baguio-Larena, Bob Peters, Namaka Rawlins, Mari Uehara

Absent: Ben Naki, Leilani Au, Cherilyn Shiinoki, Wai’ale’ale Sarsona, Melodie Vega

Executive Office on Early Learning staff in attendance: Coleen Momohara, Wimmie Wong Lui, Alohilani Maiava, Chris Jackson, Keli Houston, Ashley Miura

Public in Attendance: Hide Wu, Carol Wear, Nicole Higa, Katie Matsushima, Elizabeth Brey, Mary Ann Nemoto, Christina Cox, Danny Cup Choy, Deanne Goya, Deborah Zysman, Summer Helms, Gwen Dufault, Ka’ano’i Walk

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
MINUTES:		
Welcome/Introductions— Bob Peters	Bob welcomed the group at 1:30 p.m. and asked Bob Davis to read the ELB mission statement. He thanked everyone for making the effort to meet as a group even in these uncertain times, and apologized for the inability to allow people to call in for today’s meeting as it had not been included earlier on the agenda that had been posted, a requirement of the Sunshine Law to ensure that the public has access to meetings. However, moving forward, this might be something to look into as it becomes riskier to meet in large groups, and in fact, meeting virtually might be the only way to meet in the near future.	
Review and Approve 1/31/20 Special Meeting Minutes and 2/13/20 Minutes— Bob Peters	The 1/31/20 minutes were approved with a correction made to one of the attachments, the “Group Thoughts” document, which was a compilation of ideas charted at the special meeting. The recommendation was to change the wording from “preschool education” to “education” in reference to DHS’ authority. The 2/13/20 minutes were approved as distributed.	

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

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<p>Public Comment— Bob Peters</p>	<p>Bob reminded everyone that public comments must relate to the items on the agenda, and that announcements do not fit into this category. Announcements from board members can be a part of Member Updates. No public comments were offered at this time.</p>	
<p>PDG B-5 Needs Assessment Results Presentation --- Caitlin McLaughlin</p>	<p>Caitlin McLaughlin, Project Director from ICF, the vendor contracted to conduct a “risk and reach” needs assessment for Hawaii’s PDG B-5 grant, presented their final research findings via video conferencing, along with Kensley Branscome, Technical Advisor. Summer Helms and Elizabeth Brey (Hawaii-based consultants) were also present in-person to help answer questions from ELB. Alohilani Maiava from EOEL provided support with technical issues and answers to questions regarding EOEL’s role in the needs assessment. The ICF presentation covered the purpose, approach, limitations, and key findings of their research, as well as recommendations for the future. (Please see attached PowerPoint slides.)</p> <p>A Q&A session followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When were focus groups conducted? (Response: Focus groups were all conducted between early November and mid-December.) • Can you describe in further detail the “reach” map? (Response: The main report breaks “reach” down into different categories, so this particular map is showing income-assistance reach, not overall reach.) • How was risk calculated? (Response: The risk presented is overall risk across all of the domains. We had nine indicators within the domains: school readiness, health and well-being, and family and economic stability. For each complex, we looked at the risk indicator. Within the domain, we averaged the rate of risk, then divided the averages for each domain into four categories: high, medium high, medium low, low. Now that there’s an average for each domain, we averaged those further to establish across all of the domains, and we were able to find the average level of risk overall, across all indicators. If you look in the report, we have a much more detailed explanation of the methodology and what went into it.) • I think a lot of us have experienced what this data is telling us. One thing that is missing that we would like to know is what the needs are 	

	<p>for families in child care programs, depending on the child’s age. I’m asking about the breakdown by age in the complex. (Response: This is one of the limitations listed in the report. We were not able to break down results by the different age groups—infant, toddler, etc. It would be very difficult to do so.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are families needing, and what do they want? For instance, they might prefer home-based care or family-child interaction over center-based. (Response: The focus groups did not go into that. Although we felt like we had a diverse group of people, it was still difficult to gather what specifically families wanted, especially if they did not have access to any child care services in their area. For instance, talking to families from Ka’u (established from a prior assessment report as one of the places with the lowest reach but the greatest risk), they pretty much said that there’s nothing here and they just want everything and anything.) • What are some strengths in the current system that were discovered in this assessment that we can build on? (Response: The most vulnerable populations, such as families that were houseless or in transitional housing or housing complexes, were the ones that were receiving the most comprehensive services. They didn’t feel like they needed anything and were “one hundred percent” satisfied, so it seems that one of the strengths of Hawaii’s current early education system is that it is doing a good job reaching the most vulnerable populations. People also seemed happy with the quality of the care they were receiving. In the provider focus groups, the people there were very passionate and loved working with children and vulnerable families. So, the people in this business are doing a good job and families can see that. There seemed to be consensus on some of the core things that could be worked on, so it is easy to create an agenda of potential strategies. There was also consensus on the need for more data at the kindergarten-entry level, not only for individual child assessments, but also for greater tracking of child outcomes. There was also consensus on the value of an early childhood integrated system, such as the one that exists in Hana, Maui, where a community hub addresses a continuum of services for infants, 	
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	<p>toddlers and preschoolers in that small community.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When will board members get the full report? This presentation was a little difficult to follow, along with references to a report that we can't see. Is there a reason we can't see it right now? (Response: Members will receive the full report after ACF has accepted it. We aren't able to share the full report just yet because we need confirmation that we have met all of the federal guidelines.) <p>Bob reassured board members that there will be an opportunity to have more discussion once they have received the full report, and that another session will be scheduled in which they can ask additional questions. There seemed to be a general consensus that a lot of data was collected, and that the challenge is how to link the data so we can see a holistic view of what children and families need and how to track progress and outcomes.</p> <p>Bob then thanked Caitlin, Ken, Summer and Libby for their presentation, and for all of the information they collected. Caitlyn suggested that the ELB use the "Risk and Reach" analysis to expand needed services and craft solutions to meet the needs of high-risk communities. Ken suggested that ELB could identify other indicators that ICF was not able to address or get data on and work as a group to continue to gather more information that will help with planning efforts.</p>	<p>Full, detailed report will be sent out to board members as soon as possible, and Bob will make a time slot for discussion on the report for a future meeting.</p>
<p>Director Report---Wimmie Wong Lui for Lauren Moriguchi (absent)</p>	<p>Wimmie Wong Lui provided the Director's Report on behalf of Lauren who was not feeling well. She first asked Alohi to share the PDG B-5 grant updates. Alohi thanked everyone for listening intently to the ICF presentation and for asking important questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs Assessment (Activity 1): The needs assessment report was submitted on March 3 for review by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/ Administration for Children and Families (ACF). The review should take about 2 weeks. EOEL will work with contractors to address any issues if resubmission is required for acceptance. • Strategic Planning (Activity 2): If the Activity 1 Needs Assessment report is accepted by ACF, EOEL will move ahead with the submission of the Strategic Planning Report for review and 	

	<p>acceptance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing Best Practices among Early Care and Education Providers (Activity 4): EOEL has started work with vendor WestEd to better understand models for communities of practice being implemented in Hawaii, and to determine what type of model would be most suitable for Hawaii’s early childhood workforce. WestEd conducted focus groups on Oahu and Maui during the week of March 3. Alohi thanked those in the room who supported or participated in these focus groups. EOEL and WestEd will continue with online surveys and phone calls to further capture stakeholders’ voices that were not involved in the focus groups. <p>EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program: EOEL is in the process of reviewing applications submitted by schools to participate in the program in SY 2022-2023. Staff will also be visiting the schools to talk with each principal about expectations and commitment. Schools that are set to open EOEL Public Pre-K Program classrooms for the 2020-2021 school year have started to accept applications from families as of this week.</p> <p>Privately-Funded Pre-K on HIDOE campuses: EOEL is working with Kamehameha Schools and DOE to develop an MOA for school year 2020-2021.</p> <p>Charter Schools—programs for 3-year-olds: EOEL is working to develop an MOA between Ka ‘Umeke Ka’eo Kai Kohola Preschool, Kamehameha Schools, and EOEL.</p> <p>Wimmie then asked Keli Houston, EOEL Institutional Analyst, to share some information about EOEL’s 10-year “Roadmap for Expansion,” as neither Jeff Larson nor Lauren were present to do so. As a follow-up to Lauren’s presentation at the February ELB meeting, Keli explained that EOEL has been working closely with UH Manoa College of Education to recruit and retain qualified early childhood educators. EOEL supports efforts to create more early childhood licensure programs. Because a comprehensive study on the early childhood workforce has not been done in recent years, such a study would be very useful to understand who our educators are, what motivates them, what’s keeping them in the field, why they are leaving if they are</p>	
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	<p>leaving, and what might attract and retain more educators. Clarification was requested regarding which level or which scope of the workforce this is referencing, and Keli explained that ideally this would be comprehensive, so including as much of the workforce across all levels as possible, and the feasibility of this would be discussed at a later date.</p> <p>2020 Legislative Session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early learning initiative of joint legislative package, HB2543, passed out of the House with amendments, and was heard by the Senate Education Committee on 3/11 at 2:45 PM, and after that, the Senate Ways and Means Committee (WAM). The decision-making HAS BEEN deferred to next week Wednesday at 2:45 PM in the same room. • Early childhood educator stipends, HB2094, passed out of the House and was scheduled for hearing by the Senate Education Committee on 3/9 at 2:45 PM. It was passed with an amendment to the effective date, and is now awaiting a hearing by WAM. • Suspension and expulsion bills: HB2258 did not receive a hearing from the House Finance Committee, and vehicle seems to be dead; however, HB1346, still alive from the 2019 session, was awaiting hearing by WAM in 2019 and requests can be made that the bill be scheduled for hearing. • Budget bills: HB2200, the Governor’s supplemental budget requests that included funding to sustain 2 publicly funded FCIL sites and 1 EOEL position, passed out of the House, and is waiting hearing by WAM. However, the House did not fund these items, and statements have been submitted to explain the negative impact. The House also cut 1 resource teacher position as part of a broader policy to cut all positions vacant from 1/1/19. However, this position has already been filled, so a request has been made to keep the position. • HB2500 passed out of the house and is waiting hearing by WAM. This bill is currently a shell, so it is unknown what will be included in it. 	<p>EOEL will pursue funding for a more comprehensive workforce study that builds upon other/previous studies, with support from ELB.</p>
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	<p>EOEL Recruitment: Resource Teacher position has been posted internally as of the end of February, and will close in early March. Program Specialist V – Project Management position has been posted externally as of 11/15/2019.</p>	
<p>Leadership Update—Bob Peters</p>	<p>Bob reported that he has been using the policy statements that were approved at the February meeting to guide the testimony he provides at hearings on behalf of the board. He then provided some updates on amendments that have been made to HB2543:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The kindergarten entry assessment is to be administered to children within 30 days after school entry rather than only 2 weeks, and will be administered in either English or Hawaiian. • There will no longer be “trust funds” but “special funds.” • Charter schools have been removed from EOEL’s administrative authority, which creates the charter schools as their own separate entity for pre-K and no longer requires the charter schools to meet the expectations of EOEL. • Receipt of Preschool Open Doors (POD) funding by programs is now tied to their obtaining accreditation within 3 years. • The Early Learning Coordinator (ELC) position has changed somewhat; to include tracking pace of expansion and facilitating the efforts of DHS and EOEL. The position would be housed in the Governor’s Office. • The establishment of early learning classrooms and services at the public libraries would happen in consultation and partnership with DHS or EOEL, and not with the ELC. (Bob raised questions about ELB supporting this notion in his testimony, because one of the main goals of ELB is to create a collaborative system, and this undercuts that particular goal.) <p>Bob then reminded everyone that just because he submits testimony on behalf of ELB, does not mean that board members cannot submit testimony representing their own organizations, or as individual citizens. There is a need for broad-based support at legislative hearings.</p>	

<p>HB 2543 Implementation Plan Update—Kerrie Urosevich for Mel Horikami</p>	<p>Kerrie and Mel Horikami, the former CEO of Verizon Hawaii who has been hired by the Hawaii Executive Collaborative (HEC) to draft the implementation plan for HB2543, felt there was not enough time for Mel to come and share his process at this meeting. He has requested to attend the next meeting, and at that time, more information will be provided as to what he is doing as a consultant for the HEC. For today, Kerrie gave a brief update and explained that she hoped to demystify how the implementation plan is being written. The plan will go into effect on July 1, 2020, if the bill is passed.</p> <p>The first session Mel held with early childhood professionals was with Terry Lock so that he could learn about the original EOEL 2013-2014 mixed delivery system plan when Terry was the EOEL Director. He has also read Act 259. The second session consisted of Terry Lock of UH Manoa College of Education, Mary Ann Nemoto of the Windward Community College Learning to Grow Program, Elizabeth Park of Chaminade University, Ka’iulani Laeha from Aha Punana Leo, Carol Wear from PATCH, ELB members Leilani Au from UH Manoa Children’s Center, Justina Acevedo-Cross from Hawaii Community Foundation, and Lauren Moriguchi. This was more of an informal “talk story” meeting, but covered efforts that are happening around staff recruitment and retention in the system and challenges that everyone is experiencing and anticipating. Mel has also met with Pankaj Bhanot of DHS, Lauren, Carol from PATCH, and others. The natural tension this implementation plan is facing is the question of “quality vs. quantity.” Related to that is the issue of workforce recruitment and retention, which will become even more of an issue with rapid expansion of classrooms. Bob noted that Mel was taking in everyone’s feedback and suggestions, and is “having his eyes opened” as to how complex the early childhood system is.</p>	<p>Mel Horkiami will make an appearance at the next ELB meeting.</p>
<p>Public Comment – Bob Peters</p>	<p>No public comment was offered at this time.</p>	
<p>Member Updates—Bob Peters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Kerrie</i> reported that ECAS is cancelling its All-Network meeting on 4/14/20 due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. ECAS is instead looking to offer virtual training, so Kerrie will work with Coleen Momohara (EOEL) and Kim Guieb (P-20) on that. All ECAS meetings are being moved to online for the time being. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Kaina</i> reported that the mayor of Maui County has stated that while he is making a commitment to fund current early childhood programs including grants, he also has the right to move funds depending on how much more serious and critical the coronavirus pandemic becomes. • <i>Edel</i> reported that the Keiki Fest on Maui has been cancelled as a precaution due to the coronavirus situation to avoid putting young babies and children at risk. 	
Review Agenda Outcomes — Bob Peters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob will check into whether the board can receive the ICF needs assessment report sooner than after it has been reviewed by ACF. • Time needs to be designated at a future meeting to discuss how to make the Needs Assessment report useful for our community members. • EOEL is planning to conduct a workforce study to look at the current state of the ECE workforce, starting with existing teachers in the classrooms, with the idea of expanding the study to make it more comprehensive in nature. • Mel Horikami will be invited to come to the April ELB meeting to discuss the HB 2543 implementation planning process, goals and desired outcomes. • Everyone should anticipate that there will be changes to the bill going forward. 	
Announcements	An announcement was made that KCAA-CEED might close down depending on the coronavirus situation, and next month’s meeting may have to be done via telephone or videoconferencing. Kaina announced that the EOEL Capacity and Resources subcommittee meeting will put their work on hold for the time being due to the coronavirus situation.	
Executive Session	No items from the AG.	
Closing —Kerrie Urosevich	“Someone once told me that growth and comfort don’t co-exist, and I think it’s a really good thing to remember.” –Ginni Rometty (CEO of IBM)	

Submitted by Ashley Miura and Chris Jackson

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