

Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, December 10, 2020

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

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

Meeting Chair will preside via the Zoom link.

Board Members in Attendance: Dana Balansag (for Dir. Betts), Leilani Au, Ben Naki, Kerrie Urosevich, Wai’ale’ale Sarsona (for Jack Wong), Matt Shim (for Dir. Char), Stephen Schatz (for President Lassner), Bob Peters, Mari Uehara, Melodie Vega, Edeluisa Baguio-Larena, Cherilyn Shiinoki

Absent: Justina Acevedo-Cross, Bob Davis (for Superintendent Kishimoto)

Executive Office on Early Learning staff in attendance: Lauren Moriguchi, Keopu Reelitz, Kathi Takakuwa, Alohilani Maiava, Chris Jackson, Jeff Larson, Keli Houston, Jordana Ferreira, Ashley Miura

Public in Attendance: Anne Horiuchi, Aldric Ulep, Deborah Zysman, Danny Cup Choy, Kim Guieb, Robyn Chun, Vivian Eto, Namaka Rawlins, Carol Wear, Cheri Nakamura, Deanne Goya, Hide Wu, Kaiulani Laeha, Scott Fujii, Napua Rosehill, Olan Leimomi Fisher, Jennifer Dang, Stacie ?, Mary ?

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
MINUTES:		
Welcome/Introductions— Bob Peters	Bob welcomed the group at 1:32 PM and asked Ben Naki to read the ELB mission statement. Keopu Reelitz, EOEL Communications Specialist, reviewed the chat box rules which included Zoom etiquette, reminded everyone that the meeting was being recorded, and that all votes would be conducted by roll call.	
Review and Approve 11/12/20 Minutes— Bob Peters	The 11/12/20 meeting minutes were approved as distributed. (Bob/Edel: Y-8; N-0)	
Public Comment— Bob	No public comments were offered.	

Early Learning Board

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

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Peters		
<p>Executive Office on Early Learning Updates— Lauren Moriguchi</p>	<p>Lauren announced that an informational briefing has been scheduled for December 15th from 10:00-11:30 a.m. regarding the state of early care and learning. EOEL, the Charter School Commission, Head Start, and Department of Human Services have been invited to provide an update on the status of Hawaii’s early care and education programs. The informational session will be live streamed through the State House’s Facebook page.</p> <p>Lauren then invited Alohi Maiava, EOEL’s Program Specialist, to provide updates on the PDG B-5 grant, which is coming to a close at the end of December 2020. Alohi shared that all remaining grant activities will be wrapped up by the end of the month, including having contractors conclude their work within that time frame. Final reports must be submitted to ACF by March 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Activity 5 which was designated in the PDG B-5 grant as “improving overall quality,” has been changed from a summit to the development of a web-based platform. This platform will house early childhood documents and resources which will be available to a variety of audiences across the state. A contractor is currently working on the website which will be completed by the end of the month. During the Q&A session that followed, Alohi shared that EOEL will distribute the Strategic Implementation Plan, which will include website information, as one way to market the website. When asked if there is a way to determine how utilized the website is, Alohi explained there will be capacity to determine web traffic, including number of hits, pages clicked, and which pages are viewed most.</p> <p>Lauren gave a presentation and elaborated on the 10 projects which will take EOEL through the current fiscal year as the Office transitions to new leadership. Please see the attached presentation.</p>	<p><u>EOEL Projects + Activities Handout</u> <u>EOEL Projects + Activities Presentation</u></p>

	<p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EOEL staff were acknowledged for connecting their priorities and projects to the Early Childhood State Plan.• Seeing a one-page infographic with the intersections between the EC State Plan and EOEL priorities and projects was helpful.• “Maintain communication with lead agencies regarding the status of workforce initiatives,” is not isolated to the Public Prekindergarten Program and is intended to address the entire early care and education system. It speaks to the importance of being aware of all workforce development initiatives within the system.• A part of the workforce strategic implementation plan includes developing a website which will house information on workforce development efforts. EOEL’s intention is to have the website currently being developed to serve as a virtual hub which will include workforce development information and resources.• EOEL will focus on immediate strategies in response to COVID-19, to maintain existing programs and services which are currently available to families. The legislature has identified very ambitious goals in Act 46, but given the current economic situation, we first need to maintain what currently exists before we can consider further expansion.• During this time, it is critical to ensure partners are advocating consistently for the same supports. However, conversations with partners regarding which programs need advocacy support still need to happen and must be on-going. EOEL will be closely monitoring the budget to ensure existing programs and services are sustained.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Jackson, EOEL’s Head Start Collaboration Director, was asked to address a question about children experiencing homelessness. Chris described the work of the Child Homelessness Action Team (CHAT) to address the needs of young children experiencing homelessness through increased connections to programs and services. While it is unclear exactly how many children there are living in unstable housing, especially the numbers who are living in “doubled up” situations, there is an estimated count of 33,000 under the age of five in Hawai’i experiencing residential instability. 	
<p>EOEL Director Search Committee Updates— Matt Shim</p>	<p>Matt reported that the EOEL Director Search Committee met last week to discuss when an ELB member should resign if s/he wishes to apply for the director position, and made a motion that current ELB members who are interested in becoming a candidate for the EOEL director position must resign from the board prior to the next ELB meeting on January 14, 2021. (Matt/Kerrie, Y: 9, N: 0).</p> <p>ELB members may resign by sending an email to the board Chair, Bob Peters.</p> <p>There was also a motion that was carried to clarify the resignation pertains to both voting and non-voting board members.</p> <p>The committee hopes to meet again prior to the January meeting. Matt will send out an email to potential advisory group members, and will report on outcomes at the January ELB meeting. He requested that if any of the potential advisory group members are intending to apply for the Director position to decline participating in this group and provide Matt with an alternate recommendation, if possible.</p>	<p>Board approved the motion that an ELB member must resign before January 14, 2021 if s/he intends to apply for the EOEL Director position.</p>
<p>ELB Subcommittee Updates—Capacity & Resources (Cherilyn</p>	<p>On behalf of the Capacity and Resources (C&R) Subcommittee, Cherilyn shared a proposed framework for monitoring the EC State Plan that describes how the ELB and EOEL can show progress being</p>	

<p>Shiinoki), and Governance (Wai'ale'ale Sarsona)</p>	<p>made through an annual reporting process. The Subcommittee recommends using a web-based data dashboard, housed on the EOEL website and maintained by EOEL staff, for annual reporting on achievements and lessons learned. Data on the website will be updated annually, and more frequently whenever possible.</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestions were provided to add more clarity and eliminate redundancy in the framework. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was suggested that there be some method to track the progress of the activities and strategies. ○ Members were not clear as to the time of reporting and number of times that reporting will take place and asked for more clarity here. ○ Note: State agencies' fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30; legislative budget requests begin in August/September, so there is a very small window in which to gather all the data, put it in a report, and present it to the board to be able to inform any policy recommendations or funding asks. • Lauren shared that the website which is in development, will house the Early Child State Plan and Strategic Implementation Plans. She suggested that the dashboard, whose purpose will be to report progress on the plans should be housed on the same website. She also responded that it would make sense for the annual reporting to take place earlier in the summer. This would allow the Board time to review the information and consider potential funding requests to support the work. <p>Cherilyn made a motion to accept the proposed general framework for reporting that includes the development of a dashboard and a</p>	<p>The Capacity and Resources subcommittee</p>
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	<p>timeline/schedule. The motion did not pass (Y: 3; N:5; A:1). It was suggested that the C&R subcommittee discuss the framework and timeline in more detail and come back with another proposal.</p> <p>On behalf of the Governance Subcommittee, Wai’ale’ale revisited the discussion around Act 46 from the meeting in November. She explained that the subcommittee discussed whether they should be thinking only about the implementation of Act 46, or whether they should also include the implementation and reporting of the Early Childhood State Plan in their consideration of how to support advancement of the early childhood sector. The Subcommittee believes that the focus of the ELB should be a little broader in order to take both into account.</p> <p>Wai’ale’ale made a motion, seconded by Leilani, to approve a proposed Strategic Implementation Subcommittee (SIS), which would lead coordinating and convening stakeholders, government agencies, and partners to monitor and support both the state plan and Act 46.</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were questions regarding the relationship between this proposed SIS and the C&R Subcommittee and how the roles of each overlap. In order to avoid duplication of effort, it would be best if they were kept separate, or to have one become a subset of the other. • The C&R Subcommittee was created at a time when EOEL did not have the capacity to do the kind of systems-building work that ELB was looking for, but the office has since grown. • Cherilyn said she believed that the duties of the proposed SIS were broader than those of the C&R Subcommittee, and that it might be better for the C&R to become a part of the SIS. • It was recommended that PDG B-5-funded activities and 	<p>will revise its annual state plan recommendations, and report at the next board meeting.</p>
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	<p>Champions efforts be incorporated into process planning of this SIS should it be formed.</p> <p>The motion proposed by Wai’ale’ale and seconded by Lani passed (Y:6; N:0; A:3), and the board approved the creation of a Strategic Implementation Subcommittee, with the condition that the Governance Subcommittee refine its purpose and objectives.</p> <p>Wai’ale’ale requested, and received feedback on, what the Board would like to see the Subcommittee do and be responsible for.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed that the SIS should have a voice on policy, and be allowed to forward any suggestions it has to the Board for them to take a vote. • It was recommended that the SIS should not be responsible for coordinating reporting efforts because Alohi is already working with different groups for the purpose of reporting progress on implementation plans. This would avoid efforts duplicative efforts. • It was agreed that the C&R Subcommittee and the SIS have different objectives. While C&R is in charge of gathering, reporting, and distributing data, SIS would be in charge of convening and coordinating. • It was determined that members would be polled at the next ELB meeting to get their thoughts on the Charters of both the SIS and the C&R Subcommittee. The Governance Subcommittee will use the input to review/revise the SIS role and responsibilities as needed. <p>A second order of business undertaken by the Governance Subcommittee was to propose a selection process for the ELB Vice Chair position. Wai’ale’ale proposed the board approve the ELB Vice</p>	<p>The creation of a Strategic Implementation Subcommittee (SIS), proposed by the Governance Subcommittee, was approved.</p> <p>The role of the SIS will be discussed further by the Governance Subcommittee, following its discussion at the January ELB meeting.</p> <p>Discussion about the Capacity and Resources subcommittee, its charge, and the direction it will be taking will occur at the next ELB meeting.</p>
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	Chair position selection process as reviewed; this was seconded by Bob. The motion passed (Y:9; N:0).	The ELB Vice Chair position selection process was approved.
Legislation: ‘Aha Punana Leo Board Membership —Namaka Rawlins	Former ELB member and Hawaiian Language Medium representative Namaka Rawlins presented the draft of a bill that, if passed, would allow ‘Aha Punana Leo to have a permanent seat on the Early Learning Board. The bill replaces the 2-year term of a Hawaiian Language Medium representative to a full voting representative without term limits, similar to the H AIS representative. ‘Aha Punana Leo is the only statewide provider of Hawaiian language early care and education program for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Namaka hopes that the board will consider the drafted bill and take action at the next meeting to champion it. A link to an online version of the bill was posted in the chat box: https://earlylearning.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/APL-ELB-Bill-Draft-12.2020.pdf	Further discussion on whether to support ‘Aha Punana Leo’s proposed legislation related to permanent ELB membership will be placed on the agenda for the January meeting.
Leadership Report —Bob Peters	Bob provided a brief update and shared that he is continuing to engage in conversations with the potential donor for work related to the search for a new EOEL Director. He has reached out to the Board of Education Executive Director about board-donor relationships. Bob also mentioned that he has not heard back yet from the Department of Budget and Finance regarding the request he made for an exception to the current vacancy freeze in order to fill the EOEL Director position.	
Public Comment —Bob Peters	In the chat box, Deborah Zysman of Hawaii Children’s Action Network (HCAN) wrote, “It appears that childcare workers are NOT in the essential worker priority list (k-12 teachers are).”	
Member Updates —Bob Peters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Kerrie Urosevich</i> reported that on January 13, 2021 (1:00-4:00 p.m.) there will be an Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) All Network virtual meeting.- consisting of a panel featuring Ellen Galinsky, author of <i>Mind in the Making</i>, as the first speaker, and then six panelists featuring local representatives from FCILs, Early Intervention, and center-based providers. The panel will be facilitated by Rob Smith and will include a 	

	<p>discussion about what is being done to mitigate potential developmental delays/learning loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. More information will be sent out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mari Uehara and Matt Shim</i> reported the COVID-19 priority vaccine distribution is in the planning stages. No vaccines have arrived in Hawaii to date, but because of the FDA-approved emergency-use authorization, the earliest the state would receive the vaccine is sometime next week, with distribution hopefully taking place the following week. 	
Executive Session	No items from AG.	
Review Agenda Outcomes—Bob Peters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board agreed to a date (January 14, 2021) by which any ELB member who wishes to apply for the EOEL director position must resign by submitting their resignation to the ELB Chair. • The Capacity and Resources Subcommittee will revise its annual state plan reporting recommendation and will report to the board at the next meeting. • The board approved a Strategic Implementation Subcommittee (SIS) as proposed by the Governance Committee. • The roles, responsibilities and scope of work of the SIS will be discussed further at the next meeting, with the full board present. • The Capacity and Resource Subcommittee, its charge, and the direction it is taking, will be discussed at the next meeting, as well. • A decision as to whether to support the proposed legislation to make ‘Aha Punana Leo a permanent member on the ELB will be made at the next meeting. • The Chair will follow-up with Mari as to which subcommittee might be most appropriate for her to participate on. 	
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 	
Closing—Kerrie Urosevich	“For last year’s words belong to last year’s language, and next year’s	

	<p>words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning.” –T.S. Eliot</p> <p>Bob thanked the ELB and EOEL for its critical work during this challenging year and encouraged everyone to enjoy the holidays. He also thanked HCAN again for its continued support of the virtual meeting venue.</p>	
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Submitted by Ashley Miura and Chris Jackson