

Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, May 13, 2021

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: Scott Nakasone (for Dir. Betts), Leilani Au, Ben Naki, Kerrie Urosevich, Wai’ale’ale Sarsona (for Jack Wong), Matt Shim (for Dir. Char), Kim Guieb (for President Lassner), Bob Peters, Mari Uehara, Melodie Vega, Edeluisa Baguio-Larena, Cherilyn Shiinoki, Justina Acevedo-Cross, Bob Davis (for Superintendent Kishimoto)

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

Public in Attendance: Anne Horiuchi, Deborah Zysman, Ben Ancheta, Camille Masutomi, Carol Wear, Danny Cup Choy, Dayna Luka, Deanne Goya, Aldric Ulep, Scott Fuji, Vivian Eto, Ken Kakesako, Robyn Chun, Terry Lock, Lynn Fallin, Kathleen Algire, Kim Guieb, Erin Henderson, Cheri Nakamura, Brian Donohoe

| Agenda Item | Discussion | Action |
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| MINUTES: | | |
| Welcome/Introductions— Bob Peters | Bob welcomed the group at 1:32 PM and asked Melodie to read the mission statement. Bob announced that Dana Balansag had moved on from the position of Child Care Program Office (CCPO) Administrator to another position within the Department of Human Services (DHS). Dayna Luka is now the acting CCPO Administrator through a temporary assignment. He also announced that DHS Director Cathy Betts, Scott Nakasone (BESSD Assistant Administrator), and Dayna Luka will be attending ELB meetings to represent DHS during the interim. | |

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| <p>Review and Approve 4/8/21 Minutes—Bob Peters</p> | <p>The 4/8/21 meeting minutes were approved as distributed. (Edel/Cherilyn: Y--9; N--0)</p> | |
| <p>Hawaii Integrated Infant and Early Childhood Behavioral Health Plan— Kerrie Urosevich, Justina Acevedo-Cross, and Matt Shim</p> | <p>Kerrie, Matt, and Justina presented on the Hawaii Integrated Infant and Early Childhood Behavioral Health Plan (IECBH). The plan is in its final phase and is ready for publication, with its launch happening on this day (May 13, 2021). Justina explained that the plan was developed at the request of the ELB last February 2021 due to the need for a better coordinated plan to address the issue of infant and early childhood behavioral health. Representatives from government agencies and non-profits were involved as reviewers or partners who provided input in developing this plan and encouraged everyone to participate in its implementation and view the plan from the lens of how they see their organizations fitting into it. The core of the work is to ensure all children from prenatal to age five, within the context of their families, communities, and most important relationships, are able to develop healthy and on-track and are ready for school and future life. The plan infuses all prenatal to age five serving systems. The problem of children and families being adversely affected by on-going toxic stress has increased in urgency and frequency, exacerbated due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The 5-year plan is organized into 4 major components that make up the ecosystem of what needs to improve pertaining to early childhood behavioral health: Systems and Policy; Marketing, Outreach and Community Education; Workforce Development; and Programs and Services. Each of these components has key objectives that range from short to long-term, with most of the goals aiming to be achieved by 2025, and with many components aligning with the Early Childhood State Plan. Immediate next steps include maximizing existing resources to implement suggested strategies while exploring new funding sources, seeking funding from governmental and non-governmental</p> | |

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| | <p>sources to accomplish the goals and objectives of the plan, finding champions to work on implementation and bringing a Coordinator to facilitate implementation and collaboration, and convening a cross-sector leadership team, which includes family representatives. Kerrie and Matt reported on some of the activities that are already being implemented. For example, a Med-Quest funding expert has been contracted from now until July to figure out reimbursement models; HCF, DOH and ECAS funding is being leveraged to contract a Coordinator to assist with plan implementation; and DOH is working with DHS and other partners to establish a more permanent coordinator position to champion behavioral health. ELB members were encouraged to contact the Advisory Team with names of champions who could help move this work forward.</p> | |
| <p>Executive Office on Early Learning Updates— Lauren Moriguchi</p> | <p>Lauren announced that Hawaii has become one of only six states to receive a 10/10 score from the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) for quality early learning. This achievement is particularly relevant as the legislative session comes to a close, and EOEL continues to carry out its vision of increasing high quality early learning access to all 3- and 4-year-olds. Lauren also mentioned that the Biden Administration has stressed the importance of high-quality early learning programs, something the Office has consistently advocated for.</p> <p>Jordana Ferreira, EOEL’s Government Affairs Specialist, shared legislative updates based on the information included in the written updates submitted by EOEL.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to Act 046 (H.B. No. 1362) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transmitted to the Governor on April 28, 2021. The bill: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishes the early childhood education stipend program; 2. Abolishes the Hawaii early childhood educator special fund established in Section 302 L-B on | <p>The Board congratulated EOEL on their NIEER recognition as one of only 6 states in the country to achieve high quality in each of the ten standards.</p> |

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| | <p>June 30, 2023 with any unencumbered remaining balance to lapse to the general fund;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Allows the HIDOE to accept private funding for the purpose of establishing privately funded public pre-k programs provided that HIDOE shall follow Chapter 302 L-7. If private funds do not adequately cover the cost of establishing public pre-K programs, EOEL or HIDOE are prohibited from requesting funds from the Legislature to cover the remaining costs; 4. Requires HIDOE and the HSPCSC to administer a uniform, statewide KEA; 5. Charges DHS and EOEL to work jointly to monitor the progress of implementing the early care and education sector programs and to submit a report no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2025-2027; 6. Adds DHS and EOEL as entities that may share data through the statewide longitudinal data system to support research and evaluation that will improve outcomes throughout the early education to workforce pipeline and as entities that shall partner to collectively govern the statewide longitudinal system; 7. Appropriates a 1.0 FTE position and \$98,000 for FY 2021-22 and FY 22-23, that will report to the ELB to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of Act 046, SLH 2020; 8. Extends the date that child care providers who receive Preschool Open Doors funding to begin the accreditation process from July 1, 2022 to July 1, 2024 and obtain accreditation by July 1, | |
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| | <p style="text-align: center;">2029</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELB Composition (S.B. No. 1384) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ S.B. No. 1384 was enrolled to the Governor on April 29, 2021. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. S.B. No. 1384 provides that the prohibition against serving two consecutive terms not to exceed eight consecutive years shall not apply to the term of the Hawaiian medium early learning representative on the ELB. • Trauma-Informed Care Task Force (H.B. No. 1322) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ H.B. No. 1322 was enrolled to the Governor on April 28, 2021. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishes a trauma-informed care taskforce within the DOH; 2. Includes the Director of EOEL, or designee, as a taskforce member • Appropriations from federal funding for the HODOE (H.B. No. 613) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ H.B. No. 613 was transmitted to the Governor on April 29, 2021. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appropriates \$1 million to the EOEL for early childhood educators to support and stabilize the educator workforce. • Executive Biennium Budget (H.B. No. 200) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ H.B. No. 200 was transmitted to the Governor on April 27, 2021. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The version of the Executive Biennium Budget that has been transmitted to the Governor includes \$7,073,037 of general funds for EDN 700; 2. Includes restoration of funds that were previously proposed as cuts, including travel | |
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| | <p>funds, and restores the 7 classroom-level positions that impacted 7 EOEL public pre-K programs;</p> <p>3. Includes 94 position counts.</p> <p>Alohi Maiava, EOEL’s Program Specialist, provided updates related to the PDG B-5 grant. Alohi explained that several resources have been added under the Resources tab on the earlychildhoodhawaii.com website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is now a request form for “Embracing Your Journey as a Family” workshops and training modules, which are for anyone interested in hosting family workshops with the foundational tool of “Embracing Your Journey as a Family” as a guide. The request form will connect interested individuals and organizations to Family Hui. • There is also a Trauma-Responsive Care Toolkit for each early childhood education (ECE) setting: Center-based Care; Family Child Care; Family-Child Interaction Learning (FCIL), and Home Visiting. These toolkits are culturally appropriate to Hawaii and were created by Danny Goya. <p>Alohi also shared that the PDG All-State Virtual Convening will take place from October 18th to the 21st. This year’s theme is “Leveraging Strong Partnerships for Strong Early Childhood Systems,” and is being hosted by the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care, and the PDG B-5 TA Center. The event will help build and sustain relationships and share resources regarding the post-pandemic early care and education system. There will be two different kinds of sessions—a consultation session and a learning session. Alohi will send out a Google form to ask ELB for their input on which sessions Hawaii attendees should focus on, and if anyone is interested in attending the convening. She asked members to complete the survey as soon as possible.</p> | |
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| | <p>Bob asked how the new resources will be publicized. Alohi responded that it will be publicized through the “Little Ones” newsletter and via email notifications. EOEL will also continue to ask ELB members to share the information amongst their networks. Additionally, information regarding the website has been shared at the most recent Child Care Advisory meeting hosted by DHS.</p> <p>Chris Jackson, Head Start State Collaboration Director, provided updates regarding the Head Start Collaboration Office refunding application and 5-year work plan. The 5-year Work Plan was submitted to the Office of Head Start at the end of April and is structured to address six Office of Head Start national priorities, with a long-term goal, short-term goals, objectives, expected outcomes and data or measures to track progress attached to each priority: Child Care Partnerships, Data Sharing, Workforce and Career Development, Collaboration with QRIS, Continuity between HODOE and Head Start, and Regional Priorities.</p> <p>This EOEL updates section ended with a request from Bob, that EOEL report back on the number of application submissions for the public pre-k program for the new school year. He is interested in understanding how much the pandemic year has affected enrollment and whether this will impact the viability of any of the classrooms.</p> | <p>EOEL will report back at the June ELB meeting.</p> |
| <p>Subcommittee Reports— Subcommittee Conveners</p> | <p>Matt Shim, head of the Director Search Subcommittee, reported that the DOE has approved Coleen Momohara to be temporarily assigned (TA) as Director of the Office until the Board hires a permanent Director. He described the various revisions made to the Position Description (PD) form for the EOEL Director and shared that all of the statutory requirements have been included. Matt informed the Board that the “Competencies and Responsibilities” document is not a part of the position description but will be used to inform the annual evaluation of the EOEL Director.</p> | |

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| | <p>A question was raised regarding the finalization of the PD and “Competencies and Responsibilities” documents. Matt explained that the ELB will need to vote to approve the two documents. Once approved, the PD will be submitted to HIDOE for their review and approval. The “Competencies and Responsibilities” document is an internal document that the ELB will use to inform the evaluation of the Director on an annual basis.</p> <p>Based on discussions at previous meetings, a question was raised to inquire about the inclusion of the systems-building experience within the “Minimum Qualifications” section of the PD. Matt explained that the “Minimum Qualifications” reflect the statutory requirements for the position. Therefore, they cannot be changed unless the statute is revised. He also noted that the “Preferred Qualifications” include the systems-building knowledge and experience the Board has previously discussed and will be an area that is given much consideration during the selection process.</p> <p>The Board approved the revised PD and EOEL Director “Competencies and Responsibilities” documents (Matt/Justina: Y—9; N—0; A—1). The position description will be sent to HIDOE for their review and approval. Matt will also revise the “Competencies and Responsibilities” document to reflect the approval date from ELB.</p> <p>Matt invited Ben Ancheta from Inkinen, the search firm contracted to assist in the Director search, to provide updates on the search process. Ben thanked everyone for their feedback on the Director position and invited ELB members to provide any further feedback to Inkinen. He reported that Inkinen has started the initial phases of networking with candidates but need the finalized position description to move forward. Ben asked the Board to help identify networks with whom the PD may be shared, encouraged members to provide additional feedback or</p> | <p>The Board approved the revised position description (PD) for the EOEL Director, along with the “Competencies and Responsibilities.”</p> <p>Matt will change the watermark on the PD draft to “pending DOE approval” and will forward this to the Superintendent for approval. The PD can then be used for recruiting purposes.</p> |
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| | <p>input, and send names of possible candidates to Inkinen. The search firm is on track with the timeline they previously shared with ELB. Ben informed the Board that he may ask for a special meeting during phase 4 of the timeline. This will allow members to meet with the final candidates and make a recommendation for priority 1 and priority 2 candidates.</p> <p>Wai’ale’ale Sarsona, head of the Governance Standing Subcommittee (GSS), provided an update on the Early Childhood System Governance and Financing Project grant. She shared that they are still waiting to hear back as to whether the letter of intent that was submitted will allow ELB to move on to submit a proposal. ELB should be notified by Monday, May 17. In the meantime, the GSS will try to secure a grant writer. Because ELB has limited capacity to write the grant proposal, Kamehameha Schools (KS) has offered to fund a grant writer. Wai’ale’ale then made three motions, which the Board approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The motion was made and approved to authorize the GSS to lead the development and submittal of the New Venture Fund Proposal RFP. (Wai’ale’ale/Kerrie: Y—9; N—0; Abstain—1). • The motion was made and approved to authorize the GSS to select a grant writer for the Early Childhood System Governance and Financing Project that will be contracted by KS, if the letter of intent is approved and the GSS can move on to crafting a proposal. (Wai’ale’ale/Bob: Y—10; N—0). • The motion was made and approved to authorize the GSS to select a project partner/fiscal agent who could help the GSS develop the proposal as well as the budget, with the GSS maintaining full decision-making authority over the project. (Wai’ale’ale/Ben: Y—10; N—0). <p>Kerrie Urosevich, head of the ELB System Mapping and Relationship Building Ad Hoc Subcommittee, along with Leilani Au and Ben Naki,</p> | <p>The Board approved the Governance Standing Subcommittee to move forward should the invitation be offered to submit a proposal; to hire a grant writer with KS funding; and to select a project partner/fiscal agent.</p> |
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| | <p>provided a brief summary of the subcommittee’s work pre-COVID and asked ELB members to provide feedback to help inform the work moving forward. Initially, the focus of the systems mapping subcommittee included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to gain clarity regarding the “actors” within Hawaii’s early learning system and the intersection of their respective strategic plans;• to identify gaps and areas of overlap in roles; and• to provide effective system leadership to guide improvement in the overall system so that EOEL and ELB can meet statutory mandates and strategic goals. <p>Prior to COVID-19, the subcommittee had planned on mapping out the different early childhood systems and services throughout the State. Due to the pandemic, this work was paused as the subcommittee recognized that the landscape has changed. Therefore, the map may look different and may potentially serve a different purpose. The subcommittee understands the need for an interactive map, but prior to moving forward, they have asked the Board to respond to five questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How does the Board want to use the interactive map?2. What information does the Board want included in the map?3. Does the Board want the information organized by zip code, school complex, community, or other?4. How will the map be managed? Who will be responsible for keeping it updated?5. If it is not housed within EOEL, would the Board support Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) housing and managing the map? <p>Kerrie also articulated the need to find a “home” for this map, expressing that it would be difficult to start the process of building the map without having a place for it to be housed.</p> | |
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| | <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mapping Subcommittee does not want to duplicate any existing work already being done by other groups, like PDG B-5 or the GSS. • Board members whose terms are about to expire are welcome to serve on the Subcommittee. Barbara DeBaryshe from UH Center on the Family (who is also doing a mapping project) would like to participate, even though she is not a Board member. • While the map will include clinics, it will not be inclusive of pediatricians in private practice as well as doctors who operate outside of clinics as this may be perceived as an endorsement. • AUW’s 211 and Keiki Central were approached to house the map, but they are unable to do so at this time. • Justina suggested Kaiser Foundation as a possible home because they are sponsoring a project called “Unite Us,” which is supposed to be a referral program. Justina felt this is relevant to a map of the early learning system. <p>Bob explained that if the Mapping Subcommittee would like the Board to vote on this, they will need to send out their survey to get the desired feedback, and then draft a proposal for the Board to vote on.</p> | <p>The Mapping Subcommittee has indicated that they will send out a survey and the Board will discuss the results of that survey and where the map might be housed at the next meeting.</p> |
| <p>Leadership Update—Bob Peters</p> | <p>Bob reminded the Board that HB 1362 allocates and funds a Coordinator position to support the implementation of Act 46, SLH 2020. He explained that in his conversation with the Deputy Attorney General, the interpretation of HB 1362 included that the Early Learning Coordinator would report to the ELB. As a result, the Board will need to develop a position description for the Early Learning Coordinator and Bob requested the Board’s input.</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Coordinator should be someone who has strong facilitation | |

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| | <p>skills and a good understanding of Hawaii’s Sunshine Law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other qualities suggested included good project management skills, familiarity with early learning and the childcare system in Hawaii, good communication and community engagement skills, work planning with multiple partners, and good data and policy analysis to inform planning. • There was some confusion expressed with the infrastructure of a Coordinator reporting to the ELB and its chair, as the ELB is a policy board and does not have staff. The relationship between the Coordinator, its potential team (as described in HB 1362), and ELB needs to be better defined. • Bob specifically asked the Deputy AG whether it was ELB or EOEL that the Coordinator would report to, and the Deputy AG responded that it would be ELB, not EOEL. • There does not appear to be constraints around the Coordinator position description at this time. <p>Bob tasked the GSS with creating a draft job description for the Early Learning Coordinator position established by HB 1362, and said he would create a “straw man” description for the GSS.</p> | <p>The GSS will bring back to the next ELB meeting a draft position description for the Coordinator position established by Act 046.</p> |
| <p>Public Comment—Bob Peters</p> | <p>No public comments were offered.</p> | |
| <p>Member Updates—Bob Peters</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Matt Shim</i> reported that the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has approved the Pfizer vaccine for 12-15-year-olds. DOH is currently working with DOE to set up school immunization clinics. The Department of Health and Human Services at the federal level is working with states to ensure pediatricians are able to deliver vaccines to adolescents. Technical assistance to providers will be given. The CDC is onboarding providers who participate in their “Vaccine for Children Program.” All pharmacies in the Federal Pharmacy Vaccine Program should be offering vaccinations to | |

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| | <p>adolescents already. The DOH Immunizations Branch is working closely with DOE to get consent forms in multiple languages and translators for the parents of children who speak English as their second language. More than half of Hawaii’s population has received at least one dose of the vaccine and the state is on its way to reaching “herd immunity”. In the meantime, we must keep vigilant and continue to physically distance, wash hands, and wear masks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mari Uehara</i> reported that Mobile Vax Clinics are going up in high schools. She also shared an opportunity to learn more about LGBTQ issues. Mari has a flier with more information on monthly training that will address these issues. Members can contact her if interested in learning more. • <i>Justina Acevedo-Cross</i> reported that the Kahewai Summit is coming up in the summer. Registration for the event opened on May 12, 2021. Kahewai is a Wellness and Resilience Summit for all birth through age 5 providers. Justina asked the Board to inform any providers they may know about the event and to encourage them to sign up. National keynote speakers will be featured, as well as local providers who will present what they are implementing right now in Hawaii. Cost of the summit is \$30 for two days, but there are generous scholarships and the registration fee for some individuals may be waived. • <i>Kerrie Urosevich</i> reported that Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council (HEICC) is working on developing a plan to increase parent voice in early childhood learning discussions. Target date for development of the plan is between September and October 2021. Kerrie will provide more updates as the project develops. • <i>Brian Donohoe</i> reported, on behalf of DHS, that the American Rescue Plan Child Care Stabilization funds will be available to provide relief to early childhood providers of all backgrounds. | |
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| | <p>Some of the first steps DHS has taken include receiving federal guidance on how to use the funds, sending out emails to the provider community to solicit feedback on how they would like to see the funds used, and announcing follow-up facilitated focus group sessions. DHS will send out a survey to solicit input regarding the use of the funds. DHS would like to ensure the community’s voice is heard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Edel Baguio-Larena</i> reported that Maui County will hold their 14th annual “Celebration of Fathers” event on June 12th at Baldwin High School, a week before Father’s Day. The event is being sponsored by the Hawaii Fatherhood Commission, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Maui County, and Maui Family Support Services. There will be community resources, including home-visiting programs and early childhood development programs, as well as activities and giveaway prizes for fathers and the entire family. • <i>Ben Naki</i> reported that there was a recent Early Head Start (EHS) Expansion Request for Proposals (RFP). Several of the EHS grantees in Hawaii submitted applications, and Child and Family Service (CFS) on Kauai was awarded funding for EHS expansion on Kauai and Oahu. Their funding covers 40 new EHS slots for pregnant women, infants, and toddlers. Half of the slots are for Oahu, and the other half for Kauai. CFS will be providing home-visiting services, as well as opening an infant-toddler classroom on both Kauai and Oahu. | |
| Executive Session | No items from AG. | |
| Director’s Reflections/Board Thoughts —Lauren Moriguchi/Bob Peters | As this ELB meeting was Lauren’s last as EOEL Director, she provided some final thoughts. Lauren thanked the Board for their support during her time as Director and reflected fondly on the combined accomplishments of the EOEL and the Early Learning Board, as well as the learning experiences she gained while in the Director role. ELB members expressed their gratitude for all of | |

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| | Lauren’s hard work and wished her well. Several members paid her specific tribute for her contributions. | |
| Review Agenda Outcomes —Bob Peters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board congratulated EOEL on its accomplishment and recognition by NIEER as being one of only 6 states in the country to achieve 10 out of 10 quality standards in the 2020 State of Preschool Yearbook. • The Board approved the EOEL Director Position Description and the Competencies and Responsibilities document to use in the Director search. • The Board approved the Governance Standing Subcommittee moving forward should the invitation to submit a proposal be offered along with hiring a grant writer with KS funding and selecting a project partner/fiscal agent. • The System Mapping Subcommittee will distribute a survey to the ELB and will discuss its findings at the next meeting, including where the mapping project might be housed. • The Board made no decisions about the position description for the Coordinator position established through HB 1362. The Chair will develop a “strawman” to share with the GSS, and the GSS will provide a draft to the ELB for review at the June meeting. | |
| Announcements | None. | |
| Closing —Kerrie Urosevich | “If you hear a voice within you say you cannot paint, then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced.” –Vincent Van Gogh | |

Submitted by Ashley Miura and Chris Jackson