

Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, August 12, 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: Laila King (for Dir. Cathy Betts), Leilani Au, Kerrie Urosevich, Matt Shim (for Dir. Char), Bob Peters for HAIS Director Bossert), Mari Uehara, Melodie Vega, Erin Henderson-Lacerdo, Justina Acevedo-Cross, Stephen Schatz (for President Lassner), Wai’ale’ale Sarsona (for Jack Wong), Bob Davis (for Superintendent Kishimoto), Cherilyn Shiinoki, Ben Naki

Executive Office on Early Learning staff in attendance: Coleen Momohara, Alohilani Maiava, Chris Jackson, Jeff Larson, Keli Houston, Jordana Ferreira, Keopu Reelitz, Joelle Takayama, Dolores Brockman, Phyllis Nakama-Kawamoto, Tiffany Hirota, Lisa Teruya, Kuulei Kaluhiokalani, Ashley Miura

Public in Attendance: Anne Horiuchi, Deborah Zysman, Nicol Russell, Kathleen O’Dell, Jeannine Souki, Al Castle, Brenda Watanabe, Cassia Simms-Smith, Charis Sole, Dayna Luka, Jennifer Dang, Jordan Smith, Deanne Goya, Kaina Bonacorsi, Kaiulani Laeha, Kim Guieb, Mary Ann Nemoto, Melissa Pavlicek, Robyn Chun, Skye Kim, Terry Lock, Vivian Eto, Ben Ancheta, Casey Harlow, Kenyon Tam, Tainui Alameda, Carol Wear, Kathleen Algire, Joann Farnsworth, Ka’ano’i Walk, Michael Fahey, Christina Cox, Dena Akiu, Capsun Poe.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
MINUTES:		
Welcome/Introductions— Bob Peters	Chair Peters welcomed the group at 1:33 PM. Erin Henderson was asked to read the mission statement. Keopu Reelitz, EOEL’s Communications Specialist, provided information for the protocol for the EOEL Director Finalists Forum: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chat box function will be disabled to avoid distractions.• After each presentation, ELB members will be able to ask questions by noting their desire to do so in the chat.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The public will be able to provide comments after the completion of all three presentations. 	
Review and Approve 7/8/21 Minutes —Bob Peters	The 7/8/21 meeting minutes were approved as distributed. (Bob/Wai’ale’ale: Y--8; N--0)	
Executive Office on Early Learning Updates— Budget Request 2022-2023 —Coleen Momohara	Coleen Momohara requested the Board’s approval for EOEL to request position counts only for FY 2022-2023: one full-time equivalent (FTE) position for a Procurement Contracts Specialist, and one full-time equivalent (FTE) position for a Business Officer/Fiscal Specialist. Coleen clarified that the EOEL’s budget had been restored completely to what it would have been pre-COVID-19. A motion was made and passed to approve EOEL’s planned proposal and budget request (Bob/Kerrie: Y—10; N—0).	
EOEL Director Finalists Forum —Matt Shim	<p>Matt Shim, as head of the Director’s Search Subcommittee, moderated the EOEL Director Finalists Forum. He explained that each candidate would have forty minutes—ten for their presentation, ten for prepared questions, and twenty for questions from the Board. The prepared questions included the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The early childhood development space is a complex system. How do you envision yourself as the Director communicating and working with diverse stakeholders in the early childhood system? 2) How do you think about equity and access to early childhood development opportunities for under-served populations? 3) Please describe your leadership style and the culture you would like to build at EOEL if you were named as its next Director. <p>The three finalists, in order of their presentations, were Nicol Russell, Kathleen O’Dell, and Jeannine Souki. Each of them engaged with the Board members for twenty minutes following the conclusion of their separate presentations. (Please see information about the finalists sent out previously by Chair Peters.)</p>	
Public Comment —Bob	Mike Fahey provided written public comments for the Board in	

Peters	advance of the meeting.	
Member Updates —Bob Peters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Laila King</i> reported on behalf of the Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Care Program Office which oversees the childcare subsidies program. Some families affected by the federal waiver and proclamation changes are worried that their subsidies may be affected. Director Cathy Betts wants to reassure all families that every individual situation and case will be re-assessed in order to continue to serve struggling families. • <i>Justina Acevedo-Cross</i> reported that in partnership with PATCH, Hawaii Community Foundation is starting a new Promising Minds Community of Practice for Oahu family childcare providers. It is for any family childcare provider who wants to deepen his/her practice when working with children and families at-risk and to become trauma-informed. To enroll or for more information on Promising Minds Oahu, contact Nicole Higa at nhiga@PATCH-HI.org • <i>Matt Shim</i> reported that the CDC has declared COVID-19 vaccinations safe for pregnant people, so anyone who is pregnant or thinking about becoming pregnant should get vaccinated against the coronavirus. He provided a link in the chat box: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/pregnancy.html • <i>Kerrie Urosevich</i> reported on behalf of the Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council (HEICC) that referrals to the program have been increasing and so has utilization of services. They have also been implementing a successful telehealth program. 	
Adjournment —Bob Peters	Chair Peters thanked the Board members and reminded them of the special meeting on August 24 th , from 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM. The next regularly scheduled ELB meeting will be Thursday, September 9th, from 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM.	

	Matt Shim also thanked the ELB members, the Advisory Group to the Search Subcommittee, the Director’s Search Subcommittee members, the public, and especially Ben Ancheta and his team from Inkinen. Ben expressed his thanks to the Board and the Search Subcommittee, noting they were wonderful to work with.	
Closing —Kerrie Urosevich	“Do, or do not. There is no try.” –Master Yoda, <i>Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back</i>	

Submitted by Ashley Miura and Chris Jackson