

Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, September 9, 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: Joseph Campos (for Dir. Betts), Leilani Au, Ben Naki, Matt Shim (for Dir. Char), Stephen Schatz (for President Lassner), Bob Peters (for HAIS Executive Director Bossert), Mari Uehara, Melodie Vega, Erin Henderson-Lacerdo, Cherilyn Shiinoki, Bob Davis (for Interim Superintendent Hayashi), Kerrie Urosevich, Justina Acevedo-Cross, Ka’iulani Laeha
Absent: Wai’ale’ale Sarsona (for Jack Wong)

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

Public in Attendance: Anne Horiuchi, Deborah Zysman, Barbara DeBaryshe, Brandon Lee, Cassia Simms, Deanne Goya, Kaina Bonacorsi, Stephen Teves, Carol Wear, Scott Fuji, Mary Ann Nemoto, Alameda Tainui, Cheri Nakamura, Vivian Eto, Terry Lock, Kim Guieb, Aldric Ulep

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
MINUTES:		
Welcome/Introductions— Bob Peters	Bob began the meeting at 1:32 PM and asked Matt Shim to read the mission statement. Bob then welcomed Ka’iulani Laeha from Aha Punana Leo to the Board as a new voting member, representing Hawaiian language medium organizations. Ka’iulani expressed her gratitude and said that she was honored to serve on the Early Learning Board. Bob announced that there is no need to go into an Executive Session at this meeting as there were no questions raised about the 8.24.21	

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

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	<p>Executive Session minutes that were distributed. He also announced a small change in the order of agenda items—instead of the Director’s Search Subcommittee providing updates first for agenda item V, the Systems Mapping Subcommittee will be providing updates first.</p> <p>Keopu Reelitz, EOEL’s Communications Specialist and moderator of the ELB Zoom meetings, reminded everyone of the Zoom etiquette and chat rules. Bob also added that all votes will need to be conducted by roll call.</p>	
<p>Review and Approve 8/12/21 Minutes, 8/24/21 Special Meeting Minutes, and 8/24/21 Executive Session Minutes—Bob Peters</p>	<p>The 8/12/21 meeting minutes were approved as distributed. (Ben/Cherilyn: Y--9; A—1; N--0)</p> <p>The 8/24/21 special ELB meeting minutes were approved as distributed. (Kerrie/Melodie: Y—9; A—1; N—0)</p> <p>The 8/24/21 special ELB Executive Session meeting minutes were also approved as distributed.</p>	
<p>Public Comment—Bob Peters</p>	<p>No public comments were provided.</p>	
<p>Executive Office on Early Learning Updates—Vaccination PSA; PDG-B5 All State Virtual Convening—Coleen Momohara</p>	<p>Coleen asked Alohi Maiava, EOEL’s Program Specialist in charge of the Preschool Development Grant B-5 (PDG B-5) work, to share updates. Alohi reported that she plans to reach out within the next days to ELB members and Subcommittee members with an invitation to attend the PDG B-5 All-State Virtual Convening scheduled for 10/18/21-10/21/21. The email will include more information on the events of the four days, including a link to more detailed descriptions of the different sessions. There will also be a way to provide feedback, along with signing up for the sessions, regarding which topics people would like more information on in the future.</p> <p>Coleen then asked Keopu Reelitz, EOEL’s Communications Specialist, to share about a vaccination project she has been working on. Due to</p>	

	<p>the increase in pediatric COVID-19 cases, EOEL is working with Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Human Services (DHS) to create public service announcement (PSA) videos addressing the need for adult caregivers to get vaccinated for the sake of young children who are themselves unable to receive the vaccine at this time. Keopu explained that a vendor has already been selected to create the PSA videos, including graphics optimized for social media and email marketing, and that the next steps are to strategize and plan for rolling out the PSA itself, as well as to find partners who would be interested in participating. The PSA should be available for roll out in the first half of November. By the next Board meeting, there will hopefully be a storyboard and scripts available for Board members' feedback.</p> <p>Coleen then answered some questions Board members had pertaining to the written EOEL updates provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bob asked what the criteria are for not approving an EOEL pre-k program application. Coleen replied that the reasons are usually around age or income eligibility, or the family/child does not meet any of the priority categories (e.g., homelessness, English-language learners, special education, etc.).• A question was posed about the correlation between EOEL classroom enrollment and public kindergarten enrollment—the latter of which has dropped by 7%. Coleen responded that she is unsure about the correlation, and that the data would be difficult to compare because there is no classroom cap for public kindergarten, whereas EOEL classrooms are currently capped at 10 students per classroom. The intent for this current school year was that EOEL classrooms would start out with a 10-student limit and then gradually return to a 20-student limit (the pre-pandemic maximum). Based on the current COVID-19 case numbers, Coleen reported that the cap will probably not be raised any time soon, and even if it were, different classrooms	
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	<p>have different community circumstances and it might not be possible to maintain physical distance standards with more than 10 students in the classroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob Davis asked a question about Head Start classrooms closing, to which Ben Naki, Head Start representative on the ELB, provided a response. Coleen explained that EOEL public pre-k classrooms are different from Head Start classrooms, and that the EOEL classrooms are still open and operating in person. 	
<p>Subcommittee Reports— Subcommittee Conveners</p>	<p>Kerrie Urosevich began this agenda item on behalf of the Systems Mapping Subcommittee (SMS) with a presentation on the mapping survey results. She thanked the Board for their responses to the survey, and outlined next steps, including confirming the need for a map, discussing criteria for the map’s “home” and possibilities for the SMS to consider, and creating a draft implementation plan. Barbara DeBaryshe explained that her organization, Center on the Family (COF), has a grant to do a proof of concept related to mapping which she would be happy to make a presentation on to the Board in the future. COF plans to update their map periodically. (Barbara, as well as Alohi and Jordana of EOEL, will be invited to SMS meetings starting next month.) The SMS will consult with the EOEL and others on their ability to “host” the map. Kerrie asked the Board to provide input of any “hosting” possibilities for the map, taking into consideration such things as server and staff capacity.</p> <p>Matt Shim, head of the Director’s Search Subcommittee, provided an update on the EOEL Director Search. He explained that during the special Board meeting held on 8/24/2021, the Board selected one final candidate, and no contingency candidate, to send on to the DOE Superintendent for approval as the new EOEL Director. Although that candidate was approved and was offered the position, the candidate had to decline the position. The Board can hold another special meeting in</p>	<p>Barbara DeBaryshe will share the COF mapping project she has been working on at the next ELB meeting.</p> <p>Board members to ask their constituent groups if they know of other potential hosts for the systems map, as well as who else might be doing mapping projects, and bring this back to the ELB.</p>

	<p>order to select a candidate from the remaining two finalists, or it can start the selection process over again. It was moved and seconded to approve convening another special ELB meeting for Board members to consider and discuss the remaining two candidates for EOEL Director in an Executive Session. The motion passed (Matt/Leilani: Y—8, A—1, N—1). In order to prepare for the possibility that the search process may need to be restarted, Bob asked the Governance Standing Subcommittee (GSS) to meet with the Director’s Search Subcommittee to talk about this potential situation.</p> <p>Matt gave a special “thank you” to Coleen for agreeing to remain as temporary director for now, and Bob encouraged Coleen to reach out to the Board for help with the budget, and with the 2022 Legislative session.</p>	<p>The Board approved convening a special meeting with an executive session to reconsider the remaining two candidates for the EOEL Director position.</p> <p>GSS will convene a joint meeting with the Director Search Subcommittee to discuss potential next steps if the ELB decides to re-start the search.</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>Ben Naki</i> reported that nationally, Head Start (HS) programs will need to be providing comprehensive services in-person and be at full enrollment by January 2022. Currently in Hawaii, HS programs are operating at 60-70% capacity, with EHS at 75% capacity. Ben also mentioned that President Biden revealed his COVID-19 action plan a few days ago which requires HS and Early Head Start (EHS) staff to be vaccinated. Grantees are awaiting guidance from the federal Office of Head Start regarding a timeline and a process for how this policy will be implemented, nationwide. Finally, Ben reported that on October 20-22, the Region IX Head Start Association will be hosting a virtual Family Engagement and Cultural Effectiveness Conference. This three-day event will include a keynote speaker, as well as a performance by Hawaii’s Uncle Wayne and the Howling Dog Band. • <i>Matt Shim</i> reported that the Department of Health (DOH) is a 	

	<p>recipient of a Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) grant, called the Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Grant Program. The grant aims to promote behavioral health integration into pediatric primary care through tele-consultation to diagnose, treat and/or refer 3 to 26-year-olds for behavioral health services. The grant will include training, technical assistance, and care coordination for pediatric primary care providers. DOH intends to hire a program coordinator and an assistant program coordinator. In the meantime, Keiko Nitta is helping to lead the effort until staff are hired. The grant is \$455K/year for five years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cherilyn Shiinoki</i> reported that Family Hui has an upcoming fundraiser, “Hoot for Hui,” and that it is intended to be a fun, virtual event with lots of activities for children. The link to the event can be found at https://www.classy.org/event/2021-hoot-for-hui-5k/e354587. Cherilyn also reported that Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) grantees are in their first year of grant implementation after a year of planning. The projects differ across geographic areas, and the work involved is very exciting. Finally, Family Hui is still providing free virtual family support groups. Cherilyn reported that the support group topics have become “heavier” recently due to family stress from the COVID-19 pandemic. • <i>Joseph Campos</i> reported that the increase in COVID-19 cases being recorded in childcare centers is a concern shared by the Department of Human Services (DHS), and they will be sharing mitigation efforts to halt the spread of the disease at an upcoming meeting with providers on September 10th. At the last ELB meeting, a question was raised as to whether American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds can be provided to families. These funds are intended to support childcare providers who will be able to access funds through stabilization 	
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	grant applications from DHS. Finally, DHS is working with a strategic planning team to think about how funding can be used to build a stronger childcare system.	
Executive Session	No items from the AG.	
Review Agenda Outcomes—Bob Peters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the October ELB meeting, Barbara DeBaryshe will share the mapping project that she has been working on through COF. Board members will also provide information on any other mapping projects with which they are familiar. • The Board approved the convening of a special meeting with an Executive Session to reconsider the remaining two final candidates for the EOEL Director position. • The Governance Standing Subcommittee will convene a joint meeting with the current Director’s Search Subcommittee to discuss potential next steps should ELB decide to re-start the Director search. 	
Announcements	None.	
Closing—Kerrie Urosevich	“Action may not always bring happiness, but there is no happiness without action.” –William James	

Submitted by Ashley Miura and Chris Jackson