House Bill 2013A

Comments by Benton County Commissioner Linda Modrell

AOC Broadly Supports the Vision of House Bill 2013A

The Association of Oregon Counties supports the efforts and vision of HB 2013. AOC has worked closely with the Early Learning Council and the Governor's Office to work towards and orderly transition from the local Commissions on Children and Families to the Early Learning Hubs.

While we appreciate all the effort that has gone into HB 2013A, AOC supports the following statements:

1. We agree with HB 2013 A that a maximum number of early learning Hubs be established.
2. We believe that, during the transition to early learning Hubs, effective community-based services meeting ELC goals for children age 0-6 and their families must continue to be funded.
3. We believe that, to achieve successful statewide roll out of early learning Hubs, all communities need to funds for Hub development and implementation.

Additionally, as written the bill raises a few questions that need to be clarified. AOC looks forward to working with the legislature and being part of the solution.

1. Will there be funding to support the building of local data systems for the data collection, analysis and reporting from data gathered through screening?

   The success of the demonstration projects or hubs will rest on their ability to screen children, collect data from these screenings and then to analyze and report the data. Without fiscal support for hardware, software and staff this work becomes very expensive for local entities.

2. HB 2013 is silent on the relationship between the Early Learning Council and the Youth Development Council. Counties support strong coordination between these two entities.

AOC looks forward to working with legislators to find solutions to these questions. As teammates in statewide transformations we appreciate the leadership and vision of all those involved. If there are any questions regarding assistance or input from the counties, please contact AOC Human Service staff Mark Nystrom.