

CLACKAMAS
EARLY
LEARNING
HUB

March 12, 2015

SB 213: Early Learning Hubs

Senate Human Services and Early Childhood Committee

Michael Anderson-Nathe
Health Share of Oregon

Cassie Archer
Family Care, Inc.

Chair Sara Gelser, Vice Chair Kruse and Members of the Committee,

Rodney Cook
Clackamas Children, Youth
& Families

For the record, I am Rodney Cook, Co-chair of the Clackamas Early Learning Hub. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 213. SB 213 will make the statewide Early Learning Hubs permanent. Our local Clackamas Early Learning Hub has been bringing together leaders in health care, education, social services, early childhood and business to align early learning systems, support thriving families and ensure children are ready to succeed in kindergarten.

Bridget Dazey
Workforce Investment
Council

Milt Dennison
Clackamas Education
Service District

Our county has over 20,000 underserved children. These children are less likely to receive services and supports and more likely to struggle in school as a result. It is our responsibility to close this opportunity gap and give all children the best chances for success.

Donalda Dodson
Oregon Child Development
Coalition

Collectively our Clackamas Early Learning Hub community is holding ourselves accountable for better understanding our families' and children's needs and working together to meet them.

Brenda Durbin
Clackamas Social Services

Our Hub is clearly identifying what success looks like in our community and driving resources and leveraging programs toward those defined goals. If our Hub receives continued support this session, we would continue to implement our strategic plan in order to meet early learning metrics. Examples of the current work that is being conducted through our Clackamas Early Learning Hub includes:

Pat Duke
Libraries in Clackamas
Consortium

Sue Elder
Clackamas County
Children's Commission, Inc.

Family Resource Coordinator Services for At Risk Families which provides referrals and/or direct connections to early childhood programs, medical providers, child care, housing, food, etc. (Early Learning Division Funding)

Dawn Hendricks
Clackamas Community
College

Kindergarten Partnerships and Innovation Initiatives which includes the following activities:

Chris Hoy
Clackamas Community
Corrections

Innovative Engagement, Support and Connections for Isolated Families and Child Care Providers (Early Learning Division Funding) (NW Family Services) –Designed to engage stressed and isolated families in preparing their children for kindergarten and supporting the child's well-being and family stability. A Parent Outreach Specialist works to engage identify, connect and engage isolated families while conducting family engagement activities and referring them to evidenced-based, culturally appropriate parenting education opportunities.

Maurita Johnson
Oregon Department of
Human Services

Supporting Early Engagement and Development of STEM (SEEDS) for Communities of Oregon City and Gladstone (Early Learning Division Funding)(Oregon City School District)-Designed to create authentic and meaningful connections between the early childhood education community, K-3 classrooms, and families with young children, and community members to

foster early science technology, engineering and math learning experiences. Families are seen as having a vital role in their child's education, therefore a primary focus of the project is to engage families in family learning events and parent education opportunities.

Early Childhood/Elementary School PreventNet programs have been established in Sandy (Sandy) and Lot Whitcomb Grade Schools (North Clackamas) to provide kindergarten transition support to families bridging the family support services provided within early childhood (i.e. Ready, Set, Go, Jump Start, etc.) with kindergarten transition. With the additional OPEC grant funding, the families are also provided evidenced based parenting education classes to provide a holistic approach to working with families. (County General Funding)

Early Literacy Outreach Grant which included a Train the Trainer session on "Every Child Ready to Read curriculum with 23 community partner agencies participating (Home Visiting Programs, Public Health and all 10 county-wide libraries; an online "Professional Learning Community" where participants can share resources and provide communication support. Each partnering agency agreed to provide 5 or more parent/adult trainings to meet the goal of reaching 2,500-4,000 families in Clackamas County to improve early literacy for young children and support kindergarten readiness.

Collective participation in these initiatives and others has made a significant impact on leveraging resources for our Early Learning system and reducing duplication of services.

I would urge you to support our work and SB 213.

Thank you on behalf of the children and families whom we serve,

Sincerely,



Rodney A. Cook
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