



Oregon Department of
**Early Learning
and Care**

Tribal Early Learning Plan and Fund

Sonya Moody-Jurado, Co-Chair, Tribal Advisory
Committee

Julie Siestreem, Co-Chair, Tribal Advisory Committee

Alyssa Chatterjee, Early Learning System Director





Tribal Advisory Committee History

- Established by House Bill 2055 in 2021
 - Membership revised via House Bill 4033 in 2022
 - Two representatives from each of the nine federally-recognized Tribes within Oregon's borders
 - 1 non-voting Department of Early Learning and Care representative
 - 1 non-voting Legislative Commission on Indian Services representative
- Charged with advising the Early Learning Council on design of a Tribal Early Learning Hub, including
 - the delivery of early care and education services to the tribal communities of this state in a culturally specific manner
 - rules that prescribe the requirements for accountability and services provided.
- Convening since October 2021



History of State-Offered Early Learning Funding for Tribes

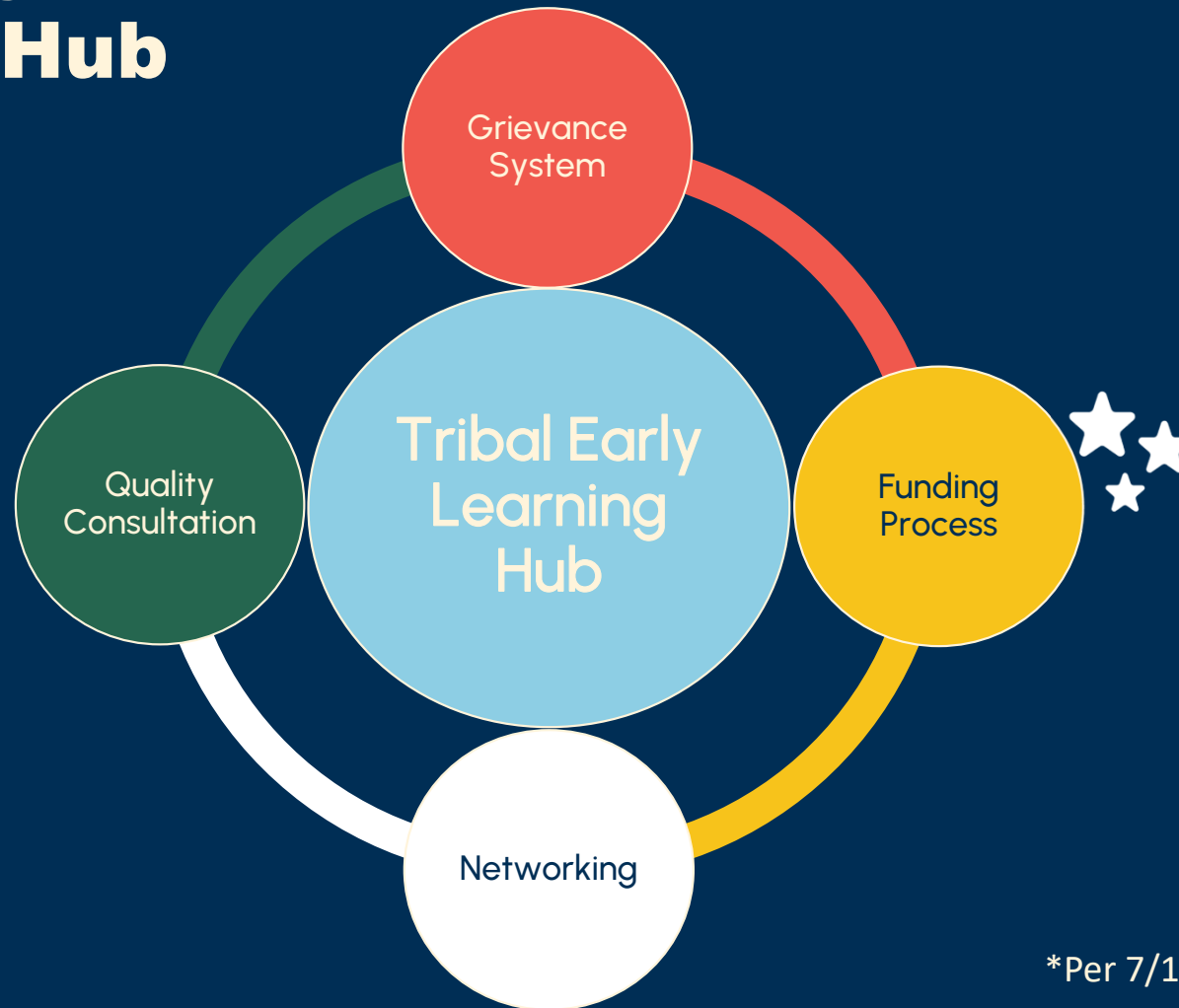
- Original pilot for Preschool Promise limited to Early Learning Hubs
 - Required Tribes to partner with their local Hub or Hubs to access funding
- No dedicated, flexible resource for Tribes to utilize to address early learning goals
- No consistent approach to working with Tribes within the Early Learning Division



Tribal Hub/OTELA Funding

- 2021 – 2023 Biennium: \$1.25 million = \$139k/Tribe
 - \$601k Tribal Hub state funding
 - \$650k Tribal Hub federal funding (one-time grant)
- 2023 – 2025 Biennium: \$629k = \$69k/Tribe
 - Tribal Hub state funding
- Equal distribution of Funds, with broad allowable uses
 - Designing the Tribal Hub
 - Engaging within TAC and other sub-groups created from this work
 - Goal setting and prioritization areas
 - Determining the best organization of the Hub
 - Early Learning & Child Care Resources

Draft* Key Functions of the Tribal Early Learning Hub



*Per 7/13/22 TAC Discussion

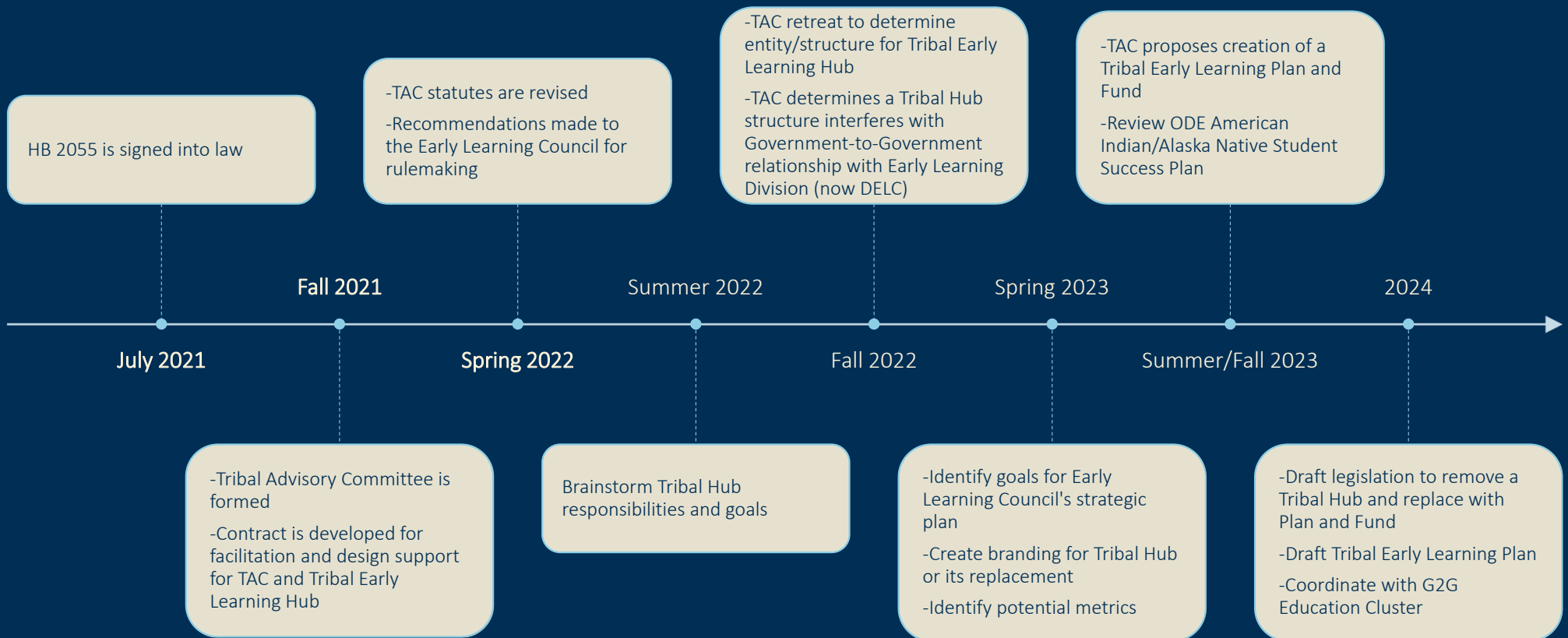


Tribal Hub Implementation Considerations

- Defined in statute as an "entity [...] to coordinate early learning services provided to the tribal communities of this state"
 - Requires the establishment of an entity
 - Could be one Tribe, or a non-profit organization
- At the same time, legislation passed to create the Department of Early Learning and Care, including establishing a Tribal Affairs Office
 - Own procurement structures to be more responsive to Tribal sovereignty (i.e., honoring federal indirect rates)
 - Staffing capacity to provide technical assistance, address grievances, etc.



Tribal Advisory Committee Work





Tribal Advisory Committee Recommendations

- 1 The Tribal Advisory Committee becomes the Oregon Tribal Early Learning Alliance (OTELA).
- 2 Creation of a Tribal Early Learning Hub would be replaced with establishment of a Tribal Early Learning Plan and a Tribal Early Learning Fund, **centering tribal sovereignty and tribal self-determination**, in which allowable uses would include but not be limited to **language and culture** preservation and revitalization, professional development, and staff compensation.
- 3 OTELA would advise DELC and monitor the implementation of the Tribal Early Learning Plan and Fund, with the Tribal Affairs Office contracting out or providing additional support through TA.



DELC Commitments

- Carrying forward the legislation recommended by the TAC
- Recommending investments for the Tribal Early Learning Fund to the Governor
- Developing Tribal set-aside structures for existing funding sources
 - Current opportunities for funding: Birth Through Five Literacy
 - Upcoming opportunities for funding: Preschool Promise
- Identifying resources to respond to Tribal requests
 - Professional development
 - Technical assistance
 - Etc.



Next Steps

- Consultation to affirm approval of Tribal Advisory Committee recommendations for a Tribal Early Learning Plan and Fund in lieu of a Tribal Early Learning Hub
 - Working with the Nine Tribes to secure letters of support
- Requests/recommendations for level of funding for 2025-2027 biennium in a new Tribal Early Learning Fund
 - Funding requests by mid-September (next TAC meeting)
- Recommend Tribal Early Learning Fund investment for Governor's Recommended Budget (released December 1, 2024)
- Review draft Legislative Concept language to establishing Tribal Early Learning Plan and Fund (returned October 2024)



Questions?

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