

W. Q. B. I.

Memorandum Date: June 29, 2005
Order Date: July 13, 2005

TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: Children and Families

PRESENTED BY: Alicia Hays, Department Director

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: ORDER AND RESOLUTION IN THE MATTER OF DESIGNATING UNITED WAY'S SUCCESS BY 6 LEADERSHIP TEAM AS THE "LOCAL COUNCIL" IN ORDER FOR UNITED WAY TO APPLY FOR A DISCRETIONARY GRANT UNDER THE EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES ACT (ELOA) PROGRAM

I. PROPOSED MOTION

MOVE APPROVAL OF THE ORDER AND RESOLUTION IN THE MATTER OF DESIGNATING UNITED WAY'S SUCCESS BY 6 LEADERSHIP TEAM AS THE "LOCAL COUNCIL" IN ORDER FOR UNITED WAY TO APPLY FOR A DISCRETIONARY GRANT UNDER THE EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES ACT (ELOA) PROGRAM

II. ISSUE OR PROBLEM

In order for our community to apply for a FY 2005 Early Learning Opportunities Act (ELOA) grant from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), an "entity of local government" in this case the Lane County Board of County Commissioners, must designate a "Local Council" to act as applicant for the collaborative project.

II. DISCUSSION

A. Background and Analysis

The Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Child Care Bureau has announced the availability of funds and request for applications for its FY 2005 Early Learning Opportunities Act (ELOA) grants. Funds will be awarded to Local Councils that have been designated, as evidenced in a letter of designation, by an

entity of local government, as the Local Council for the purposes of applying for an ELOA grant.

The Child Care Bureau seeks to enhance the quality, availability, and affordability of child care services, support children's healthy growth and development in safe child care environments, enhance parental choice and involvement in their children's care, and facilitate the linkage of child care with other community services

In keeping with one of the ELOA's statutory purposes, "to facilitate the development of community-based systems of collaborative service delivery and resource sharing," a broad community collaborative of early childhood agencies and professionals in Lane County has been working together to develop the grant proposal. Lane County's Early Childhood community of providers has unanimously chosen United Way as the fiscal agent and are proposing their Success By 6 leadership team act as the Local Council, for the purposes of applying for the ELOA discretionary grant. In addition, a request for "Letters of Intent" will be placed in the Register Guard to ensure full community participation in the decision to select United Way and Success By Six as the "Fiscal Agent" and "Local Council" respectively for the grant application. Any responses will be provided to Board by the consideration of this item on July 13th.

The collaborative developing the grant proposal includes: the Commission on Children and Families, Lane Council of Governments and a variety of early childhood programs offering services within the proposed project. The service provider partners include: Headstart of Lane County, Lane Family Connections (the Lane County Childcare Resource and Referral entity), Family Resource Centers, Birth to Three, Catholic Community Services, Pearl Buck Center, the two Relief Nurseries, and ShelterCare.

In general, Local Councils may use ELOA funds to pay for developing, operating, or enhancing voluntary early learning programs that are likely to produce sustained gains in early learning. While still under construction, Lane County's ELOA proposal will focus on the following objectives: enhancing early childhood literacy; increasing access to existing early learning programs by expanding the days or times that the young children are served, by expanding the number of young children served, or by improving the affordability of the programs for low-income families; and, improving the quality of early learning programs through professional development and training activities, increased compensation, and recruitment and retention incentives for early learning providers;

The primary geographic focus currently being considered for the project is eastern Springfield and Cottage Grove, with consultation from Headstart being offered to other rural areas of the County.

According to the RFP, an eligible applicant for an FY 2005 ELOA grant must be a Local Council designated, in writing, by a local government entity as the "Local Council" to serve one or more localities for the purpose of applying for an ELOA discretionary grant. The applicant must include a "Letter of Designation" in its application from an appropriate local government entity specifically designating it as the Local Council for the purpose of applying for an ELOA discretionary grant. The "Letter of Designation" for Lane County's Local Council and its proposal is attached.

Because the structure and authority of local governments differ greatly across the nation, and even within a State, it is the responsibility of the ELOA applicant to determine and identify the appropriate entity of local government to designate them as the Local Council for an ELOA grant application. Examples of officials that may be authorized to sign the Letter of Designation on behalf of the local government entity include but are not limited to: Mayors, city managers, city councils, county boards of supervisors, county boards of commissioners, county administrators, Tribal Councils, boards of municipal officers, etc.

As the scope of the collaborative proposal being developed by our early childhood partners is county-wide, it is clear that that entity locally is the Lane County Board of Commissioners.

In its Request for Proposals, ACF clarifies that in order to receive an award, the membership of the Local Council must be composed of the following:

- a. Representatives of local agencies that will be directly affected by early learning programs assisted under the ELOA and this announcement;
- b. Parents;
- c. Other individuals concerned with early learning issues in the locality, such as representatives of entities providing elementary education, child care resource and referral services, early learning opportunities, child care, and health services; and
- d. Other key community leaders.

Please see attached a list of current Success By 6 Leadership Team members.

The mission of Success By 6 is: "To ensure our children are safe, healthy, cherished, and enter school ready to learn." To this end, United Way of Lane County funds programs and convenes partnerships to bring about the following results all of which fit very well with the focus of ELOA:

- Parenting Education And Support For All Families: Make access to quality parenting education easy and participation the norm.
- Risk Screening And Home Visits For All Births: Skilled visitors to link families to

essential services and support.

- Respite Care, Accessible Therapeutic Preschools And Crisis Nurseries: Build capacity locally on these best-practice interventions for at-risk families.
- A Public Education Campaign: To create healthy community norms on parenting, early childhood wellness and personal responsibility to all our children.
- 24 Hour Access To Parenting And Family Help Response Line: A safe place to call for non-stigmatized, easy access to answers on parenting and family services.
- Research And Evaluation: An outcome-based approach to track and report progress.

According to the RFP, a Local Council may enter into an agreement with an entity that is affected by, or concerned with early learning issues, and that has a demonstrated capacity for administering grants, to serve as Fiscal Agent for the administration of grant funds received by the Local Council under this program. While the Fiscal Agent will be identified as the recipient organization of the funds, the Local Council, if selected to receive a grant, will be the Grantee and responsible for ensuring compliance with all activities and terms of the grant.

The Request For Proposals specifically states that "Local Councils must submit the results of a current needs and resources assessment and a plan, addressing the most significant needs." To that end, the Local Council's grant application subcommittee has analyzed the newly updated (June 2004) Comprehensive, Coordinated Plan for Services to Children and Families in Lane County. High Level Outcomes 3 (Reduce Poverty), 8 (Increase Child Care Availability) and 9 (Improve Readiness to Learn), all include priorities and specific strategies which describe the need in our County and the community's conclusions about viable solutions and are included below.

Excerpts from the 2004 Comprehensive, Coordinated Plan for Services to Children and Families in Lane County:

High Level Outcome 3: Reduce Poverty

Priority B) Reduce the impact of poverty and hunger on children, families, and the community by increasing availability and access to social supports

Strategy B3) Increase access to affordable quality childcare through: a) increased support to childcare resource and referral program for outreach, recruitment and training; b) expansion of Employment Related Daycare through

reduction in co-pay and expanding eligibility level; c) expansion of available childcare options provided outside normal work hours, for special needs children and in rural areas; d) increasing training of child care providers; e) supporting programs which tie increased wages and salary supplements to improved quality services offered by child care providers and early childhood educators.

High Level Outcome 8: Increase Child Care Availability

Priority A) Ensure the availability and accessibility of quality child care.

Strategy A2) Ensure there is an adequate number of child care options to meet family needs, including care that is identified as "hard-to-find", such as care for:

- Infants or toddlers,
- Families whose primary language is not English,
- Children with special needs (including medically fragile), or during
- Non-traditional hours and/or days,
- Out-of-school time for school-age children and youth, or in
- Rural or another identified geographic area

Strategy A3) Ensure that parents who are seeking child care will have timely access to available providers in their geographic area. Services will be offered to culturally and linguistically diverse populations. Referral information will include information such as provider's:

- Name,
- Approximate location (street name),
- Phone number,
- Type of care,
- Regulation status,
- Times/days available, and environmental factors.

Strategy A4) Increase retention of child care providers by advocating and supporting wage incentive and professional development programs.

Priority B) Improve the affordability of child care by increasing resources to help pay for quality child care options.

Strategy B1) Increase family knowledge and/or use of resources to help pay for child care.

Priority C) Educate parents, providers, employers and communities on healthy development, safety and well-being of children in child care.

- Strategy C1) Increase provider knowledge in early childhood care and education that is linguistically and culturally diverse.
- Strategy C2) Increase access to technical assistance, training, wage incentive, professional development and professional membership opportunities for child care providers and programs that are culturally and linguistically diverse.
- Strategy C3) Increase family knowledge of the characteristics of high-quality child care that is linguistically and culturally diverse.
- Strategy C4) Increase family knowledge of child development, positive parenting practices, work-family strategies, and resources for meeting family's needs, including families that are culturally and linguistically diverse.
- Strategy C7) Improve linkages among early childhood care and education programs and professionals, including programs that serve families that are culturally and linguistically diverse.

High Level Outcome 9: Improve Readiness to Learn

Priority A) Ensure that all children have reached levels of physical well-being, language use, social/emotional/motor development, and learning preparedness for successful learning

- Strategy A1) Increase availability and access for children and their families to the following:
 - e) Knowledge for parents and caregivers of developmentally appropriate expectations for the children in their care
 - g) Affordable, accessible and high quality childcare environments

Priority B) Improve the quality, range, accessibility and availability of community services and family supports to prepare children to learn

- Strategy B1) Expand access to and availability of high quality early childhood learning environments throughout Lane County that meet the needs of families
- Strategy B3) Improve access to adequate training opportunities for early childhood teachers/educators and parents/caregivers
- Strategy B4) Enhance parental knowledge and skills through home visiting, parenting classes, and other support activities
- Strategy B5) Strengthen family involvement in educational activities (such as reading) through parent education and support services for all families

The ELOA grant proposal format and United Way's desire to submit a collaborative proposal, was presented to the Lane County Commission on Children and Families' Early Childhood Planning Team and received approval during its June 29th meeting.

B. Alternatives/Options

1. To accept the motion to designate the United Way of Lane County's Success by 6 Leadership Team as the Local Council for the purposes of applying for an ELOA discretionary grant.
2. Not to accept the motion and request staff to provide further information.

C. Recommendation

Option 1: Adopt the Order

D. Timing

Deadline for submission of the ELOA discretionary grant application to ACF is July 15, 2005.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

Upon Board approval and Chair signature on the Board Order and "Letter of Designation", the grant application will be completed and sent to ACF.

V. ATTACHMENTS

Board Order
Letter of Designation
Success By 6 Leadership Team

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER

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WHEREAS, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), requires an "entity of local government" such as the Board of County Commissioners, to designate a "Local Council" to act as applicant for the collaborative project our community in order to apply for a FY 2005 Early Learning Opportunities Act (ELOA) grant from,

WHEREAS, the mission of Success By 6 is: "To ensure our children are safe, healthy, cherished, and enter school ready to learn",

WHEREAS, a community collaborative of early childhood agencies and professionals in Lane County has unanimously chosen United Way as the fiscal agent and are proposing their Success By 6 leadership team act as the "Local Council",

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the Board of County Commissioners designate the United Way's Success By 6 Leadership Team as the eligible Local Council for Lane County for the purposes of applying for a discretionary grant under the Early Learning Opportunities Act (ELOA) program.

APPROVED this _____ day of July, 2005

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Date 7/6/05 Lane County


OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

Chair
BOARD OF LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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July 13, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

Under the authority granted by the Lane County Board of Commissioners, We hereby designate the United Way of Lane County's Success By 6 Leadership Team as the eligible "Local Council" for Lane County for the purposes of applying for a discretionary grant under the Early Learning Opportunities Act (ELOA) program.

We authorize the United Way's Success By 6 Leadership Team and its subcommittees to develop and submit an application to the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Child Care Bureau in response to the ELOA Funding Opportunity Number: HHS-ACF-CCB-ELOA-04-01, and to administer the implementation of the project if funded.

We hereby authorize the United Way of Lane County to serve as the Fiscal Agent on behalf of the Success By 6 Leadership Team and the Fiscal Agent's Employer Identification Number (EIN) is: 93-0394142 and this EIN has been entered in Item 6 on the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424).

As required under the statute governing ELOA, the Success By 6 Leadership Team includes: (1) Representatives of local agencies that will be directly affected by early learning programs assisted under the ELOA and this announcement; (2) parents; (3) other individuals concerned with early learning issues in the locality, such as representatives of entities providing elementary education, child care resource and referral services, early learning opportunities, child care, and health services; and (4) other key community leaders.

The United Way of Lane County Success By 6 Leadership Team was responsible for preparing and submitting the enclosed application for the ELOA discretionary grant program, in close cooperation with other Lane County early childhood partners.

Sincerely,

Anna Morrison, Chair

**Composition of the Local Council/Success By 6 Leadership Team
Lane County Local Council**

Members Name	Title	Role	Agency
John Lively	Co-Chair of Local Council	D	Spectrum Contact Services
Judy Newman	Co-Chair of Local Council	A	ECCARES, Early Childhood Intervention Services
Jan Aho	Program Manager	A	Pearl Buck Center, Inc., serving individuals with disabilities and their children
C.A. Baskerville	Lane County Prevention Coordinator	C	Lane County Health and Human Services
Judy Cunningham	Personnel	A	South Lane School District
Kathy Deacon	Administrator	C	McKenzie-Willamette Hospital
Debbie Farr	Local Elected Official	D	Oregon House of Representatives
Gerry Gaydos	CEO	D	Lane Transit District
Nancy Golden	Superintendent	C	Springfield Schools
Cindy Hamm	Parent	B	
Alicia Hays	Director	A	Lane County Commission on Children and Families
Dr. Todd Huffman	Pediatrician	C and B	Private Practice and parent of young children
Casey Hogan	Vice President	D	Pacific Continental Bank

Jamon Kent	Community Volunteer	D	Lane Council of Governments
Marilyn Klug	Vise President of Business Administration	C	PeaceHealth
Sidney Leiken	Mayor	D	City of Springfield
Kitty Piercy	Mayor	D	City of Eugene
Dan Reece	Administrator	C	PeaceHealth
Rob Rockstroh	Director	C	Lane County Department of Health and Human Services
George Russell	Superintendent	C	Eugene School District 4J
Dana Siebert	Director of Marketing	D	Chambers Communications
Steve Singleton	Pastor	D	Restoration Fellowship
Jim Torrey	Community Leader	D	
Ann Yerkes	Vice President	D	Bank of America

Legend:

A = Representatives of local agencies that will be directly affected by early learning programs assisted under the ELOA and this announcement.

B = Parents.

C = Other individuals concerned with early learning issues in the locality, such as representatives of entities providing elementary education, child care resource and referral services, early learning opportunities, child care, and health services.

D = Other key community leaders.

Note: *Members of Local Councils that are identified with categories other than the four categories above will not be considered as meeting the statutory eligibility requirements for the composition of the Local Council.*