

**South-Central Early Learning Hub  
Lake County Community Governance Council  
Minutes – January 23, 2024**

**Attendees:** Michael Carter (v), Michael Benson (v), Lane Stratton (s), Commissioner James Williams, Miranda Philibert, Jake Greer, Shalom Rorabaugh, Colleen May, Machel Ramirez, Gillian Wesenberg, Heather Freilinger, Vanessa Pingleton, Bailey Guido, Athena Wikstrom, Danielle Walker

**Lakeview School District #7** – Michael Carter -- The Legislative Short Session starts February 5. The concept and definition of developmentally appropriate will be discussed. There will also be discussions about long-term sustainability for summer school programs. Summer school discussions will include early childhood (kindergarten transitions) and K-12 settings.

**Take Root Parenting Connection** – Bailey Guido – Take Root partnered with Lake ESD to distribute Family Engagement Boxes in Warner Valley. Eligible families have a child between the age of 0-18 and live in Warner Valley. If you know anyone interested in receiving the final two Family Engagement Boxes in February and March, reach out to Bailey.  
bailey.guido@douglasesd.k12.or.us.

Take Root partnered with Klamath Housing Authority (KHA) HomePath Program to offer a Financial Fitness workshop in Lakeview last Saturday. Seventeen individuals registered and attended the workshop.

Story Time is being offered at The Center throughout the Winter term. Story Time targets toddler and preschool ages, and all are welcome. A virtual eight-week series, Active Parenting of Teens and Tweens started on January 18, and a Hybrid Circle of Security series kicked off on January 22. Families who attend the Circle of Security series in person receive free childcare and dinner. Both Active Parenting of Teens and Tweens and Circle of Security are open for registration.

**Lake County Public Health** – Miranda Philibert – School Exclusion Day is when parents must turn in current vaccine records for their child to continue attending school or child care. This year, School Exclusion Day is February 21. Lake County Public Health is working with parents to help get children vaccinated or submit a vaccination waiver. If children do not have current vaccinations or a waiver by February 21, they will not be allowed to attend school.

**Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE)** – Michael Benson – EI/ECSE received a contract from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and should begin receiving state funding soon.

Two evaluations are being completed this week, bringing the total number of children served by Lake EI/ECSE to fourteen. Three students are receiving Early Intervention (EI) services for ages birth to two. Eleven students are receiving Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) services for ages three to five. One evaluation starts Friday, and three new referrals are receiving follow-ups this week.

EI/ECSE completed hearing and speech screenings at Honker Preschool. EI/ECSE is also working with Adel Preschool to schedule speech and hearing screenings for their students.

Five students in Lakeview and two students in North Lake are transitioning into kindergarten in the 2024-2025 school year. Transition IEP meetings are being scheduled. Lakeview School District Special Education professionals are visiting Head Start this week to observe high-needs students. The observation visit will help the Special Education staff plan for next school year.

**Klamath Family Head Start, Lakeview Site** – Shalom Rorabaugh – Michael Benson is presenting information about developmental milestones to Head Start parents tonight.

Lakeview Head Start is fully enrolled this school year and does not have a waitlist for their ages 3-5 program. A large portion of Head Start students are transitioning into kindergarten next year. Head Start will be setting up booths at upcoming events to begin recruitment efforts for 2024-2025. Early Head Start for ages 0-3 has a long waitlist.

Lakeview Head Start is fully staffed. There will be some construction around Spring Break that may impact Head Start services slightly.

**South-Central Early Learning Hub** – The South-Central Early Learning Hub Family Advisory Governance Committee has been meeting for a year and a half. Eighteen parents from across the region have joined the Family Advisory Governance Committee. The Hub contracted with Mitten Mommas, a successful group of parent advocates from Michigan, to help guide the committee. Parents played a key role in the Community UPLiFT public service announcement. Last night, they provided input and shared their excitement about the Hub's resource directory.

The Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) is working with the Early Learning Council (ELC) to define the mission of Early Learning Hubs, their backbone organizations and DELIC.

The Early Learning Hub is collaborating with UCAN for the possibility of applying for Family Connects funding.

Colleen - Family Connects is an evidence-based home visiting program available to all families with a newborn baby. New parents are eligible for three home visits from a Registered Nurse. Family Connects Visits do not replace the baby's two-week pediatric visit or postpartum check-ups. Health Departments, Early Learning Hubs, and Tribal Governments are the only organizations that can apply for Family Connect funding. Nurse recruitment and adequate funding are challenges in launching and sustaining Family Connects.

Miranda - Lake County Public Health does not currently have a universal nurse home visiting program, but there was a similar program in the past. Lake County Public Health has discussed nurse home visiting but does not currently have the staff necessary for this program.

*Community UPLiFT* – Community UPLiFT covers Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties. Community UPLiFT helps connect expecting families, or families with children birth to five and up to 21 with special needs, to resources in their community. Danielle is available for Community UPLiFT presentations and can present at one of the upcoming Lake County Community Governance meetings.

*Preschool Promise* – The Hub is excited to work closely with Head Start in aligning enrollment timelines for the 2024-2025 school year. Families are eligible for Preschool Promise if they live in Oregon, their child is 3 or 4 before September 1 of the program year and have a family income of up to 200% Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The Hub has received waivers for families in

Lake County whose income is over 200% FPL. The waiver also covers the Head Start Lakeview Preschool Promise site classroom.

*Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI)* – Jen Shultz is currently representing KPI in Lake County. A KPI Facilitator position is opening soon due to a recent retirement. The position will be open to candidates in Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties.

#### *Legislative Short Session*

Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) – ERDC is a subsidy program that helps working families and students with the cost of childcare. The recent ERDC expansion caused funding shortages and resulted in a waitlist for families to receive ERDC benefits. DELC is requesting \$250 million to cover the funding deficit.

CHIPS Childcare for Construction Workforce – requesting \$5 million to assist Oregon CHIP manufacturers with subsidies to help build construction infrastructure.

Child Care Infrastructure Fund – requesting \$5 million State General Funds to support child care facilities. The funding would better serve licensed home-based providers and small child care centers.

Early Literacy Success – requesting \$10 million for the Birth through Five Literacy Plan. The funding request is in alignment with DELC recommendations.

Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) – requesting \$22 million to support a 5% caseload growth.

Early Learning Educator Scholarship Program – requesting \$2.5 million to support Early Learning Educator Scholarship Program. The funding request is to meet the needs of program expansion.

Stabilization Funding -- Relief Nurseries, Healthy Families Oregon, and Nurse Family Partnership are requesting stabilization funding to sustain operations and grow services.

**Commissioner James Williams** – Commissioner Williams -- the next LCHIP meeting is on February 8.

**Healthy Families** – Machel Ramirez – Healthy Families in Klamath and Lake Counties are accepting referrals. There are four Family Support Specialists in Klamath County and one in Lake County. Vicky Taylor is the Family Support Specialist for Lake County.

**Care Connections & Education / Child Care Resource & Referral (CCRR)** - Heather Freilingner – CCRR assists potential and current child care providers to reach their professional goals. CCRR can provide guidance and support to become licensed through the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS). Once licensed, child care providers can begin receiving subsidy payments from the state. CCRR developed an initiative for new child care businesses to build foundations for success. Providers receive training and coaching from a Quality Improvement Specialist. A new program, Self-paced to Step 7, provides a self-paced plan for professionals to increase their Oregon Registry Step. The plan directs professionals to online training recognized by the Oregon Registry. Self-paced to Step 7 is especially useful to child care directors in training new staff members, who may have little or no experience in child care.

For more information visit <https://www.672care.org/>.

**Take Root Parenting** – Vanessa Pingleton – Take Root is offering a hybrid (in-person and virtual) Screen Strong training on Friday, February 9 and Saturday, February 10. Friday night focuses on parents and children, while Saturday focuses on adults and professionals. Screen Strong provides information about reducing and replacing screen time. The course also provides strategies for mitigating tantrums caused by the reduction and replacement of screen time.

**Home Visiting Systems Coordination (HVSC)** – Vanessa Pingleton – Julie, Vanessa, and Gillian are working on The Ford Family Foundation HVSC Grant Renewal and Action Plan. Vanessa will send a Save the Date for the upcoming Connect and Share. Connect and Share will offer an hour and a half of training about Motivational Interviewing.

Vanessa will be presenting with The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF) and Portland State University (PSU) representatives about HVSC work at a national conference in Washington DC.

**Next Meeting:** February 27, at 1:00 pm.