

**South-Central Early Learning Hub
Lake County Community Governance Council
Minutes – January 24, 2023**

Attendees: Lane Stratton (s), Michael Benson (v), Heather Freiling, Machel Ramirez, Gillian Wesenberg, Cynthia Hurkes, Vanessa Pingleton, Athena Wikstrom, Danielle Walker, Bailey Guido

Please note: The Lake County Community Governance Council meeting was held virtually due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) concerns.

South-Central Early Learning Hub Update - Gillian shared the South-Central Early Learning Hub (SCELH) is continuing the work on the Regional Assessment. The Hub will be receiving a toolkit from the Early Learning Division (ELD) to assist with the update of Raise Up Oregon (RUO), RUO 2.0. Hubs have been directed to facilitate meetings with families and the Early Learning Division selected our regional sector partner of the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS). The decision highlights the great relationship between the Hub and ODHS in Douglas and Klamath/Lake Counties.

The Hub is also continuing Coordinated Enrollment for Preschool Promise programs across the region, including Honker Preschool at Lakeview School District #7. Enrollment for the site is going well and only has two openings remaining. The Klamath Family Head Start – Lakeview Site Preschool Promise classroom is fully enrolled. Head Start programs contract directly with the ELD to complete their own Preschool Promise enrollment.

Gillian also provided an update about the current Legislative session and bills that relate to early learning.

https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/listbills/CurrentSessionBills.html

House Bill (HB) 2227 - Requires Department of Early Learning and Care to study adequacy of availability of child care in state.

HB 2228 - Requires Department of Early Learning and Care to study adequacy of early learning in state.

HB 2229 - Requires Department of Early Learning and Care to study adequacy of early childhood education in state.

HB 2230 - Requires Department of Education to conduct study to determine how to address workforce shortage in education.

HB 2231 - Requires Department of Education to conduct study to determine how to address educator workforce shortage.

HB 2232 - Requires Department of Education to conduct study to determine how to use educator apprenticeships to address educator workforce shortage.

BH 2726 - Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Early Learning Division of Department of Education to distribute to specified Early Learning Hub to administer pilot program to coordinate services and other resources provided to low-income pregnant individuals and families with children under five years of age by local and state agencies, human services providers, early learning services providers, health care providers and other community organizations in Jackson and Josephine Counties.

Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) Update - Bailey advised there have been three meetings for the implementation of Conscious Discipline for Families. There are two additional meetings for Conscious Discipline on February 8, and March 8.

The current plan in Lake County is to provide Honker Preschool with online subscriptions for Conscious Discipline. Once the training is completed, KPI will provide incentives, which include a parent education pack, Conscious Discipline materials for the classroom, and additional Conscious Discipline training.

KPI has collaborated with the Wellness Center for them to teach Conscious Discipline skills within their current parenting series. The Wellness Center agreed to incorporate Conscious Discipline into their parenting series the next time they teach it. The Wellness Center gives an incentive to every parent who takes their class. KPI also provided the Wellness Center with online trainings for Conscious Discipline. Once the training is completed by staff, they will also receive a small gift.

If you are interested in partnering with KPI in the implementation of Conscious Discipline for families, contact Bailey at bailey.guido@douglasesd.k12.or.us.

KPI has additional online Conscious Discipline subscriptions remaining. The training consists of ten videos that can be viewed at your own pace. If you would like one of the subscriptions, reach out to Cynthia at Cynthia.hurkes@douglasesd.k12.or.us.

The upcoming Early Learning Gathering will be hosted online on February 21, 2023 from 6:30pm-8:00pm. The gathering topic will revolve around how positive connections with families help students grow and learn.

Early Learning Gatherings are:

- A gathering for Early Care and Education providers and educators up to 3rd grade, who learn from each other.
- The gatherings are driven by audience and surveys. Feedback is examined by the Planning Committee and gatherings are tailored to the audience and their learning needs.
- Early Learning Gatherings are held virtually so that everyone across the region can attend and learn together.

The committee is looking for Lake and Klamath County individuals to join the Early Learning Gathering Planning Committee. Please let Bailey know if you are interested in joining.

Community UPLiFT – Danielle provided an overview of Community UPLiFT, and Vanessa shared that regionally, there have been 1,052 referrals to Community UPLiFT since Monday, January 23, 2023. Community UPLiFT will be meeting with Healthy Families to discuss referring families who do not qualify for Healthy Families services to Community UPLiFT.

Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) – Mike shared that two children exited the EI/ECSE program due to a loss of contact with the family. However, two new children were qualified for services. EI/ECSE is currently working with 14 children.

There have been referrals coming into EI/ECSE for micro-preemie babies, which is a new challenge for the program. There are multiple high-needs students in several different classrooms in Lake County. Three children at Head Start need full-time assistance for most, if not the entire day.

EI/ECSE staff are covering for an open position after a full-time employee chose not to return to work after being on leave.

Vanessa asked if there was a plan to bring back Babies' First and CaCoon to Lake County Public Health? A home visiting nurse for Babies First and CaCoon would potentially lighten the work-load of the EI/ECSE staff. Vanessa advised she sits on the state advisory committee for Babies' First and CaCoon and has shared many times that Lake County does not have a home visiting nurse.

Bailey shared that she has been in conversation with Public Health who is likely moving locations. Public Health hopes to be able to expand services. Lake County Public Health is also hiring for an open position in North Lake so the office can re-open.

Lake County Education Service District (ESD) – Per Lane, the ESD is trying to work with the local hospital for funding to support mental health. The ESD is currently working on budget process and hiring staff.

Healthy Families – Machel reported referrals in both Klamath and Lake Counties have gone up. Healthy Families will have a waitlist in Lake County soon. There are three new families in Christmas Valley who will be receiving Healthy Families services. The Lakeview staff person, Vicky, will be traveling to Christmas Valley on Wednesdays and Thursdays to serve these families. With travel and service to families, these will be 12-hour work days. Vicki will be moving into a new office on the first floor around February 1, 2023.

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) - Heather advised CCRR is currently waiting for a grant amendment to hire two additional Preschool Promise coaches. CCRR provides technical assistance for Preschool Promise across the region.

CCRR completed their Conscious Discipline series and is in the process of sending out the final incentives to attendees. There were 100 openings for the Conscious Discipline cohort, and attendance was in the 80's and 90's for each training.

CCRR is getting ready for two conferences, one in Klamath County and one in Douglas County. CCRR will provide support for early learning providers in Lake County who would like to attend.

There are currently two people in Lake County who are trying to open family childcares. One additional provider received an expansion grant. Then, the provider was offered and accepted a job and will not be offering child care.

Take Root - Take Root just came out with the winter schedule for Jan-Mar 2023. Offerings include three Ready! for Kindergarten series; one for children ages 2-3, one for children ages 3-4, and one for children ages 4-5. Take Root is also offering a Co-Parenting for Life workshops, an Advice for Pre-Teen Parenting workshop, a Parenting a Second Time Around (PASTA) series, and a one-time workshop titled The Help that Helps. All upcoming events are still open.

Community Baby Shower – Community partners have been working with the Lake County Library to re-start the Community Baby Showers. If you would like to be invited to the planning process or would like to be a provider at the Community Baby Showers, let Bailey know.

Community Baby Showers are being planned in four different locations. There will be one drop-in Baby Shower in Lakeview, one drop-in Baby Shower in Christmas Valley, and the group will be sending gift baskets for parents in Adel/Plush, and Paisley areas. The goal is to reach all expecting parents and families with children up to one-year-old.

Next Meeting: February 21, 2023 at 1:00 pm.

This meeting was previously scheduled on February 28, 2023 but was moved to February 21, 2023.