

KLAMATH PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

January 24, 2024 | 10:00 AM – Noon

Attendance

Dena Haudenschild	Kathleen Walker-Henderson	Christy Hamilton
Mary Ruiz	Lalo Barraza	Melissa Dorsey
Kristin Doveri	Yecenia Rodriguez	Gillian Wesenberg
Valeria Menke	Maurita Johnson	Athena Wikstrom
Niesha Driver	Crystal Lemus	Rhonda Osborn
Joseph Maurer	David Lev	Danielle Walker
Laura Barajas	Julie Sheasby	

Please note: For ease of member access, South-Central Early Learning Hub – Klamath Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings will be held virtually unless otherwise notified.

Welcome and Introduction

The Klamath PAC reviewed and approved the November minutes. Kathleen Walker-Henderson made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Joseph Maurer seconded the motion. No further discussion.

South Central Early Learning Hub

Gillian Wesenberg – The Hub is working closely with Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC) and Klamath Family Head Start (KFHS) to align Preschool Promise enrollment with other publicly funded preschool programs. Preschool Promise received a two-year grant for the first time, enabling the Hub to begin the enrollment process earlier. In Douglas County, Head Start Enrollment begins on February 1. In Klamath County, OCDC and KFHS Enrollment begins in March or April.

The Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) and Early Learning Council (ELC) are working with BUILD to define what Early Learning Hubs are, and the role of backbone organizations. Hubs are part of a statewide Hub Association, which makes it easier for Hubs to work collectively and advocate legislatively. During the short legislative session, the state will be advocating for

- 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. The Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) 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.
- Childcare Infrastructure Fund – requesting \$5 million State General Funds to support childcare facilities. The funding would better serve licensed home-based providers and small childcare centers, as the lottery funds process doesn't help them.
- Early Literacy Success – requesting \$10 million for the Birth through Five Literacy Plan. The funding request is in alignment with DELIC 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.

Community UPLIFT - Since the beginning of January, Community UPLIFT has received a total of 16 referrals. Nine in Douglas County, and seven in Klamath County. Last quarter, October – December 2023, Community UPLIFT received a total of 59 referrals with 31 in Douglas County, 27 in Klamath County, and 1 in Lake County.

If you are interested in a presentation about Community UPLIFT, contact Danielle Walker at Danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us or by phone at (541) 880-4655.

Community UPLIFT public service announcement videos are available online at:

Spanish subtitles: <https://vimeo.com/835904539/347a52dd74>

English subtitles: <https://vimeo.com/834421711/b5121a718b>

South-Central Early Learning Hub Resource Directory – The South-Central Early Learning Hub is working on updating the Klamath/Lake County Resource Directory. The Hub would appreciate organizations reviewing the directory and sharing information about missing programs or necessary revisions. The Resource Directory can be found online at <https://douglasesd.k12.or.us/hub-parent-resources/>. For updates to the resource directory, please contact Danielle Walker at Danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us.

Family Advisory Governance Committee – The Family Governance Advisory Committee provides family voice to the South-Central Early Learning Hub’s Regional Governance Council. The Family Governance Advisory Committee is a group of 18 parents from across the region who have been meeting for the past year and a half. The Hub contracted with Mitten Mommas, a parent leadership consultation group out of Michigan, to help lead the group. The Family Advisory Governance Committee played a key role in developing the Community UPLIFT Public Service Announcement and has provided input on the Hub’s Resource Directories.

McKinney-Vento Presentation

Kirstin Doveri, McKenney-Vento Liaison for the Klamath Falls City Schools (KFCS), and Valeria Menke and Niesha Driver, McKenney Vento Liaisons for the Klamath County School District (KCSD), joined the Klamath Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting to present about McKinney-Vento services in Klamath County.

Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, children may qualify for services if they lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This definition could include children whose families are doubled-up, unsheltered, living in a hotel or motel, living in a shelter, or who are in a transitional living program.

The top five causes of displacement include housing shortages, economic disparities, natural disasters, family dynamics (including abuse), and health challenges. Families with HUD housing vouchers report experiencing a difficult time accessing available rental properties. Natural disasters, like recent fires, have caused family displacements.

McKinney-Vento liaisons can assist families by helping remove barriers to an equitable education. Liaisons can help with immediate school enrollment for students. Liaisons help arrange transportation to and from school ensuring students stay in the same school they attended before displacement. McKinney-Vento liaisons help connect families and unaccompanied minors to social service organizations and can provide some personal hygiene supplies.

In addition to serving K-12 students, McKinney Vento liaisons are tasked with assisting families with preschool-aged children.

Members of the Klamath PAC discussed ways their programs are assisting families experiencing homelessness, and ways they can share information with families about McKinney-Vento services.

Equity Lens

The Klamath Professional Advisory Committee discussed how they are using the Equity Lens in their programs to make decisions based on diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. The goal of the Equity Lens is to advance equitable outcomes for children and families in the South-Central Early Learning Hub region with the overarching goals of getting on the same page and surfacing assumptions; involving stakeholders and engaging multiple perspectives; assessing equity impact; and taking action for equity.

The Hub's Priority Populations, based on SCELH Early Learning Sector Plan data are: children/families living in areas of geographic isolation including those experiencing poverty; children who are experiencing displacement, including families experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and children in kinship care; children from African American/Black, Asian, Hispanic/Latinx populations, including native Spanish-speakers; children from Native American/Tribal families; children who are experiencing physical or developmental disabilities or delays, including mental health concerns, and/or trauma; and, infants and children ages 0-3.

Partner Updates

Sky Lakes Medical Center – Danielle Walker – Sky Lakes Living Well Health Fair will be on March 2, 2024, at the Klamath County Fairgrounds.

Klamath County Community Baby Shower – Danielle Walker – The Klamath County Community Baby Shower is tentatively scheduled for October 5, 2024, from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Klamath County Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds building where the event will be held is not yet determined.

Next Meeting:

February 28, 2024, from 10 am to noon.