

January 25, 2022 | 10:00 AM – Noon

Attendance

Dena Haudenschild	Gillian Wesenberg	Sanora Hoggarth
Heather Freiling	Jennifer Jackson	Vanessa Pingleton
Kathleen Walker-Henderson	Jeri Lang	Sylvia Cox
Pam Glaser	Jessie DuBose	Bethany Holmes
Alana Strickland	Julie Matthews	Charlene Shaw
Alexis Mann	Kay Ortega	Athena Wikstrom
Cynthia Hurkes	Monica Shaw	Danielle Walker
Gigi Zendejas	Rhonda Janecke	

Please note: The Klamath Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held virtually due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) concerns.

Welcome and Introduction

The PAC reviewed and approved the November minutes. Rhonda Janecke made a motion to approve minutes as submitted. Sylvia Cox seconded the motion. No further discussion.

South-Central ELH Update

Gillian shared the South-Central Early Learning Hub (SCELH) is continuing work on the Regional Assessment. Also, the Hub will be receiving a toolkit from the Early Learning Division (ELD) to assist with the state update of Raise Up Oregon (RUO), RUO 2.0. Hubs have been directed to facilitate meetings with families and ELD also selected sector partners for each Hub region. The SCELH region will work with Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) for focus groups. This 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. Little Learners, Nic Nacs Quality Childcare, and The YMCA of Klamath Falls have openings for additional children. Families can complete applications online at <https://Southcentralhubenrollment.com>, and also view Preschool Promise site videos at <https://douglasesd.k12.or.us/preschool-promise-providers/>.

The Hub partnered with Klamath Family Head Start (KFHS) and their ERSEA team to learn about the Head Start qualification and enrollment process; the Hub continues to refer to Head Start and vice versa. Sylvia shared KFHS will provide waitlisted families with information about Preschool Promise availability.

Danielle talked about how Community UPLIFT connects expecting families, families with children 0-5 or up to 21 with special needs, to resources in Klamath County. And, when a referral is received, a Family Resource Facilitator contacts the family, and personally goes through an interview process to get to know a family before offering referrals to programs they may be interested in. Community UPLIFT is a closed-loop referral system, meaning that the Family Resource Facilitator reaches back out to the referring agency to report about the referral.

Vanessa added that referring agencies can now go into the data portal to have access to their referrals so they can see where a family is in the Community UPLIFT process. All referrals Community UPLIFT receives or sends to partner agencies are HIPPA and FERPA compliant. As of Monday, January 23, Community UPLIFT has received 1,052 referrals since piloting it in 2017. Last quarter, Community UPLIFT received 62 referrals, 29 of those referrals were for Klamath County.

Kathleen attended the vaccine clinic yesterday and was pleased to find out that Klamath County Public Health: Immunization Services has been added to provider referrals for Community UPLIFT.

Recently, the Hub sent out an email request for information about access to immunizations in rural communities. The Oregon Pediatric Society is working with the legislature to clarify the needs for immunizations in rural communities. Gillian thanks everyone for their quick responses to the request. If you have any additional thoughts about access to immunizations in rural communities, email Danielle at Danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us and the Hub will share those thoughts with the Oregon Pediatric Society.

Legislative Discussion

Gillian also provided an update about the current Legislative session and bills that relate to early learning. Description of House Bills can be found online at 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.

HB 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.

Sylvia advised that Head Start programs are also looking at HB 3005 - Directs Housing and Community Services Department to provide financial assistance to eligible applicants to pay for allowable costs related to early child care infrastructure activities. She also shared that Children's Institute received an invitation to testify in a legislative hearing. This hearing can be viewed on the legislative website <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/mediaplayer?clientID=4879615486&eventID=2023011122>.

Jessie DuBose provided an additional bill, HB 2710, that relates to education, and requires school districts to file with the Superintendent of Public Instruction information about allocations and expenditures of moneys received from the State School Fund. This fund is \$9.3 and does not currently require reporting about allocations and expenditures.

Monica Shaw with Oregon Childhood Development Coalition (OCDC) shared they are trying to secure funding for additional facilities in Klamath County. OCDC is partnering with Klamath Community College (KCC) for a new childcare facility to provide childcare on campus. OCDC and KCC are continuing to seek funding to build on a lot that was gifted to KCC by the County Commissioners. When a blank space is received, it still needs to be renovated to meet childcare requirements.

OCDC is currently leasing a building on KCC's campus but the space had to be re-zoned for childcare, which is costly and takes a lot of time. This location will begin serving children on campus as soon as the building is re-zoned.

Kathleen attended the KCC Board meeting where it was reported that \$1.5 million from the state, and \$5 million from the county's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding have been secured for the building that will house OCDC on KCC's campus. KCC will be asking for extra funding as building costs have gone up; the college predicts the building could need an additional \$5 million to complete the project. KCC is planning to ask for another \$1 million from the Higher Education Commission (HEC). The building being built will have child care, and will also house other college programs as well.

OCDC is looking at migrant and seasonal programming. In recent years, migrant programs seem to have fewer children enrolled, potentially due to wage increases or families moving on to other types of work.

Sylvia shared the Head Start state meeting is next week. Enrollment Manager, Jordan, additional staff members, and three families from Klamath Family Head Start will be visiting the Capita land have arranged meetings with two legislative representatives.

Echoing Monica, Sylvia advised facilities are a big need for child care programs. There are waitlists for both Early Head Start and Head Start programs. Head Start is advocating for funding for facilities and workforce. Klamath Family Head Start has been lucky and all classrooms are open and operating; Sylvia has heard that there are Head Start programs across the state who haven't been able to open due to lack of staffing.

Gillian advised that UCAN Head Start in Douglas County was awarded a Preschool Promise class in Glide and haven't been able to open yet because they are unable to find a teacher.

Joseph Maurer with A Family Gathering Place Relief Nursery was unable to attend today's meeting but provided a document from the Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries that was shared during the meeting. See attached.

Klamath KID Center recently presented to the Klamath County Commissioners asking for \$300k for their expansion project, and was awarded \$150k. The funding will be used to purchase the old Friends of the Children building next door and renovate it for child care services.

Yecenia provided an overview of the Family Advocacy and Support Network (FASN)/Central Oregon Disability Support Network (CODSN) Legislative funding request. Family support networks are requesting funding for \$1.5 million per biennium.

- Family networks serve 20 Oregon counties, which represent 6% of the state's population.
- Family networks reach and connect with more than 13,500 families experiencing disabilities, many of whom have barriers accessing the formal developmental disability service system.
- Family networks partner with more than 5,250 organizations and non-profits to make Oregon communities welcoming to all people.
- Disability intersects with all other historically underrepresented families and the rates of disability in children continues to increase for families in all demographics.
- The increased funding amount would allow each of the regional family networks to offer support to hundreds of additional families.
- Family networks help families plan for a positive future for their children and provide many peer-delivered services in their communities including:
 - Information and referrals
 - Family support
 - Community training and awareness
 - Advocacy
 - Parent training and opportunities
 - Leadership training
 - More

Klamath County SD Integrated Guidance (IG) Funding Community Input

Please email Jessie jessie_dubose@soesd.k12.or.us your thoughts on the following questions:

- In what ways does the SCELH feel well served by the Klamath County School District?
- Are you aware of changes in community school(s) as a result of SIA funding or Integrated Initiatives (more SEL resources, elementary specials/small groups, more CTE/STEM classes, better health and safety in district facilities)?
- Does SCELH support the continued funding and implementation of these SIA/Integrated initiatives? Why or why not?
- Are there other areas the district should focus resources on that are a higher priority? If so, what are they and why are they of greater concern?
- Do you feel SCELH has a voice in district policies and procedures in regard to their community school and their children's school experience?
 - If not or unsure, how could the district do better in hearing their voice?
- What is one thing this SCELH wants the superintendent to know about their community schools?

Klamath Promise – Early Learning Metric

Jessie DuBose - About a year ago, the Klamath Promise worked on Strategic Planning to clarify their work and establish tracking metrics. Klamath Promise is a cradle to career organization. The Welcome to our Klamath Promise 2-pager can be found at: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-GVo73vzDcf7-1KlrVGRkNzGne7H5uTdYvWNNMf1SiT0/edit?usp=sharing>. Klamath Promise also has a larger, 4-page strategic plan, which includes tracking measurements. The initiative wants to track an early learning metric and originally chose the Kindergarten Assessment. The Kindergarten Assessment is going through many changes and may not be the best early learning measure to track. Jessie suggested tracking the 3rd Grade English Language Arts (ELA) Proficiency Rate. This data would be constant, local, readily available, and is reported to the state.

Dena - the 3rd Grade ELA test measures the same thing across the county in all of the elementary schools; this would be an "apples-to-apples" comparison. Early learning programs do not use a standardized testing, and often use different curriculum with different data collection processes. The 3rd Grade ELA test is administered in a controlled environment. If there is any breach in the way the test is administered, it must be reported to the state.

Athena – while completing the Early Care and Education Sector Planning, the Hub has gone through a lot of state and county-wide data. Trying to find population data for children is difficult. A lot of data for children ages birth to five is not collected. Even if data is collected, the majority is suppressed to protect the confidentiality of families who might be identifiable in smaller communities. The 3rd Grade Assessment, based on what is available and not suppressed, would likely be a good tracking measurement for Klamath Promise.

Would the Klamath PAC be comfortable with the Klamath Promise tracking the state-wide Reading Proficiency level, and Klamath Promise will annually review this with the Klamath Professional Advisory Committee, to look for data that better tracks ages birth to five?

Head Start and OCDC send Program Information Reports (PIR) to the state at the end of the year. Head Start also reports Child Plus data that tracks a child's progress throughout the year. Between Head Start and OCDC, PIR reports could be helpful.

Early Learning reports are submitted through isolated programs. It is possible that as more investments are made in early learning, the state will start compiling data and issuing reports similar to K-12 Report Cards.

Preschool Promise also submits data to the state, but it is not currently publicly accessible. The number of children accessing publicly funded programs is a relatively small percentage of the entire child population.

The Klamath County School District (KCSd) Student Investment Account (SIA) annual report for 2021-2022, which includes ELA information can be found at https://www.kcsd.k12.or.us/district/public_reports_plans/SIA_Annual_Report_22.pdf.

Klamath Promise will start by tracking 3rd Grade ELA and review annually to see if there is a better metric to track for early learning.

Community Resources and Partner Updates

South-Central Early Learning Hub – The Hub hosted the second Family Governance Council Advisory Committee meeting in January. The committee has regional representation as well as representation from rural areas in Klamath County. The next meeting will be in April.

Klamath Family Head Start (KFHS) – Klamath Family Head Start is waiting for classrooms to be completed for expansion. Once completed, the facility in Bonanza will have eight Early Head Start slots for children zero to three-years-old. The teachers are currently providing home visits with the families in Bonanza until the classroom is ready. The Town and Country site will be opening additional classrooms; the permit process has been lengthy because some other larger projects are getting more attention. KFHS is hoping to be open the Town and County classrooms in the Spring.

Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC) – The OCDC resource fairs and vaccination clinics will be ending with two final events on Feb 21, 2023 and March 14, 2023 at KCC Bldg. 4. The resource fair runs from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm vaccine clinic runs 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. At the January 24 clinic, 11 of 35 people who received vaccinations were children. Three children were from Jackson County and came to Klamath Falls because their parent could not get them vaccinated in his area.

Email Kay Ortega if you want to host a booth at the event. Kay is working on tentative dates to host one additional resource fair/vaccine clinic in Malin.

Klamath Promise – Save the Date: June 1 Graduation Sensation Parade and Party in the Park! 12 noon, downtown! ACES Overview for your organization: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYzqftD1kfsSup-ERsbhUM0n6-eRfyX3wQn_K2qvg0JMeDjQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) – Heather provided information on the child care start-up / expansion grant. Twenty-one providers applied for initial funding across the region. Klamath Falls received three invitations for Spanish-speaking providers to move ahead in the process. CCRR will be supporting them with their plans. Four providers moved forward in Douglas County, and one provider received an invitation in Lake County, who unfortunately declined the offer because they accepted a job offer.

PSU classes and webinars are being offered across the region. Classes are offered with a small fee for college credit, but are otherwise free of charge for Set Two or Set Three (depending on the webinar) training credit in Oregon Registry Online (ORO). The next upcoming class will be held on March 11th from 9:00 am – 3:30 pm: Foundations of Sensory Processing and the Nuts and Bolts of Sensory Programming.

Care Connections & Education upcoming trainings can be found online at:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/3f549a50701/5e376e28-3ec4-4476-8ac4-6e54b6773d09.pdf?rdr=true>

Alexis Mann runs a cohort of 20-25 providers. CCRR assists getting providers ready for Professional Development by helping them get set up on Oregon Registry Online (ORO), and the Portland State University (PSU) website. If funding is available, CCRR may be able to help students pay for classes which will lead towards their ECE degree, as long as the individual earns a grade of C or better. To join the ECE Cohort, contact Alexis Mann (KCC Navigator) by email at alexis.mann@douglasesd.k12.or.us or by phone at (971) 380-5144.

A Family Gathering Place Relief Nursery – Charlene shared that one preschool class is filled and A Family Gathering Place is working on filling another preschool class.

Take Root Parenting Connections – Sanora advised the Winter Term is in full-swing. There is a Co-Parenting series and the Parenting a Second Time Around (PASTA) series will be starting soon. Take Root is currently planning for the Spring Term.

Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) – Working on the Conscious Discipline for Families initiative; currently working with Safe Families for Children and A Family Gathering Place to offer Conscious Discipline series and opportunities. Working on the distribution plan for the Teach My Toddler. The Early Learning Gathering will be meeting February 21, 2023. If you would like any additional information about Conscious Discipline or the Early Learning Gathering, contact Sanora at Sanora.hoggarth@douglasesd.k12.or.us.

Next Meeting:

February 22, 2023 from 10 am to noon.