

KLAMATH PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

January 26, 2022 | 10:00 AM – Noon

Attendance

Rhonda Janecke	Amy Quayle	Jessie DuBose
David Lev	Alana Strickland	Kendra Santiago
Dena Haudenschild	Joseph Maurer	Jane Nicholson
Vanessa Pingleton	Athena Wikstrom	Charlene Shaw
Cynthia Hurkes	Stacia Clark	Denise Martinez
Connie Rosas	Filicia Poteet	Heather Freilinger
Gillian Wesenberg	Melissa Dorsey	Julie Bettles
Sylvia Cox	Jordan Falconio	Jana DeGarmo
Kathleen Walker-Henderson	Roberta Wilson	Danielle Walker

Please note: The Klamath Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held virtually due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) concerns and guidance on public meetings from the Governor.

Welcome and Introduction

Members introduced themselves in the meeting chat. The PAC reviewed and approved the November 2021 minutes. Kathleen Walker-Henderson made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, Sylvia Cox seconded the motion. No further discussion.

COVID Check-in

The group checked-in on their individual program statuses relating to COVID-19. Programs reported they are short-staffed due to illness and quarantine. Dena shared that out of 86 school days, Klamath Early Childhood Development Center, has only been fully staffed for approximately 11% of the year. Multiple programs reported staff are keeping programs running by filling in where needed. Sylvia Cox shared that Klamath Family Head Start (KFHS) has had rolling closures but KFHS facilities have remained open. Kathleen Walker-Henderson stated Klamath Community College (KCC) has had some reported exposures but have not disturbed classes. Melissa Dorsey advised that WIC participants continue to receive an increased fruit/vegetable benefit and most services are still being offered over the phone.

South-Central Early Learning Hub Updates

Gillian reminded the Klamath PAC how the South-Central Early Learning Hub is a collective of our community partners working together towards the goals of Raise Up Oregon. 1) Children arrive ready for kindergarten, 2) children are raised in healthy, stable and attached families, and 3) the early learning system is aligned, coordinated, and family centered.

Hub staff are working with the members of the Early Learning Division (ELD) to complete the Hub Strategic Plan and Workplan, both due in March. The state is requesting outcome measurements pertaining to priority populations listed in the Hub's Early Care and Education (ECE) Sector Plan:

- Children/families living in areas of geographic isolation including experiencing poverty.
- Children who are experiencing displacement: families experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and children in kinship care.
- Children from African American / Black, Asian, Hispanic / Latinx families, including native Spanish speakers. Children from Native American/Tribal Families.
- Children who are experiencing physical or developmental disabilities or delays, including those with mental health concerns and/or trauma. Infants and Children aged 0-3.

Hub Manager, Denise Swanson, will be leaving the Early Learning Division (ELD) and taking a position as the Deputy Administrator for Health and Human Services in Clackamas County.

Oregon is in a legislative session. Statewide, early childhood systems and programs such as Relief Nurseries and Healthy Families are advocating for equity and parity in pay.

The transition from the Early Learning Division (ELD) to the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) was scheduled for January 2023 but will likely be delayed until June 2023 to align with the fiscal year.

The state is working with Oregon tribes to develop a Tribal Early Learning Hub. Julie Bettles with The Klamath Tribes shared this is a great opportunity for tribes and communities to increase their voice in the legislature as well as increase equitable access to early childhood programming. The Klamath Tribes have identified one member (and are identifying a second member) to serve on the Tribal Hub. Jana DeGarmo is the Interim Director for The Klamath Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC). The new bill for Tribal Early Learning Hubs is House Bill 4033:

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2022R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4033/Introduced>.

Heather Freilinger advised the child care sprinkler law, which requires new child care providers to install sprinkler systems, is being reviewed. The intent of the ordinance is to protect children, but is a barrier for child care providers, especially new in-home providers.

Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) Planning Priorities

Cynthia Hurkes reviewed the November meeting discussion regarding the regional KPI investment funds. Funding investment must meet the goals of the Hubs and Raise Up Oregon (RUO) as well as align with the priority populations listed in the Early Care and Education (ECE) Sector Plan. The Regional Governance Council (RGC) met and made decisions about the process.

Dena and Rhonda shared reflections from the RGC meeting. RGC members decided to expend funding as a region. The region will focus on one overarching goal; each county will have the ability to use different strategies to reach that goal. The overarching goal is to be determined and will not necessarily be one of the overarching Hub/RUO goals, but a more definitive goal. Lake County is interested in focusing on either Kinder Camps or embracing populations who may be undocumented, such as inclusivity through bilingual classrooms.

Kathleen Walker-Henderson suggested that we utilize Raise Up Oregon <https://oregonearlylearning.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Raise-Up-Oregon-Web-corrected.pdf>) as a tool to help determine strategies. A focus that Kathleen would like to see is children's physical and mental health, for example training parents on Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQs), what they are used for and why they are important. Gillian suggested that we also utilize the South-Central Early Learning Hub Parent Focus Groups Report and survey documents to incorporate parent voice into decision-making. Filicia with Oregon Childhood Development Coalition (OCDC) echoed that parents need support with transitioning to kindergarten, particularly for Spanish-speaking / bilingual parents who may need assistance filling out enrollment paperwork for kindergarten.

Child Care Resource & Referral (CCRR)

Heather Freilinger advised that CCRR is working on a child care provider appreciation event in the spring that will include trainings and materials. CCRR is planning the event to be in-person at Klamath Community College (KCC).

CCRR is hiring for two new positions, a KCC Navigator, and a Recruitment Specialist. The KCC Navigator will provide information on scholarships/other funding opportunities to individuals interested in becoming a child care provider.

Preschool Promise providers are receiving technical assistance through CCRR Coaches and Quality Improvement Specialists. CCRR was able to reach 97% of child care providers across the region to provide technical assistance around the Child Care Stabilization Grant.

Let Heather know if you would like to be added to the CCRR community partners list by contacting Care Connections & Education at (541) 672-CARE (2273) or by email heather.freilinger@douglasesd.k12.or.us. Website: <https://douglasesd.k12.or.us/care-connections/>.

Equity Lens Application

Members of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) discussed equity work in their organizations. Partners shared that having the Equity Lens as a tool, has increased awareness of and encourages diversity, equity, inclusion and justice in their programs. The Equity Lens has been shared widely throughout the region, for example, the Equity Lens will be utilized in the Klamath Promise strategic planning in March. Rhonda advised that Cascade Health Alliance (CHA) has been focusing on equity and has recently begun using a new system that allows for phone translation services, document translation, appointment scheduling, and meetings, into any language. Members also shared that children are aware of biases at a young age and they appreciate that steps are being taken to ensure children/families feel welcomed into programs.

Partner Updates

Klamath Oral Health Coalition – Rhonda Janecke advised that A Smile for Kids is part of the Klamath Oral Health Coalition. There are four children in Klamath County the coalition is working with to assist with braces. If anyone knows of children who might not be financially able to get braces, the Klamath Oral Health Coalition needs referrals.

Cascade Health Alliance (CHA) – Rhonda Janecke also presented 2019-2020 OHA healthcare data for children. In 2019, 59.6% and 2020, 71.3% of children (ages 3-6) were seen for Well Child Visits. In 2019, 47% and 2020, 49% of adolescents were up-to-date on immunizations.

Community Baby Shower -- If you are interested in helping plan the 2022 Community Baby Shower, contact Rhonda Janecke or Danielle Walker. Last year's event was a drive-through with approximately 111 people served.

Klamath Promise – Jessie DuBose shared that Klamath Promise is starting to plan the Graduation Celebration. If you or your organization is interested in providing a scholarship, please reach out Jessie by mid-March at jessie_dubose@soesd.k12.or.us.

Klamath Community College (KCC) – Kathleen Walker-Henderson shared that at the KCC Foundation meeting, there was an update on the new child care center. Land has been purchased to house the center and the Facilities Department is developing plans for underlying systems and traffic flow. KCC received a \$1 million grant from the state, but the entire amount must be matched. Klamath County awarded \$500k towards matching funds.

Klamath KID Center – Kathleen reported for Klamath KID Center as a board member, that they have purchased a new van. Staff will be attending Ready! for Kindergarten trainings with grant funds awarded by The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF).

A Family Gathering Place – Joseph Maurer advised that A Family Gathering Place is closed this week due to COVID-19. The Relief Nursery has tentatively identified a new location for expansion, which will allow for a toddler classroom, respite care, and parenting classes. Joseph is hoping to finalize the new facility within the month and move into the facility by April/May. Marketing materials for A Family Gathering Place are getting close to being finalized. There are currently openings in the therapeutic classroom for children ages 3-5; if you know of anyone who may benefit from services, refer to Joseph.

Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) – Amy Quayle shared that the first Conscious Discipline training session had 94 attendees; four more trainings will be offered in the coming months. One educator was recertified in Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors, and two new educators will be completing the Abriendo Puertas facilitator training to receive a facilitator certification in the program. There are still openings available for bilingual individuals interested in participating in the Abriendo Puertas facilitator training. KPI has some funding to assist with implementation of the program once individuals are trained. There is an upcoming Early Learning Gathering on February 22, registration will be sent out soon.

Take Root Parenting Education – Amy shared that Take Root has upcoming virtual workshops: Baby 101, Parenting a Second Time Around and Teaching Your Child to Talk. The class schedule can be found at: <https://douglassesd.k12.or.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Winter-Flyer-2022-Revised.pdf>

Klamath County Library Service District – David Lev shared about the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which sends a monthly book to children ages 0-5 in Klamath County. There are currently 1780 active children receiving books from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, and since beginning the program, 2938 children have been served throughout the county. Families can apply for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library at the Klamath County Library or online at <https://imaginationlibrary.com>. If your program is interested in receiving book bags from the Klamath County Library, contact David at dlev@klamathlibrary.org.

South Central Early Learning Hub – Danielle shared that we are updating the 22-23 Klamath/Lake County Resource Directory for the South-Central Early Learning Hub. To be added to the resource directory or to make changes to your current listing, please utilize the 2022-23 Resource Directory Listing Form. The deadline to submit the form is February 28, 2022.

Home Visiting Systems Coordination / Community UPLiFT – Vanessa Pingleton shared that she is working on the new Home Visiting Systems Coordination Grant through The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF). The action plans for the grant will be shared with the Klamath PAC once it is completed. Vanessa shared the referral and provider reports.

Klamath Family Head Start – Sylvia Cox advised that Klamath Family Head Start is planning for the 2022-2023 school year. Head Start is close to being full in Klamath County for the 2021-2022 school year, and has availability for about 13 additional students.

Next Meeting:

Klamath PAC: February 23, 2022 from 10:00 am – Noon.