

KLAMATH PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

January 27, 2021 | 10:00 AM – Noon

Attendance

Amy Frey	Heather Freilinger	Machel Ramirez
Athena Wikstrom	Julie Hurley	Maurita Johnson
Cynthia Hurkes	Jessie DuBose	Melinda Gomez
Dena Haudenschild	Kathleen Walker-Henderson	Vanessa Pingleton
Gillian Wesenberg	Kathleen Mitchell	Rhonda Janecke
Heidi McGowan	Danielle Walker	Rhonda Nyseth
Johanna Scholer		

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

The Klamath PAC reviewed the minutes. Kathleen Walker-Henderson made a motion to approve minutes as submitted and Dena Haudenschild seconded the motion. There was no further discussion.

Teach My Kits Distribution

Cynthia gave an overview of the Teach My Kits and distribution. She thanked EI/ECSE and Klamath Family Head Start for storing and distributing the kits to partners. There have been approximately 670 kits distributed to DHS, WIC, Healthy Families, Klamath County Library, Gilchrist Elementary, Klamath Tribes, OCDC, Head Start, and others. Currently, there are approximately 600 kits remaining to be distributed to partners. Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation (KPI) is working with partners on the second phase of distribution within the region. Kathleen Walker-Henderson is discussing a proposal with KPI and Take Root Parenting that would provide workshops for parents about how to utilize the Teach My Kits with their children.

COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout and School Openings

The group discussed school openings and vaccination rollouts.

- Klamath Falls City Schools and Klamath County Schools held vaccination clinics for staff who wanted to receive the vaccine.
- Friends of the Children shared that they are a mentor program who work with youth in the community. The Health Department advised that their organization is not currently eligible to receive vaccinations. Oregon Health Authority (OHA) does not specifically call out community-based mentoring organizations in Phase 1A or Phase 1B (current vaccination phases). Higher education partners expressed that they have had a similar experience.
- If you are eligible per vaccine requirements, call 1-833-606-4370 to schedule a vaccine appointment.
- Health partners pointed out that you can still be a carrier of the COVID-19 virus after being vaccinated. It continues to be important to wear masks, wash hands, and maintain social distancing.
- Vaccinations for The Klamath Tribes are being scheduled through the Tribal Health Clinic.
- Klamath Falls City School District advised that children have returned to in-person learning and are attending half days in AM/PM cohorts, Monday-Friday.
- Klamath County School District advised that children have returned to in-person learning and are attending all-day classes in cohorts on a Monday-Tuesday or Thursday-Friday schedule.
- Positivity rates can be found at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/covid19/Documents/DataReports/Weekly-County-Metrics.pdf>

Legislative Update and Hub RFA

Gillian Wesenberg provided a state update.

A progress report on Raise Up Oregon was generated by the Early Learning Division (ELD) and can be found on their website.

- Raise Up Oregon: <https://oregonearlylearning.com/raise-up-oregon>
- Raise Up Oregon Progress Report: https://oregonearlylearning.com/form_sets/raise-up-oregon-progress-report-2019-2020-highlights/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Every six years, Early Learning Hubs are required to submit a request for application (RFA). Requirements for the RFA process will be received in February. The Early Learning Hub (ELH) will be asking Professional Advisory Committees (PAC) and Governance Councils for input and feedback during the process.

The legislature is currently in session. During this session, legislators are discussing early care and education expansion in programs including Healthy Families, Oregon Pre-K, Preschool Promise, Early Head Start, Head Start, and other programs. The legislature would like to hear about the collaboration is happening between Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR), Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE), Preschool Promise, and K-12 so that we can ensure children can receive the support they need to be successful in kindergarten.

Equity Lens

The PAC is proud of the regional work around diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. The group suggested making the advancement of equity and the Equity Lens a standing agenda item at every meeting. The key points of the Equity Lens have been added to the top of agendas for all Early Learning Hub PAC and Governance meetings.

Gillian shared that there will be a two-hour Early Childhood Equity Summit presented by Portland State University (PSU) on February 23, 2021. Danielle will send out more information about the Early Childhood Equity Summit.

Maurita Johnson would like to utilize the Equity Lens at the Department of Human Services (DHS), specifically when working with tribal children in foster care. She would also like to have the Equity Lens available as a resource for others to use.

Johanna Scholer appreciated the Equity Lens being placed on one page and agreed that the partners were able to capture relevant questions. The Nonprofit Association of Oregon also has an Equity Lens guide and is another great resource.

Rhonda Janecke is hoping that the Equity Lens opens doors for discussions and appreciates that we are expanding our knowledge about diversity, equity, inclusion and justice.

It was also noted that programs should be providing the same level of service, no matter where a family lives in Klamath County. For example, families in Gilchrist should receive the same level of service as if they lived in Klamath Falls (geographically isolated families are one of our priority populations).

Partner Updates

Preschool Promise – Preschool Promise applications can be submitted at <http://www.southcentralhubenrollment.com/>. Both Preschool Promise and Head Start Programs are under enrolled due to COVID-19.

Community UPLIFT - Vanessa reported that as of December 31, 2020, Community UPLIFT has had 625 regional referrals. Last week, Dr. Amy Stoeber, a psychologist, trainer and consultant (trainer for parents and professionals as well as keynote speaking), gave a presentation on ACES 201. Community UPLIFT is looking forward to partnering with additional agencies to have mini trainings with Dr. Amy and focus on mental health. These trainings will be specific to medical and educational providers.

Community UPLIFT is looking to expand their data portal to include Family Care Plans. With a family's permission, all agencies working with a family would be able to view this plan and add information to it. The addition of these care plans expands on the closed-loop system by providing agencies the ability to work together to meet the needs of children and families who have been referred through Community UPLIFT.

Online referrals for Community UPLIFT can be completed at <http://www.community-uplift.com/>

KPI – Cynthia reported that KPI will host virtual Early Educator Gatherings. The purpose of these gatherings is to align early learning, bring communities together, build relationships, and discuss promising practices. The focus of the first gathering will be social-emotional learning based on family engagement and kindergarten guidelines. Each participant will receive an incentive for attending and 1.5 hours of training hours.

KPI hosted the first of three Dare to Lead trainings, facilitated by Heidi McGowan, last week. The training was well attended by partners across the region.

Take Root – Julie Hurley advised that Take Root has been doing all classes virtually, either through Facebook live or Zoom. They are currently offering four series and six workshops. A listing can be found here: <https://p.constantcontactpages.com/cu/cuZablV/Winter2021>.

Take Root received news from Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative (OPEC) that the Department of Human Services (DHS) will be making parenting education a requirement of their JOBS program. This requirement will provide parenting education state resources to provide the training, rather than relying solely on grant funding. The state funds will also allow for an expansion of parenting education to parents of children 0-18 years old rather than only parents of children 0-8 years old.

Take Root is piloting a new website called Mighty Networks, which is a platform that can host workshops, series, and provide parenting information in one location.

Klamath Family Head Start – Cindy Walsh moved to Head Start in Medford, and Sylvia Cox has taken over as the Director for Klamath Family Head Start.

Klamath Community College (KCC) – Kathleen Walker-Henderson advised that the Early Learning Professional Development (ELPD) Grant has been renewed through a new funder and will support Spanish-speaking child care providers. Enrollment for Spring Term begins Feb. 8, 2021.

DHS – April is child abuse prevention month, and the 2021 Child Abuse Prevention event will be hosted virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions. All pinwheels for prevention will be provided for free this year; email Rhonda Nyseth with requests.

Klamath Promise - has a group working on a community-based campaign to Keep Our Kids in school. They are providing information, graphics, signage to schools, families, and workplaces.

Next Meeting:

Klamath PAC: February 24, 2021 from 10:00 am – Noon. Hosted virtually.