

**South-Central Early Learning Hub
Lake County Community Governance Council
Minutes – February 21, 2023**

Attendees: Michael Carter (v), Lane Stratton (s), Michael Benson (v), Jake Greer (v), Heather Freiling, Machel Ramirez, Athena Wikstrom, Bailey Guido

The Lake Community Governance Council reviewed and approved the January minutes. Lane Stratton made a motion to approve minutes as submitted. Michael Benson seconded the motion. No further discussion.

Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE)- Michel Benson shared there are currently 16 children receiving EI/ECSE services. There is one child currently in the evaluation process. Three children are transitioning into Lakeview School District #7 this fall. The transition day for these three families will be held on April 21, 2023. EI/ECSE had a training with their autism consultant last week.

Healthy Families – Machel Ramirez advised that enrollment was slow last year, but has picked up since January. Healthy Families currently has 32 families enrolled in Klamath and Lake Counties.

South-Central Early Learning Hub – Athena Wikstrom presented a Regional System Assessment Root Causes update. The SCELH has been completing the Regional System Assessment for the past few months, and is nearly finished. SCELH used anecdotal and quantitative data from partners across the region. Most of the data that was used was collected and tracked during the Professional Advisory Committee and Governance Council meetings. Overall, 36 pages of data was collected and reviewed by staff and Early Learning Division contractor, Erin Watson. This data was arranged into themes and identified four major issue areas across the region relating to RUO Objective 2 - Families have access to high-quality, culturally responsive, inclusive, developmentally appropriate), affordable early care and education that meets their needs. The Regional Governance Council (RGC) reviewed the four main themes and prioritized root causes contributing to them. The Hub is focusing on root causes that can be impacted by work we can collectively do now. Some important root causes have been excluded from the document due to the current circle of influence hubs have. These root causes may need to be addressed or advocated for at a state or national level.

Members of the Lake Community Governance Council were given the opportunity to review the prioritized system issues and root causes handout (see attached) and discussed the findings.

Affordable housing is not only a barrier for families in Lake County, but also in recruiting workforce. This could be a missing root cause for workforce.

Engaging families where they're at and ensuring families have a voice seems to be an overall theme. The question was posed, have we figured out why some families are not engaging in services? If not, how can we reach out to the families who are not engaging?

The Hub is always looking for ways to reach more families, especially in rural and frontier areas. Parent surveys, focus groups, and interviews have been offered in the past, and we know there are families that are being missing.

While the Hub didn't call out transportation specifically, there are pieces in the Regional System Assessment leaning towards transportation as a root cause.

The majority of root causes seem to span across the four major themes, rather than just fitting in one theme. Addressing the root causes involve multiple sectors and community partners. It's not just Hub staff that can work towards resolving some of these barriers. Hub staff are the shepherds of the plan and the resolution of the themes (see attached) will take a collaborative, community-wide, cross-sector

effort. There are already some strategies in place that are moving towards addressing gaps in early care and education such as the Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) Early Learning Gatherings that bring K-12 and early care and education providers together.

The Hub is completing the Regional System Assessment to take to the Regional Governance Council (RGC) in March for their review and approval. Once approved, the deliverable will be submitted to the Early Learning Division (ELD). The Hub will then begin creating a strategic plan that will include documentation of what's happening across the region. By generating a document that includes region-wide efforts, we are creating collaborative capacity which will allow us to celebrate successes, reduce duplication, and work together towards a common goal.

Outside of the Regional System Assessment, the SCELH is completing coordinated enrollment for the 2022-2023 Preschool Promise school year. There are still some openings at Lakeview School District #7, Honker Preschool. Qualifying children turned three or four-years-old by Sept. 1, 2022 and are residents of Oregon. The hub has some leeway with income qualification in Lake County.

The Hub hired a new Home Visiting Systems Coordinator, Maddie Holmes, who will be starting at the end of February.

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) – Heather is excited to announce the CCRR posted a full-time position for a Preschool Promise Facilitator for Klamath and Lake Counties. On April 29, CCRR will host the annual Spring Fling at Klamath Community College. CCRR will support providers in Lake County who are interested in participating.

There is a newer childcare provider in Lake County who speaks Spanish. CCRR is checking-in with them monthly to make sure they have everything they need to be a successful childcare provider.

The Oregon Center for Career Development is offering Early Learning Degree Pathway Scholarships for individuals to obtain an early care and education specific college certificate, AA/AAS, BA/BS, or MA/MS from an Oregon Community College or public University. The scholarship will pay for fees and college credits. The Oregon Center for Career Development encourages individuals to use Betty Grey Scholarship funds from the Oregon Community Foundation as much as possible, and requires individuals to re-apply each term.

Lake County Education Service District (ESD) – Lane shared the ESD was able to purchase new materials to support the Adel early reading program. Michael Benson was also able meet and have conversations with the early preschool program staff in Adel.

Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation (KPI) – Bailey advised KPI is hosting a virtual Early Learning Gathering tonight, February 21 from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. The topic of the Early Learning Gathering is - hearing how positive connections with families help your students grow and learn. Registration is still open at https://reg.learningstream.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0022-0005-4d77fd8651455fbf04474b24d8a45f.

Take Root Parenting Connection –The Ready! for Kindergarten series for two and three-year-olds just wrapped up, and will be starting the Ready! for Kindergarten for three and four-year-olds. The Ready! for Kindergarten series are being offered virtually through Zoom. The sixth and final session for the Co-parenting for Life Workshop is coming up and has 42 families registered across the region. Take Root just started the Advice for Pre-Teen Parenting workshop discussing the transition from grade school into middle school. The Challenge of Discipline two-part workshop will be held on February 28 and March 2. Later in March, there will be a workshop called The Help that Helps.

Juvenile Services - Jake Greer announced the Juvenile Department hired a new Juvenile Probation Officer, Jessica Gonzalez, who will be starting soon. There is still work to be done on the county truancy

ordinance, but work is moving forward. With the legislature in session, there are a lot of bills that could affect the Juvenile and Correction Departments.

Lakeview School District #7 – The legislative forecast will be out later this week. Michael Carter thinks the legislative forecast looks good and will likely be around \$10.1 billion for education. Oregon will be receiving \$700 million from the Federal Government for mental health services. No one knows what that will look like yet, but will impact everyone. There are a lot of bills in the legislature affecting education, early education, and special education. The Small Schools Association is trying to push through about 16 bills that will help to raise the funding ceiling for small schools and ESDs.

Athena - Senate Bill 599 requiring landlords to allow child care services in rental homes, passed the Senate floor 27-3 on February 15th, and is receiving national coverage. It is waiting to be assigned to a house committee.

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

Prioritized System Issues and Root Causes from Regional System Assessment

• = Current or planned regional strategy addresses this root cause

	Issue 4: Low wages and benefits paid to ECE workforce due to a Market Failure in the ECE business model give insufficient, sustainable investment in ECE as an essential community infrastructure	Issue 3: Not enough ECE workforce who represent communities served and can deliver high-quality ECE	Issue 2: Not enough ECE slots that meet families’ needs and preferences Lack of infant toddler slots, after hours/2 nd shift care, care in geographically isolated areas	Issue 1: Many families are unable to access ECE that is high-quality, affordable, and meets their needs and preferences
Mindsets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many in regional still devalue ECE, seeing it as babysitting vs. a respected profession that promotes brain development and drives economic ROI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many in regional still devalue ECE, seeing it as babysitting vs. a respected profession that promotes brain development and drives economic ROI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of support to integrate children with disabilities into ECE classrooms
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few regional government, businesses, and institutions have goals focused on funding ECE as critical community infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some regional partners lack <i>explicit</i> goals of increasing ECE workforce diversity (culture, gender) and trauma-informed practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Decision-Making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> K12 and ECE decision-makers not always collaborating Hub has limited influence on local government decisions about ECE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> K12 and ECE decision-makers not always collaborating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> K12 and ECE decision-makers not always collaborating Need for more regional engagement of families in decision-making in ways that are accessible and authentic ECE providers not always engaged in regional decision-making about ECE Hub has limited influence on local government decisions about ECE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> K12 and ECE decision-makers not always collaborating Need for more regional engagement of families in decision-making in ways that are accessible and authentic
Policies and Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some ECE settings encourage families with “behaviorally difficult” children to transfer to another ECE program Some ECE providers have practice of not referring children on their waitlist to alternative publicly funded ECE slots
Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for more connections and engagement with businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on available ECE slots and how to access them not reaching all families
Program Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current ECE business model cannot support inconsistent and limited population density in geographically isolated regions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for more ECE training/supports on de-escalating behaviors, behavioral health ECE professional development costs a lot, workforce can’t recoup due to low wages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some ECE business owners lack business skills (taxes, business modeling, etc.) – not enough professional development on this (shared services) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some new staff within organizations across region don’t know about UPLiFT referral process and don’t use it as they could
Financial Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> K12 education offers higher wages which draws ECE workforce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suitable ECE licensable facilities are not available or affordable to buy or renovate* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

Current (or planned) Regional Strategies that Address these Root Causes

	Issue 4: Low wages and benefits paid to ECE workforce due to a Market Failure in the ECE business model give insufficient, sustainable investment in ECE as an essential community infrastructure	Issue 3: Not enough ECE workforce who represent communities served and can deliver high-quality ECE	Issue 2: Not enough ECE slots that meet families' needs and preferences Lack of infant toddler slots, after hours/2 nd shift care, care in geographically isolated areas	Issue 1: Many families are unable to access ECE that is high-quality, affordable, and meets their needs and preferences
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Human Resources				
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Environment				



Early Learning Degree Pathway Scholarship



Early Learning Degree Pathway Scholarship

The Oregon Center for Career Development (OCCD) in partnership with the Early Learning Division (ELD) is pleased to announce the launch of a new scholarship, specifically for individuals to obtain an Early Childhood Education (ECE) specific college certificate, AA/AAS, BA/BS, or MA/MS from an Oregon Community College or public Oregon University, or evaluate a degree obtained outside of the United States.

Degree Coursework

Students enrolled in an ECE specific certificate or degree pathway at an Oregon Community College or public Oregon University can seek scholarship to cover the cost of tuition and associated fees.

Degree Evaluation

Individuals who have a relevant degree obtained outside of the United States can seek scholarship to cover the cost of degree and coursework evaluation.

How to Apply

The Early Learning Degree Pathway Scholarship Application will launch March 2023 and be available on the OCCD website (pdx.edu/occd) and using an online application submission.

Individuals who have paid for tuition or evaluation as of January 1st, 2023, may be eligible for reimbursement of costs paid.

LAUNCHING MARCH 2023!

Eligibility Requirements

Scholarship funding is available for all individuals interested in a career ECE, whether currently working in the ECE field or not.

- All scholarship recipients must have an established [myORO account](#).
- **Individuals seeking scholarship for degree coursework must;**
 - Declare an ECE certificate or degree pathway on official documentation from the college they attend; and
 - Be enrolled for at least 6 credits per term; and
 - File a free application for [Federal Student Aid](#) or [state](#) equivalent.
- **Individuals seeking scholarship for degree evaluation must;**
 - Submit all transcripts and/or diploma for the degree obtained outside of the United States; and
 - Submit a cost quote for the evaluation services from an [NACES](#) member.

Questions? Email us! occdsch@pdx.edu

