

**South-Central Early Learning Hub  
Lake County Community Governance Council  
Minutes – February 22, 2022**

**Attendees:** Jack Thompson (s), Michael Carter (s), Gail Buermann (s), Vicky Taylor (s), Amy Hutchinson (s), Michael Benson (v), Machel Ramirez, Gillian Wesenberg, Heather Freiling, Cynthia Hurkes, Athena Wikstrom, Danielle Walker, Charlene Shaw, Connie Rosas, Julie Hurley, Heidi Martinez, Bailey Guido, Tina Aguilar, Hannah Carlon, Wendy Brown, Vanessa Pingleton, Rejeen Cooper, Susan Warner, Colleen May

**Please note:** The Lake County Community Governance Council meeting was held virtually due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) concerns and guidance on public meetings from the Governor.

**Review Agenda/Meeting Minutes - Approve minutes from October**

Jack Thompson made a motion to approve January 2022 minutes as submitted. Vicky Taylor seconded the motion. No further discussion, motion carried.

**Presentation: Savannah L. Burke (AmeriCorps VISTA from Lake County Health District):**

Savannah Burke is working to form a committee to evaluate the Outback Strong as a concept, and drafting a list of recommendations to be presented to the Eastern Oregon CCO Community Advisory Council (CAC). Outback Strong was originally created to promote healthy lifestyles and choices. In the past, Outback Strong completed projects such as health screenings and the summer lunch program, but has been put on pause to determine the future of the program.

Savannah is looking to schedule a short survey or interviews with individuals in community leadership roles. Some questions could include:

- Is it worth it to brand something as Outback Strong?
- Will it resonate with individuals to have something local to promote health screenings and doctor's appointments?
- What are the benefits of partnering with Outback Strong?

If you are interested in providing feedback, contact Savannah Burke at [Sburke@lakehealthdistrict.org](mailto:Sburke@lakehealthdistrict.org). Amy suggested emailing the Lake County Early Learning email, [earlylearning@lakecountylibrary.org](mailto:earlylearning@lakecountylibrary.org) with a description of the request and contact information.

**EI/ECSE Update**

Mike Benson reported there are currently 15 children on IFSPs receiving services, two additional children are finishing evaluations who will qualify for services, and two new referrals have been received. EI/ECSE is working on transitioning children from their services into kindergarten. EI/ECSE has scheduled a date with Lakeview families and the school to complete transition plans, and are working to schedule a date for two North Lake students.

**Early Learning Program Updates**

**Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI)** -- Cynthia reviewed information about the \$50k KPI Regional Investment Funds set aside for community investment. A small group of Regional Governance Council (RGC) members met with KPI and selected a regional approach to selecting activities for the community funds. At the time of the January Lake Community Governance Council, the small group had not selected an objective/strategy from RUO to focus on when choosing activities for the regional investment funds. The small RGC group met again and selected Raise Up Oregon (RUO) Objective 7, Strategy 7.2. This objective/strategy encompasses health, mental health, addiction,

parenting strategies, and ensures a continuum of care for families who need support when they experience generational trauma that affects ACES.

During the March meeting, members of the Lake Community Governance Council will have an opportunity to brainstorm activities that could be implemented in Lake County. Cynthia will put together one-page document that includes what KPI can spend funds on and the current KPI activities relating to the RUO Objective 7, Strategy 7.2.

**South-Central Early Learning Hub** – Gillian shared Early Learning Hubs across the state still do not have contracts, but the Early Learning Division (ELD) has advised contracts are coming. House Bill 4005 is proceeding and transitions the ELD into the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) as well as increasing ERDC rates \$200 per month. Child Care for Oregon, a coalition of organizations, are advocating the legislature for \$100 Million. The funds would be allotted to child care capacity building, capacity building grant funds, support increasing ERDC reimbursement rates, child care workforce and retention, strengthening child care infrastructure, and a one-year period of funding Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) to assist in supporting new child care provider recruitment.

**Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR)** – Heather discussed the hybrid Spring Fling Conference for child care providers on May 14<sup>th</sup> with Keynote Speaker Dr. Kendra Coates discussing the Unlearning Process. The afternoon session will consist of lunch and two available training tracks. CCRR hired two new employees, an Early Learning Support Specialist working as a KCC navigator, and a Quality Improvement Specialist supporting UCC Navigation and developing training strategies for child care providers.

Charlene reported that Preschool Promise coaches are trying to get into classrooms to gather data that can be used to provide valuable coaching opportunities for grantees. CCRR is working with the state to provide alternative support options.

**Healthy Families** – Vicky Taylor is working with nine families in North Lake and Paisley. Healthy Families receive referrals for Lakeview, but families in Lakeview are hesitant of participating potentially due to COVID. Vicky hopes that when COVID restrictions are decreased more families will enter the program. Vicky has Healthy Families flyers available.

Machel reported that Klamath County Healthy Families receive steady referrals but might need to start adding families to waitlists due to caseload capacity and staffing shortages. Their program is losing one bilingual Family Support Specialist and is hiring for two Family Support Specialist positions.

**Home Visiting Systems Coordination Project / Community UPLiFT** – Vanessa submitted the new Home Visiting Systems Coordination grant application to The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF) on February 15<sup>th</sup>, and is meeting with them this week to review the grant action plans and annual report.

Advisory Committees are developing Community UPLiFT Lunch & Learns in Douglas and Klamath Counties where community partners learn about Community UPLiFT and partner programs. Vanessa is interested in hosting a Community UPLiFT Lunch & Learn in Lake County as well. Last quarter referrals were down but have been increasing since January. In partnership with Take Root, Baily Guido is doing Community UPLiFT outreach in Lake County.

**Klamath Family Head Start** – Rejeen shared that Klamath Family Head Start is beginning enrollment and budgeting for the 2022-2023 year. The duration classroom has been in a COVID closure since Feb. 15 but children will be returning on Feb. 28.

### **School District Updates**

**Lake County ESD** – Jack advised that Lake County ESD is in the process of budgeting and planning for the 2022-2023 school year. Schools in Adel and Plush have been able to remain open and in-person.

**North Lake School District** – Gail Buermann reported the majority of her time is being spent on COVID-related issues. There has been a stomach virus going around similar to Klamath County. North Lake is dedicating a memorial wall to deceased students and staff. The ceremony to present the wall will be May 7th. North Lake is planning an academic award night for older students. Younger students are enjoying their new art program.

**Lakeview School District #7** – Michael Carter was excited to share that Lakeview School District #7 is still working on the new child care building and now has blueprints for the project. The High School Valedictorian and Salutatorian were named today.

### **Health District Report**

**Lake District Wellness** – Lake District Wellness hired a new Clinical Supervisor, Brenda Hamilton.

**Lake District Hospital** – Amy advised that Lake District Hospital has a grant to support children’s dental health. Members of the Lake Community Governance Council suggested a dental health kit to go out to children across Lake County. Jack will use his transportation to deliver kits to Adel and Plush. Michael will send dental health kits out in backpacks that go out to families once a week, and Healthy Families will distribute kits to their clients. Rejeen shared that Head Start is covered by Advantage Dental, who does screenings and distributes oral health care supplies. Head Start does not need any additional oral health care for children in their programs.

Dr. Foster passed away, Amy is unsure when services will be held for him, but will advise the committee once she knows more.

**Next Meeting:** March 15, 2022 at 1:00 pm