

February 23, 2022 | 10:00 AM – Noon

Attendance

Rhonda Janecke	Cynthia Hurkes	Denise Martinez
Heather Freilinger	Connie Rosas	Stacia Clark
Dena Haudenschild	Gillian Wesenberg	Kay Ortega
Athena Wikstrom	Jessie DuBose	Danielle Walker
Charlene Shaw	Maurita Johnson	Jane Nicholson
Vanessa Pingleton	Amy Quayle	

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 PAC reviewed and approved the January minutes. Charlene Shaw made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, Rhonda Janecke seconded the motion. No further discussion.

COVID Check-in

Members were given an opportunity to talk about the impacts of COVID 19 on programming / functioning. Dena shared Klamath Early Childhood Development Center has been fortunate not to have any full classroom closures this year and have remained open every day.

Early Learning Hub Workplans

Athena provided an update on the Early Learning Hub (ELH) workplans which are due in March. The South-Central Early Learning Hub utilized the Strategic Plan generated by our region to fill in the new template received from the Early Learning Division (ELD), which also requires measurable outcomes. The ELD asked that we include the work of all early learning programs, even if the ELH is not directly involved in the work, so that the workplan covers everything happening across early learning in the South-Central ELH region.

A steering committee from the Regional Governance Council (RGC) has been working to finish drafting the workplan. The document will be shared at the March RGC to receive final approval before submission to the ELD. Once finalized and submitted to the ELD, the workplan will be shared with our Professional Advisory Committees.

Dena and Rhonda wanted the Klamath PAC to know they attend all regional meetings (ex., Steering Committees, RGC, Stewardship, etc.) thinking about Klamath County as a whole, rather than just individual programs. They try to ensure that cohesive goals for the ELH across the entire region are maintained.

Legislative and Early Learning Hub Updates

Gillian advised that House Bill 4005, creating the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC), was heard in the legislative Ways and Means Committee last Monday. A recording of the meeting can be found on the legislative website: <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/>.

Child Care for Oregon is presenting the 2022 Child Care Investment Package to the legislature. The Child Care package is a one-time, \$100 million proposed budget that is designed to help increase the availability of care by helping current providers stay open and expand and help new providers launch their businesses. The Child Care Investment package would also increase the amount of money providers who accept Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) subsidies receive per child, getting to more equitable rates.

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 and approved a regional approach to expend

community funds. Small group members met again to determine a specific Raise Up Oregon objective for the funding. Once an objective is selected, it will be taken back to the Professional Advisory Committees (PACs) to discuss activities that each county might want to focus on. Members also agreed that the decision needs to be based on what will work for the entire region by selecting one objective and strategy. Each county can choose a different activity that fits under the selected strategy. Members of the committee agreed to focus on Raise Up Oregon System Goal 2, Objective 7, Strategy 7.2.

During the March meeting, members of the Klamath PAC will have an opportunity to brainstorm activities that could be implemented in Klamath County. Cynthia will put together a 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.

KPI and Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) are co-sponsoring a Conscious Discipline series. There were 95 attendees at two consecutive evening sessions, and there are three remaining sessions.

An Early Learning Gathering about self-regulation for adults was held last night with 35 attendees. Early Learning Gatherings are being hosted bi-monthly and are an opportunity for early learning professionals, home visitors, and K-3 educators to gather together for shared learning.

Child Care Resource & Referral (CCRR)

Heather discussed the hybrid Spring Fling Conference / child care appreciation event for child care providers which will take place on May 14th 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.

Heather provided an overview of the Oregon Registry Online (ORO). ORO is the statewide database for child care professionals that stores all submitted training and education for child care providers and verifies the documentation for Office of Child Care system use. ORO is a project of the Oregon Center for Career Development in Childhood Care and Education and developed by Portland State University (PSU).

There is a child care provider recruitment video playing at the Klamath Falls movie theater. The advertisement encourages individuals interested in pursuing a career in early childhood education to connect with CCRR.

Equity Lens Application

The Equity Lens is shared frequently in the PAC meetings and throughout the community. The group discussed insights and work being done around equity.

Dena shared that she has engaged in a conversation with a district administration about the number of boys who qualify for special education services. Far more boys qualify for special education services than girls. What does success look like for boys? Are boys being qualified for a program that they may not need? Do policies and programs support boys and their development? Are we looking at boys with an accurate lens and creating age-appropriate, developmental expectations for them? So far this year, only boys have been removed from community preschools and placed into ECSE classes based on behavior.

Amy asked if there a comparison of the equity lens generated by the South-Central Early Learning Hub versus one used in K-12? Dena has not seen an equity framework utilized in K-12. Jessie shared there is not a framework in the same way the ELH is using the framework. Some grant streams through Oregon Department of Education (ODE) do require an equity framework although they are not widely used or common across the K-12 system.

Partner Updates

Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC) -- Kay Ortega advised that there are two upcoming parent education classes, one is Abriendo Puertas / Opening Doors -- and there is another about child abuse prevention. The classes will be held virtually in March in both Spanish and English.

Take Root -- The winter class list can be found here: <https://douglasesd.k12.or.us/take-root-parenting-connection/>.

Amy shared that there are two openings available for the Abriendo Puertas / Opening Doors (AP/OD) facilitator training. Contact Amy if you know of anyone who might be interested. There are some implementation funds available after an individual becomes a certified facilitator in AP/OD.

Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) - Maurita shared that Klamath County ODHS will be moving into their new building in April. The Annual Day of Hope event will be hosted in April. Pin wheels will be available for pin wheel gardens for the April child prevention awareness month.

Klamath Promise -- Jessie DuBose advised that Klamath Promise will begin their strategic planning process next week. The Graduation Sensation event will be in person this year with more details coming soon. The Klamath Promise Steering Committee meeting is tomorrow morning at 7:30; contact Jessie if you'd like to be added to the invitation.

Home Visiting Systems Coordination / Community UPLIFT --Vanessa and Gillian will be meeting with The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF) about the new home visiting system coordination grant application that we submitted. Last quarter, Community UPLIFT referral numbers were down, but have picked back up this quarter. Gillian provided feedback from TFFF that they are excited about furthering integration in the Home Visiting Systems Coordination grant with Early Learning Hub goals and workplan.

Community UPLIFT is a Coordinated information and referral exchange platform serving expecting families, families with children 0-5 or up to the age of 21 with special needs. For a referral you can text uplift1 for Douglas County, uplift2 for Klamath County, uplift3 for Lake County to 484848, www.community-uplift.com, visit https://douglasesd.k12.or.us/community_uplift/, OR you can contact Vanessa Pingleton at 541-530-1931 or Vanessa.pingleton@douglasesd.k12.or.us.

Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) – Dena shared that EI/ECSE met with Klamath Basin Research and Extension Center (KBREC) to discuss hosting a small petting zoo for children in their program. In May, there will be a carnival and master gardeners will come in to help plant flowers for Mother's Day.

ECSE numbers are on the rise, which means that children are being referred for interventions early.

Klamath Chapter of the Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children (ORAEYC) -- Charlene advised that the Children's Early Learning Fair will not happen this year due to the sensory activities and the concerns related to COVID.

Next Meeting:

The next Klamath PAC meeting will be held a week earlier on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 from 10 am to noon due to Spring Break.