

KLAMATH PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

February 26, 2020 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM

Attendance

Yecenia Rodriguez Wendy
Brown
Rhonda Nyseth
Maurita Johnson
Melinda Gomez
Sylvia Cox

Melinda Collier
Kathleen Walker-Henderson
Kathleen Hatcher-Mitchell
Cindy Walsh
Colleen May
Rhonda Janeke

Kay Ortega
Amy Quayle
Phone-Heather Freilinger
Phone-Cory Ortega

Welcome and Introduction

Rhonda Nyseth, called the meeting to order and the committee members introduced themselves. January Minutes were approved by the committee.

Hub Updates about Preschool Promise RFA

Heather Freilinger and Melinda Collier provided information on the Preschool Promise Request for Application (RFA), timeline, and responsibilities of the Hub and Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR). Heather discussed the Early Learning Division (ELD) listening session coming to Klamath Falls Friday, February 28 at 6:00 and that the zoom link would be sent out for those unable to attend in person at Klamath Community College. Heather advised that Preschool Promise program questions should be directed to the ELD and provided their contact information. The ELD can be reached by phone and their dedicated webpage, the frequently asked questions, located on the webpage, are being updated weekly. Preschool Promise is under an expansion effort that will target communities that were identified as underserved through the phase one Early Care and Education (ECE) sector planning. The ELD has specific links to enter contact information to be included in updates.

Equity Training

Alexis Millet from Capacity Building Partnerships, guided the 1.5-hour professional development session. The objective was to build our understanding and capacity to address key issues we face as leaders trying to advance equity in our communities. Explore the “determinants of equity” and identify which elements are impacting your community.

Introductions were given and reflections on achievements and challenges were shared. Impressions of achievements shared included: working as a hub and reducing silos; increased collaboration across and within agencies; the Hub has improved cohesiveness; improved networking and information sharing. Some challenges were identified such as: attending meetings can be challenging; lack of staff to create availability to attend meetings; growing pains over expansion of work; finite amount of money; more childcare providers and preschool slots are needed causing a cumulative effect for families seeking employment; lack of facilities to support increased expansion; lack of availability of resources (housing, childcare, assistance, etc.) for families with marginal incomes, (middle class) that do not meet income requirements; concerns over segregation by income level not being addressed in expansion plans;

waitlists are extensive for housing and childcare; and so many changes occurring system wide can be a challenging.

Alexis introduced the discussion topics and objectives. This training is to support what the equity work looks like for the Hub. How does it inform the work each agency is doing? What are the outcomes and the barriers to access? How can Alexis and Cliff support inclusion. Creating space to identify strategies to increase equity.

Determinants of Equity image from King County was distributed and used to frame discussion about key barriers or access and privilege that are intertwined to provide a good life. Breakout for small group discussion was provided to discuss the questions, “Why is early childhood development a determinant of equity and a good life?” and “What are another three determinants that most impact the people that you serve?”

Determinants identified from each group for the communities that are being served:

- Affordable, safe, quality housing
- Safe Accessible Transportation—access to services
- Economic development
- Support for providers-early learning/childcare as a viable career option
- Social injustice-tribes, children taken into foster care 30% more often
 - Trauma
 - Don't have tribal foster parents
- Access to good quality food
- Community and public safety
- Family wages and job training
- Responsive caring adult, empowering parents love and belonging

Breakout for small group discussion was provided to discuss the presented question, “What questions and information are needed to focus on working with one of the six priority populations?”

- Can Klamath Housing Authority (KHA) have an on-site daycare?
- What can existing agencies do to provide space for daycare?
- How do we get the needed childcare workforce? Sustain/Retain
- What are community partners' true capacity to provide services?
- How do we truly engage and connect with parents? Motivation? Engage in existing opportunities? Are we really getting good data from surveys?
- People don't take advantage of resources- immediate needs are primary- wait until crisis to seek assistance
- Providers treat people different when accompanied by an advocate rather than on their own

A group discussion was held around how Alexis and Cliff can support creative problem solving to increase how agencies who are working together can increase involvement with one of the six priority populations from the ECE Sector Plan over the next year. Helpful supports discussed were:

- Move from identifying issues to creating solutions.
- Increase awareness of community members not in early childhood
- Invite more partners to the HUB
- How can we adapt other area models and how can we adapt best practices locally?

Partner Program Updates

- Department of Health and Human Services
 - Day of Hope-Child Abuse Prevention Event-April 1st, 2020 at 1:00 pm to be held at Klamath Commons, notify Rhonda Nyseth if you will plant pinwheel gardens
 - Free Dental days in Malin 3/25/20 and Merrill 3/26/20 Oregon Institute of Technology students will be providing services
- Family Advocacy & Support Network
 - 'One Pager' training Saturday, February 28, 2020 at the Children's Museum
 - Workshop is based on creating a portrait of competency through person centered planning activities
 - Oregon Health and Sciences University will present Resources & More -April 15 @ Klamath Community College
 - For families with newly identified Intellectual/ Developmental Disability concerns or diagnosis
- Child Care Resource and Referral
 - March 7, a Southern Oregon University workshop will be held
 - The workshop is Whole Body Learning, SET 2 in Health Safety and Nutrition
- Take Root
 - Stomp Out Bullying Presented at Mills Elementary in Spanish by Kay Ortega 2/26/20
- Community Baby Shower
 - Will be held at the Klamath County Fairgrounds on October 24, 2020
 - Requesting that all agencies provide Spanish speaking staff to support a fully bi-lingual event
 - The fairgrounds agreed to donate the space

Next Meeting:

March 18, 2020, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at SOESD, 2685 Foothills Blvd.