

# REGIONAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

## Meeting Notes

May 31, 2023 | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

### Attendance

Steve Schenewerk  
Erin Watson  
Sandy Henry  
Lane Stratton  
Cynthia Hurkes

Maddie Holmes  
Heather Freilinger  
Julie Hurley  
Michael Carter  
Vanessa Pingleton

Gillian Wesenberg  
Danielle Walker  
Dena Haudenschild  
Alysha Barraza  
Analia Nicholson

For ease of member access, Regional Governance Council (RGC) meetings will continue to be held virtually unless otherwise notified.

### Welcome and Introductions

Chair, Steve Schenewerk welcomed members of the Regional Governance Council (RGC) and individuals introduced themselves.

### Early Learning Division (ELD) Regional System Assessment

The South-Central Early Learning Hub has been completing the Regional System Assessment (RSA) for the last several months. The assessment focuses on Raise Up Oregon (RUO) Objective 2: Families have access to high-quality (culturally responsive, inclusive, developmentally appropriate) affordable early care and education that meets their needs. The Hub received anecdotal and quantitative data from community partners across the region. Overall, 36 pages of data was collected, then reviewed and arranged into themes by Hub staff and Early Learning Division (ELD) Weaving Change consultant, Erin Watson. Themes identify four major issue areas around the region. In December, RGC members prioritized root causes contributing to those four main issues affecting the RUO Objective 2 across the region.

Erin provided an overview of the four issues and explained the root causes handout (see attached) which was distributed to the Regional Governance Council prior to the meeting. RGC members were provided time to review the handout, then discussed their observations.

- There are similar themes across the four major areas.
- There is still a lack of understanding of what roles entities are or should be playing.
- Policy-makers aren't always in the same room.
- Community-wide lack of understanding around early learning / early care and education.
- There is a need for family input and lived experiences to be imbedded throughout the root causes.

The next step in the process is strategic planning and strategy design. Part of strategy design includes digging deeper into root causes to understand the full situation. This process will help finding leverage points and make strategies more targeted to addressing the causes. The Hub will be focusing on root causes that the region has influence over, not what the state or legislation has control over. The Early Learning Division (ELD) is simultaneously developing a strategic plan for high-level systems change.

Regional Governance Council (RGC) members discussed and selected to prioritize root cause issue areas number three and four in the upcoming strategic plan.

## Defining Raise Up Oregon - Objective 2

Raise Up Oregon Objective 2: Families have access to high-quality (culturally responsive, inclusive, developmentally appropriate) affordable early care and education that meets their needs.

What does “culturally responsive, inclusive, developmentally appropriate” include? What evidence should we use?

- Care is available in a family’s native language.
- Providers have specific training around what developmentally appropriate early care and education is and looks like.
- Programs are aware of and accommodate the needs of children and families.
- Understand cultural aspects beyond the translation of words.
- Incorporate culture on a daily basis, not just on culturally-specific holidays.
- Increase behavioral supports for providers/child care settings so children are not being removed from programs.
- Sensitivity to the needs of individual children. Children are met with empathy, appreciation and programs are responsive to families’ culture and traditions.
- Seek input from families about their beliefs, needs, and desires for their child.

If families had access to high-quality (culturally responsive, inclusive, developmentally appropriate) affordable early care and education that meets their needs, what evidence could be used to support this?

- Provider education – having a degree in early care and education or a high step in Oregon Registry Online (ORO).
- Number of referrals programs are receiving from colleagues or friends.
- Parent feedback. For example, reference existing parent surveys (i.e., surveys from providers for SPARK star rating).
- Statistics about the number of children experiencing delays / disabilities.
- Culturally specific provider ratios match the number of families in culturally specific demographics.

What should be considered affordable – and to whom?

- Access for all children regardless of a families’ income.
- Free and appropriate care for all, starting at a younger age. Ensuring private child care settings are also accessible.
- Transportation for child care.
- Before and after school care for working families including other alternate care like nights and weekends.

What types of settings should be included in the term “early care and education”? Should it include unregulated settings? What types of settings will the South-Central Early Learning Hub region focus on?

- Regulated care settings – licensed child care.
- Recognize the importance of friends and family care as a preference for some families.
- Acknowledge and provide support to providers who want supports but are not licensed care facilities.

The Regional System Assessment has been compiled and will be submitted to the Early Learning Division (ELD) in the coming weeks. The next step is the strategic planning process that will include developing cross-sector systems change strategies. The Hub will be documenting the work happening across the region relating to Raise Up Oregon, Objective 2 as there are already strategies in place that are moving towards addressing gaps in early care and education. Throughout the strategic planning process, partners will be building collaborative capacity to work together, reduce duplication, and problem solve to reduce barriers. Addressing root causes will involve multiple sectors and community partners. Hub staff are the shepherds of the strategic plan, and resolving barriers will take a collaborative, community-wide, cross-sector effort.

## Budget Committee

Steve reviewed and proposed the Budget Committee Resolutions document (see attached) to the Regional Governance Council (RGC). Members of the Regional Governance Council (RGC) voted to approve the Budget Committee's Resolutions. Dena Haudenschild made a motion to approve Budget Committee Resolutions as presented. Rhonda Janecke seconded the motion.

There are current hearings at the legislature for the budget recommendation for the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC). This budget recommendation is being processed quickly for the transition of the Early Learning Division (ELD) to DELIC can take place on July 1, 2023. The transition will also include the transfer of Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) to DELIC from Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS).

The Governor's budget recommendation for Early Learning Hubs is \$23.6 million. The recommendation is to keep current service level with a cost of living increase. The amount is roughly the same Hubs received in the 2021-2023 biennium.

The Budget Committee's next meeting will be late March or early April.

## Early Learning Hub & Legislative Update

Description of Senate and House Bills can be found online at [https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills\\_laws/listbills/CurrentSessionBills.html](https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/listbills/CurrentSessionBills.html).

The Hub Association is watching the following bills relating to early learning:

Senate Bill (SB) 599 - Requires landlord to allow dwelling to be used as family child care home, subject to conditions.

House Bill (HB) 2227 - Requires Department of Early Learning and Care to study adequacy of availability of child care in state.

HB 2228 - Requires Department of Early Learning and Care to study adequacy of early learning in state.

HB 2229 - Requires Department of Early Learning and Care to study adequacy of early childhood education in state.

HB 2230 - Requires Department of Education to conduct study to determine how to address workforce shortage in education.

HB 2231 - Requires Department of Education to conduct study to determine how to address educator workforce shortage.

HB 2232 - Requires Department of Education to conduct study to determine how to use educator apprenticeships to address educator workforce shortage.

HB 2623 - Creates income tax credit for child care workers employed in rural areas.

HB 2726 - Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Early Learning Division of Department of Education to distribute to specified Early Learning Hub to administer pilot program to coordinate services and other resources provided to low-income pregnant individuals and families with children under five years of age by local and state agencies, human services providers, early learning services providers, health care providers and other community organizations in Jackson and Josephine Counties.

HB 2954 -- Directs Department of Early Learning and Care to establish and adopt by rule child care assistance pilot program to provide assistance and support to long term care employees with child care needs.

HB 2991 – Directs Department of Early Learning and Care to commission independent study regarding barriers to attaining high quality early childhood workforce.

HB 3029 – Directs Department of Early Learning and Care to establish and implement child care provider incentive program.

HB 3027 – Directs Department of Early Learning and Care to enter into contracts with entities to provide services as navigator of employment related day care.

HB 3235 -- Creates refundable child tax credit, calculated based on number of dependents of taxpayer under age of 18.

## Program Updates

**Preschool Promise** – The SCELH is working on updating the Coordinated Enrollment plan. Last year, with approval from the Stewardship Committee, the Hub was able to submit a plan to the ELD to change the selection process from a lottery to a points-based process for Preschool Promise selection. An applicant child receives a point per each of the Hub’s priority population they are included in. Children with the highest number of points are selected for Preschool Promise first. SCELH Priority Populations include:

- Children/families living in areas of geographic isolation including experiencing poverty.
- Children who are experiencing displacement: families experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and children in kinship care.
- Children from African American / Black, Asian, Hispanic / Latinx families, including native Spanish speakers.
- Children from Native American/Tribal families.
- Children who are experiencing physical or developmental disabilities or delays, including those with mental health concerns and/or trauma.

The Hub is having conversations with Head Start enrollment, Oregon Department of Human Services, Early Intervention Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE), and families to determine recommendations for the 2023-2024 Coordinated Enrollment plan.

The Hub is excited to announce two new employees. Maddie Holmes as the new Home Visiting Systems Coordinator, and Ronda Osborn as the new Family Resource Facilitator in Douglas County.

**Douglas County Child Care Coalition** – The Douglas County Child Care Coalition is getting ready to launch the ‘Our Child Care is Fundamental’ campaign. The coalition secured a website for the campaign, [www.childcareis.org](http://www.childcareis.org), and is in process of creating videos with coalition members, families, and child care providers about the importance of child care.

Workforce incentivization is ongoing. The coalition has recruited about 18 individuals to join the child care workforce since beginning the program. The incentive program helped save 105 child care slots, and has created about 50 new child care slots in Douglas County.

**Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI)** – The most recent Early Learning Gathering focused on Family Engagement, and had four early learning panelists ranging from home visitors to K-12 educators. The final Early Learning Gathering for the biennium will be hosted in April.

KPI is in the third stage of the Conscious Discipline project, Conscious Discipline for Families. Cynthia will bring a report about both Conscious Discipline stages and Early Learning Gatherings to the May Regional Governance Council meeting.

**Child Care Resource and Referral** – There are 29 individuals taking early care and education courses in the Umpqua Community College (UCC) cohort and 24 individuals in the Klamath Community College (KCC) cohort.

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. More information can be found online at <https://conta.cc/3XUqeVH>.

CCRR is working with one individual in Lake County, 20 individuals in Klamath County, and 24 in Douglas County who are interested in becoming child care providers. One of the barriers for individuals wanting to become a child care provider is the major delays in the Central Background Registry process.

CCRR is excited to announce they will be hiring for two new Preschool Promise coach positions.

**Home Visiting Systems Coordination (HVSC)** – The HVSC annual report was due to The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF) on February 15th. The Hub expects to have an interview with TFFF soon to review the annual report.

HVSC and Take Root will be partnering to offer professional development opportunities. Be on the lookout for more information about these upcoming events.

Vanessa will be presenting at the Start Early National Conference on March 16 with Portland State University (PSU), and two other HVSC regions who received funding from The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF).

**Take Root** – Virtual parenting opportunities for the remainder of the Winter Term include Co-Parenting for Life and Discipline is not a Dirty Word. Klamath County will be offering Parenting a Second Time Around, and have partnered with an organization in Klamath County to bring in Maternal Health classes. Douglas County will offer Bake Together next week.

**Parent Resource Center at Douglas ESD** – The Parent Resource Center received a grant from Umpqua Health Alliance. Grant funds will be used to host monthly activities for families, focusing on social-emotional learning, and to provide bus passes. If a family is interested in attending an activity at the Parent Resource Center but doesn't have transportation, they will receive a one-day bus pass which would also allow them the opportunity to complete other necessary activities that day.

**Community UPLIFT** – Has received 33 referrals since January 1. Douglas has received 19 and Klamath County has received 14 referrals. Staff in Klamath County attended a vaccination clinic at Klamath Community College, and will be attending the upcoming Sky Lakes Wellness Fair. Douglas County staff will be attending the upcoming Dr. Seuss event in Yoncalla.

### [Next Meeting Date](#)

May 31, 2023 from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

SCOEL Budget Committee Resolutions  
Feb 16, 2023

1. All Hub dollars coming from the state must be clearly presented to the Budget Committee who will then:
  - a). develop a budget proposal coordinated with available workplans from all Hub supported programs
  - b). propose budget to Regional Governance Council by March of each year
  - c). forward proposed budget to the Douglas Education Service District Budget Committee in a timely manner. (If the DESD Budget Committee or Full Board make adjustments to the Hub Budget - those funds from the Department of Early Learning and Care to the SCOELH – these adjustments with rationale will be presented as soon as possible for discussion).
  - c). Reports will be presented to the Budget Committee by the DESD and Hub Staff regularly and then to the Regional Governance Council at least quarterly.
2. Any disbursement not included in the annual budget must be approved by the Regional Budget Committee and reported to the Regional Governance Committee as the earliest convenience.
3. The Regional Budget Committee will work with the Hub staff to develop 3 – 5-year strategic plans for each Hub program. The Budget Committee will carefully consider these long-range plans when developing the annual budget.
4. The Regional Budget Committee may vote via email in the case of time sensitive decisions and these votes will be reported to the Regional Governance Committee at the next available meeting.