REGIONAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

Meeting Notes

Attendance

Chellsey Maher	Charlene Shaw	Athena Wikstrom
Steve Schenewerk	Analicia Nicholson	Connie Rosas
Michael Carter	Gillian Wesenberg	Danielle Walker
Dena Haudenshild	Cynthia Hurkes	Heidi McGowan
Rhonda Janecke	Vanessa Pingleton	

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

Welcome and Introductions

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

Early Learning Division (ELD) Updates

Gillian shared an Early Learning Division (ELD) / Legislative update, advising that that House Bill 4005 passed and extends the transition of the ELD to the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC) to July 1, 2023 to align to the new budgetary biennium and the transfer of Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) to DELC. It also transfers the license-exempt child care background check process from Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to the Office of Child Care in the ELD.

The following bills also passed:

House Bill 4033, better reflects the government-to-government relationship fostered by the state and nine federally recognized Oregon Tribes.

Senate Bill 1547, requiring staff and volunteers of recorded programs to enroll in the Central Background Registry.

House Bill 5202 – Omnibus Budget

- Approved funding for 32 out of 35 positions requested for the DELC transition.
- Approved full allocation for the establishment of the Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion Prevention Program.
- Approved funding for Child Care Supply & Capacity Building and Wage Enhancements.
    - NeighborImpact's Rebuild Childcare Plan to fund child care program expansion and support new child care programs in central Oregon.
    - Euvalcree's Rebuild Childcare Plan, funding the renovation of Euvalcree Center in Ontario Oregon, and provides training, professional development, and start-up costs for an estimated ten new in-home child care providers.
    - United We Heal Training Trust's Rebuild Childcare Plan funding child care provider capital grants, equipment grants, training, coaching, and mentorship for new providers.
    - Seeding Justice's Capacity Building Grant Fund for culturally specific and other child care providers to become licensed, expand services, or to start new child care centers.

- o Portland State University's (PSU) Oregon Center for Career Development in Child Care to award two annual recruitment and retention payments to child care staff working in Oregon.

The remaining funds were released for early learning program expansion that were held back until the ELD could show community capacity for expansion of Preschool Promise, Oregon Prenatal to Kindergarten, and Healthy Families Oregon.

Relief Nurseries and Healthy Families Oregon both received an investment from the legislature for increased wages.

COVID and Childcare - Upcoming changes, mask mandate ending

Charlene - Shared that on March 12 there will be a pause on the quarantine requirement for child care providers. If a child is experiencing COVID symptoms or tests positive for COVID, that child will be excluded from care for five days. As long as symptoms are gone for 24 hours, a child can return to care. Programs can still require masks if they want to, but it will be optional.

Athena asked if Head Start programs were planning to keep masking or if they end the mask requirement in their program? Charlene advised that this has not yet been fully decided.

Steve advised the government is making home tests available again.

Early Learning Hub Work Plan

Athena provided an update on the South-Central Early Learning Hub workplan. Hub staff utilized the Strategic Plan generated by our region to fill in the new template received from the Early Learning Division (ELD) which requires measurable outcomes for some objectives. The workplan was reviewed by the ELD's Denise Swanson and Dylan Antovich who provided input and feedback. Denise requested that the South-Central Early Learning Hub gather a steering committee of members, who were pre-determined by Denise, to also review and provide input and feedback on the plan. The Division is requesting the inclusion of the work of all early learning programs across the region, even if the ELH is not directly involved in the work, so that the workplan covers everything happening across the region.

At the time of the meeting, RGC members received the draft workplan document via meeting chat and invitation. The goal of the work plan discussion is to finalize the draft before submission to the Early Learning Division (ELD).

Steve requested clarification on measurable outcomes. If there is no specific outcome listed, is that a place for members to share observations during the meeting? Or will this document be submitted to the state and wait for their feedback?

The state hasn't required an outcome for every objective / strategy. This is the version that will go to the state, but the RGC can provide feedback on the document. The workplan is a living document where changes can be made and be submitted to the ELD.

Dena also requested clarification on the current measurable outcomes listed in the workplan. Will the Hub be able to adjust these outcomes over time or are the outcomes listed permanent? Some of the outcomes appear as if they could be refined and/or more clearly defined. What exactly are we measuring? Utilizing baseline measurements will be important in showing growth in the selected strategies.

Athena advised that if we determine a better measure of success or if a measurable outcome isn't achievable, these updates can also be made and submitted to the state. Steve believes there will be a lot of flexibility with changes to the workplan, especially with all of the changes going on at the state level.

Regarding measurable outcomes for Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI), evaluations from Portland State University (PSU) are utilized to measure parent learning via a pre and

post-survey. For example, if a parent views one of the TeachMy Kit videos online, they will need to respond to the PSU surveys before receipt of the TeachMy Kit.

Sandy requested the measurable outcome for "all (5) Yimìsa' Preschool staff trained in culturally responsive best practices," be changed to three staff trained. There are only three Preschool staff members, so five trained is unattainable.

Cynthia shared the KPI workplan, which is more detailed than the Hub's workplan, and includes information about priority populations, anticipated numbers, deliverables (activities) and outcomes. The KPI workplan is separate from the Early Learning Hub workplan because it is evaluated by Portland State University (PSU). There are only a few things in the KPI workplan not in the Hub workplan. For example, KPI supports the Klamath Chapter of the Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children (ORAEYC) Early Childhood Educator Conference and the Umpqua Community College (UCC) Early Childhood Education Conference. Another piece is KPI's role in the Regional Educator Network Design Team for provider retention. The Regional Educator Network is a program designed to provide professional learning to educators that is designed by educators.

Michael Carter made a motion to approve the workplan as submitted with the realization that the Hub workplans are a living document. Sandy Henry seconded the motion. Members of the RGC voted in favor of submitting the ELH and KPI workplans to the Early Learning Division.

Home Visiting Systems Coordination Grant

The new Home Visiting System's Coordination grant from The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF) will be more closely tied into Raise Up Oregon, South-Central Early Learning Hub workplans, and Coordinated Care Organizations (CCO) workplans. Home Visiting Systems Coordination grant workplans were shared with the RGC in the meeting chat.

The five main goals for the Home Visiting Systems Coordination grant include:

- Increase the number of services and support organizations to the Community UPLiFT data portal. Goal is to add at least one per month.
- Increase the number of yearly Community UPLiFT referrals received by 20%.
- Increase parent and family voice into the Home Visiting Systems Coordination work.
- Increase access to housing assistance in the Community UPLiFT data portal.
- Increase community knowledge about the benefits of early learning and early childhood home visiting. This will be measured by Portland State University (PSU) system surveys.

To date, Community UPLiFT has received 867 referrals. In 2021, Community UPLiFT received 254 referrals. So far this year, we have had 41 referrals.

Vanessa will be presenting at the National Home Visiting Summit, Start Early, about the Community UPLiFT Family Journey Mapping with PSU and Siskiyou County on March 23.

Gillian shared that our region received excellent feedback from The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF) and that Vanessa is doing a great job integrating and creating partnerships to continue progressing the work of the Home Visiting Systems Coordination.

Child Care Updates

Care Connections & Education, Regional Child Care Resource and 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. The child care recruitment advertisements playing in the Douglas and Klamath County movie theaters will end in June.

Preschool Promise - Athena shared that Preschool Promise Request for Application (RFA) will be released in the spring. There is not an exact date for release.

Partner Updates

Cascade Health Alliance (CHA) – Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) for Klamath County. Rhonda Janecke advised that CHA offices will be opening after March 12, but is unsure of how many people will be working from the office. Some staff will continue working from home or remotely from other locations. CHA is excited to proceed with Community UPLiFT on the ability to upload Family / Child Care Plans into the data portal. CHA is also looking for ways to bill for Community UPLiFT services rendered to the health insurance company. Vanessa added that Community UPLiFT is looking into having Family Resource Facilitators trained to be Community Health Workers.

Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) – Dena Haudenshild advised that there are a lot of referrals being received by EI/ECSE, and numbers are relatively high. Staff is still continuing with home visits and are excited that mask mandates are coming to an end. Tater Tots Pediatric Therapy now has an office within the Klamath Early Childhood Development Center; one parent was excited for their child to receive multiple services at one location during a visit to the center without needing to travel to many different locations for services. Dena is working with Klamath Basin Behavioral Health (KBBH) to possibly bring day-treatment services for preschool students; staff is noticing some extreme behaviors in young children.

Lakeview School District #7 – Michael Carter shared with the RGC that Lakeview School District was one of three districts selected to receive a grant for mental health supports. They will be hiring a Community Liaison to help with mental health services for parents and children. Reporting will be laborious. The grant will also be able to provide micro-certifications in mental health to teachers in the district.

Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) – Discussions about KPI Regional Investment Funds activities will be hosted in March at each of the Professional Advisory Committees (PACs) meetings.

Next Meeting Date

June 1, 2022, from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm