

March 16, 2022 | 10:00 AM – Noon

Attendance

Rhonda Janecke	Kelley Fritz	Charlene Shaw
Jordon Falconio	Stacia Clark	Kay Ortega
Jill O'Donnell	Kathleen Walker-Henderson	Melinda Gomez
Jane Nicholson	Dena Haudenschild	Jessica McAuliffe
Joseph Maurer	Jessie DuBose	Sylvia Cox
Wendy Brown	Heather Freilinger	Gillian Wesenberg

Please note: The Klamath Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held virtually due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) concerns.

Welcome and Introduction

The PAC reviewed and approved the February minutes. Dena Haudenschild made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, Charlene Shaw seconded the motion. No further discussion.

COVID Reset

Jill O'Donnell shared that the Klamath Chapter of the Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children (ORAEYC) will not be hosting the Klamath Early Children's Fair due to remaining COVID concerns. The Association hopes to bring the event back in April 2023.

Cascade Health Alliance (CHA) is allowing Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members back into their office to meet with staff. Staff have the ability to attend community meetings again.

Heather Freilinger shared child care providers have the choice to continue or remove masking requirements. Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) will continue to offer hybrid training opportunities to child care providers as it increases ability to access trainings across the region.

The drive-through window at the Klamath Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) building is now closed. Clients needing to speak with an ODHS staff member must go into the building.

Early Learning Hub Workplans

Athena Wikstrom provided a process overview of the South-Central Early Learning Hub workplan. The workplan was approved by the Regional Governance Council and submitted to the Early Learning Division (ELD) in early March.

The ELD provided a prescriptive workplan template to Hubs, and requested the South-Central Early Learning Hub bring together a small, pre-determined group of members to assist in completing the plan. The workplan is an overview of all early learning activities across the region, even if the Hub is not directly involved in the work, and aims to capture activities relating to Raise Up Oregon (RUO) and for the Hub's Priority Populations. Requirements of the workplan specify that 3-5 activities include specific, measurable outcomes. The workplan is a working document that can be updated and revisions that are in line with the ELD requirements can be sent to the ELD. Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) incorporated a majority of their workplan into the Hub workplan as they are included in the Hub contract with the ELD.

Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) Activities

Heidi McGowan provided facilitation for the discussion around identifying KPI Investment Fund priorities. Cynthia reviewed a one-page document with the group that outlines KPI requirements, priority populations, Raise Up Oregon Objective 7.2, and possible activities that could be supported by KPI. The Klamath PAC broke into small groups and discussed these topics:

1. Identify 2 to 4 activities that you think would be impactful in your county

2. Identify the priority population giving thought to the Hub's equity lens
3. Is the activity measurable?

Small groups reconvened with the large group and reported:

- Activities with parent child interaction (informal feel) e.g., Play2 Learn)
- Parent Cafes with informal feel - hybrid model
- Measurement tracking: attendance, goal setting
- Conscious Discipline training more community wide to bring together families from different programs to be a cohort that isn't typical peers
- Supplement Play2Learn through Harvard basics texting system 0 reinforce5 topics from Klamath Basics
- Play2Learn - offered to tribe
- Conscious Discipline - webinar (97 participants each month, has Spanish subtitles and books in Spanish)
- Parent Cafes, either virtually or in person - to share resources, and help improve parent mental health by engage parents in meaningful dialogues, promoting protective factors, and developing leadership skills
- Parent/Teacher Home Visits – groups would like to hear more about them because they are non-judgmental and build a relationship between parents and educators
- Try to elicit feedback from families on what they think they need
- Community / Parent Cafes to hear from families to gather information - in rural areas whether in person or virtual - make sure to cover all of our communities. Making sure that parents know they are heard by showing them what we did to try to meet their need,
- Ensure bi-lingual opportunities
- Any activity needs to be used to ask parents what they need - communication loop
- Desire for Community-Wide - not focused on only education
- Work that we've done over the past years has worked well - seeing a need to continue on and get parents more engaged in the work

Dena observed that Conscious Discipline and Community Cafes were mentioned frequently, while Kay pointed out that bilingual options are important. Jill noticed Play2Learn was discussed as well, can be used to receive parent feedback and is available in English and Spanish.

Heidi concluded there is a lot of energy around receiving feedback from parents with an emphasis on ensuring opportunities are available in Spanish.

Members agreed that Community Cafes can be used as a community-wide feedback loop and is inclusive of required Hub partners. Community Cafes can focus on families as a whole, not just on education.

Kathleen mentioned the work the Hub has done over five years has worked well in the community. There is a need to continue engaging parents in the evidence-based activities that support them. One idea could include the utilization of home visitors to get the word out about strategies including TeachMy Kits, Conscious Discipline, Klamath Basics, and etc....

Cynthia discussed the parent/teacher home visiting model and how it works. The parent/teacher home visiting model provides two non-judgmental home visits to build a relationship between parents and educators.

If Play2Learn was used for the Community Funds, it would need to incorporate social-emotional learning as well as providing information on how the social-emotional learning aspect will be implemented.

The ideas shared in the Klamath PAC will be taken to the RGC for the decision-making process.

Equity Lens Application

Dena reported that Klamath Promise has adopted the South-Central Early Learning Hub's Equity Lens as their official equity tool and added that the Equity Lens was utilized in their strategic planning process.

Rhonda Janecke shared the Nutrition Hub is working to reduce the incidence of low birth rates in the community. The group is creating material to share about nutrition and are looking at how to reach The Klamath Tribes and Spanish-speaking individuals.

Kathleen advised that grant requirements for child care providers are requiring the incorporation and identification of equity needs and ensuring equitable access. Klamath KID Center staff will be participating in their own upcoming equity trainings.

Partner Updates

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) -- Alexis Mann is joining the CCRR as a Navigator with KCC and will be doing outreach for child care provider recruitment.

CCRR is offering the Spring Fling provider appreciation conference for the first time in Klamath Falls. Keynote speaker, Dr. Kendra Coates, will provide a three-hour morning session about the unlearning process. Child care providers can attend the event in person at Klamath Community College (KCC). Dr. Kendra Coates will be simulcasting from Umpqua Community College (UCC) to KCC. Providers can purchase just the Kendra Coates portion for \$30. Spring Fling will be May 14 and includes 6 hours of training. Registration will be available this week.

Stabilization grants have come out. The remainder of funds will be given to providers who have already received funds. The CCRR received a stabilization grant and is using the grant to provide scholarships for providers to receive training in business classes and beginner computer skills such as using Outlook.

Home Visiting Systems Coordination & Community UPLIFT – Vanessa shared that The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF) awarded an additional two years of grant funding for Phase Three of the Rural Home Visiting Coordination grant. This portion allows grantees to align goals more closely with the goals of Early Learning Hubs, CCRR, and Raise Up Oregon (RUO).

Community UPLIFT partnered with Klamath County Healthy Families to host a Communities United Resource Network (CURN) meeting in Klamath County. The next CURN meeting is April 6 - email Vanessa for more information.

The Klamath/Lake County Community UPLIFT and Partner Lunch and Learn will be hosted via Zoom and in-person at the Washington Federal Conference Room on April 6 from 11:30am – 1:00pm. The Lunch and Learn will provide information about Community UPLIFT and services our partners provide. Registration will be available soon.

Klamath Family Head Start – Sylvia Cox reported that Klamath Family Head Start's budget and planning meetings were held over the past few days. The ERSEA team is receiving applications and getting them ready for the 2022-2023 school year. They are still accepting applications for this year. Klamath Family Head Start is hoping to offer in-house applications as well as the online applications for next year.

Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) – Dena shared that EI/ECSE hosted a petting zoo and over 50 of their families attended.

Preschool Promise – Danielle reported that Preschool Promise has one opening at Nic Nacs Quality Childcare. Children must be residents of Oregon, three or four-years-old by Sept. 1 of the beginning of the school year (ex., 3 or 4-years-old by Sept. 1, 2022 for the 2022-2023 school year) and have a family income of up to 200% Federal Poverty Level (FPL). There may be some leeway for income, so send anyone interested. Preschool Promise is not yet accepting applications for the 2022-2023 school year, but the South-Central Early Learning Hub is accepting contact information from interested families.

Next Meeting:

April 27, 2022 from 10 am to noon.