

# KLAMATH PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Notes

March 17, 2021 | 10:00 AM – Noon

### Attendance

Amy Quayle	Jill O'Donnell	Rhonda Janecke
Charlene Shaw	Kathleen Henderson	Sylvia Cox
Cynthia Hurkes	Kathleen Mitchell	Johanna Scholer
Gillian Wesenberg	Kay Ortega	Yecenia Rodriguez
Heather Freilinger	Maurita Johnson	Danielle Walker
Heidi McGowan	Melinda Gomez	Athena Wikstrom
Jessie DuBose	Rhonda Nyseth	Ceresse Harris

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 Klamath Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) reviewed the minutes. Kathleen Walker-Henderson and Jessie DuBose requested revisions on name spellings. Kathleen Walker-Henderson made a motion to approve minutes with revisions and Sylvia Cox seconded the motion. There was no further discussion.

### Upcoming Early Learning Division (ELD) Requirements and Legislative Update

Gillian gave an update on legislative house bills and the proposed funding formula for Early Learning Hubs across the state.

Gillian has been meeting with Desta Walsh and Maurita Johnson, our regional District Managers for Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS). From these conversations, Gillian was invited to discuss early learning and Raise Up Oregon (RUO) with Family Coaches. Maurita shared the meetings discussions were meaningful for Family Coaches who appreciated the opportunity to discuss strengths and barriers that arise in families. This was a great opportunity to share with Family Coaches Raise Up Oregon and how their work is critical and connected to outcomes for children and families across the state.

Danielle shared that the Regional Governance Council met on March 3, and had representation from the Early Learning Council (ELC) and Early Learning Division (ELD). Guest attendees included ELC Chairperson, Sue Miller, ELC member, Anne Kubisch, ELD Hub Managers, Denise Swanson and Carmen Ellis, and Operations & Policy Analyst, Troy Duker.

Denise and Carmen presented about the new Theory of Change and Scope of Work. The Theory of Change is based on Raise Up Oregon (RUO), which includes existing state plans and documents, stakeholder input, and research into evidence-based practices. The Theory of Change organizes the ELD's best thinking about what needs to happen for the desired impact for children and families. This theory can be adjusted as strategies are implemented. There will be more information about the new processes in the coming weeks, and the Hub will share this information once it is received.

The group discussed the upcoming requirements and the changes were compared with the recent transition that Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) went through in the CCO 2.0 process. The loss of funding is disappointing, but we can help inform the state's future processes by keeping good documentation about what data points would be helpful to be considered when generating new funding formulas.

Klamath Family Head Start and Oregon Childhood Development Coalition (OCDC) shared information about how each of their programs lobby with the legislature. Both programs utilize parent representatives to advocate for their programs as the organizations work with parents to develop parent leadership skills. On March 15, Oregon State Representative E. Werner Reschke visited Klamath Family Head Start where he received a tour of the facility and had a chance to speak with parents and the staff of the program.

Danielle advised that she and the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) Tri-Chairs have been invited to present information about the Early Learning Hub and the development of our regional Equity Lens to Klamath Promise, the Early Learning Hub's Governance Council for Klamath County. The presentation will be on March 18 at the Klamath Promise Steering Committee meeting. The agenda can be found at: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cd8OQPCyVJABvMdnWyu\\_-dQPNZLxQGL7Fyzulr7eSOY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cd8OQPCyVJABvMdnWyu_-dQPNZLxQGL7Fyzulr7eSOY/edit?usp=sharing)

### Teach My Kit Distribution

Amy Quayle shared information about the distribution of TeachMy Kits in Klamath County. The distribution is coming to an end, and the Hub's Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation Program (KPI) thanked Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) and Klamath Family Head Start (KFHS) for storing and distributing kits to partners in Klamath County. Amy advised that a small group of volunteers came together to discuss the distribution of TeachMy Kits to community partners. Kits were distributed to the Salvation Army, Developmental Disability (DD) Services, Community Corrections, Klamath County Library, OCDC, ODHS, WIC, The Klamath Tribes, Healthy Families, Faith Based partners, among others. Kathleen Walker-Henderson developed recordings for families about how to use kits and how to expand on the concepts included in the kits.

Cynthia Hurkes advised that KPI could consider purchasing additional Teach My Kits, but the kits would need to be drop-shipped directly to distributing partners. Any additional kits would need to be purchased before June 2021.

### Equity Lens

The group discussed the Equity Lens and its practical application. Members shared stories about diversity, equity, and inclusion in order to advance equitable outcomes for children and families in the South-Central Early Learning Hub region in March by:

1. Getting on the same page and surfacing assumptions
2. Involving stakeholders and engaging multiple perspectives
3. Assessing equity impact
4. Taking action for equity

Some additional insight relating to equitable outcomes included:

- Latinx families are having a difficult time accessing COVID-19 vaccination information.
- It is important to present information about geographically isolated families to urban audiences in a manner that is understandable to them. For example, the barriers to hosting a meeting across Portland with traffic in comparison to hosting meetings across a mountain range.

### Partner Updates

**Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR)** - Charlene Shaw advised that the CCRR in Klamath County will be hosting a provider pick-up for supplies tomorrow night from 5:00 – 7:00 pm.

Heather Freilinger shared that regionally, the CCRR has an Environmental Rating Scale multi-session course this quarter for English and Spanish-speaking providers. In addition, the CCRR will be hosting the virtual Spring Fling in May. The featured key note speaker will be Heidi McGowan.

If you would like to be on the CCRR mailing list, please contact Heather by email at [heather.freilinger@douglasesd.k12.or.us](mailto:heather.freilinger@douglasesd.k12.or.us).

**Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS)** - Rhonda Nyseth shared that transportation is challenging for geographically isolated families, and advised that Basin Transit Services (BTS) is working on expanding transportation services to Merrill and Malin on Sundays. Rhonda requested that partners come together to work on transportation barriers by meeting with BTS.

April is Child Abuse Prevention month, contact Rhonda Nyseth to pick up Pinwheels for Prevention.

The Oral Health Coalition in Klamath County is offering Free Dental Clinic Days in Malin on May 22 and in Merrill on May 23. Contact Rhonda Nyseth if you are interested in hosting a booth at the event. Food will be provided to volunteers.

**Klamath Community College (KCC)** - Kathleen Walker-Henderson advised that she has a meeting with the Early Learning Professional Development (ELPD) Grant Fund organization to see if KCC is eligible to receive additional funding to support early care and education courses.

**Klamath Family Head Start (KFHS)** – Sylvia Cox advised that KFHS is open and they are thankful to be able to serve families. KFHS is looking at increasing classroom sizes after Spring Break. The Early Head Start program is currently full and has a waitlist, but the Head Start program for three to five-year-olds still has openings.

**Take Root Parenting-** Amy Quayle advised that Take Root will be sending out the Spring Schedule today. The link to the registration can be found at: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/cu/pBDuXcy/Spring2021>

In Spring Term, Take Root has contracted with Shauna Signorini to offer a workshop titled Pinwheels, Pinballs, & Patterns: Support for Your Child & Yourself. Additional workshops being offered in Spring Term include: Discipline is NOT a Dirty Word; Happy Monster Sad Monster; Growth Mindsets for Parents; Mindfulness and Compassionate Parenting; Got a Biter?; and, Becoming a Super Dad. Upcoming series include Wonderful ONES!; two Ready! For Kindergarten series, one series for two and three-year-olds and one series for three and four-year-olds; Make Parenting a Pleasure – Second Edition; Strengthening Families Program for Families with 10 to 17-year-olds.

**Klamath Tribes Early Child Development Center (ECDC)** – Kathleen Mitchell advised that ECDC is having a hard time filling their two preschool classrooms, there are still openings for children in both classrooms, one of which is Preschool Promise. ECDC has received and is grateful for extra COVID-19 funding, but are also finding it difficult to hire employees. Currently, there are three staff members out due to quarantine.

**Klamath County School District** – Jill O'Donnell advised that social distancing guidelines need to be changed by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Oregon Department of Education (ODE) in order to get all kids back to school full time. Until the changes to distancing occur, KCS D students will remain in a hybrid learning model.

**Klamath Falls City Schools (KFCS)** – Dena Haudenschild advised that KFCS will also remain in their current hybrid learning model due to social distancing guidelines. The School Board approved to move of Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) into the old Altamont building next year. The majority of early learning programs and staff will also move to this building, including district sponsored preschool, and Preschool Promise.

**Klamath Chapter of the Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children (ORAEYC)** – Jill O'Donnell advised that the National Week of the Young Child is April 10-16<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, the Klamath County Children's Early Learning Fair will be cancelled again this year due to COVID-19, but have developed information about the Week of the Young Child to be shared with families and community partners.

#### **Next Meeting:**

Klamath PAC: April 28, 2021 from 10:00 am – Noon. Hosted virtually.