

March 22, 2023 | 10:00 AM – Noon

Attendance

Dena Haudenschild	Heather Freilinger	Sanora Hoggarth
Alana Strickland	Jaelynn Luna	Vanessa Pingleton
Brayanna Montgomery	Jennifer Jackson	William Barnes
Cassie Rose	Jeri Lang	Yecenia Rodriguez
Charlene Shaw	Jessica McAuliffe	Kathleen Walker-Henderson
Cynthia Hurkes	Kay Ortega	Athena Wikstrom
David Elliott	Melinda Gomez	Danielle Walker
David Lev	Melissa Dorsey	
Denise Swingle	Pam Glasser	
Heather Robinson	Patricia Pahl	

Please note: For ease of member access, South-Central Early Learning Hub – Klamath Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings will be held virtually unless otherwise notified.

Welcome and Introduction

The PAC reviewed and approved the February minutes. Kathleen Walker-Henderson made a motion to approve February minutes with one revision, adding David Lev to meeting attendee list. Charlene Shaw seconded the motion. No further discussion.

South-Central Early Learning Hub Update

The Legislative Session is still in process. Bills moving forward have been assigned to committees to be voted on, debated or amended. New Legislative updates should be available by the next Klamath PAC meeting.

The Regional System Assessment (RSA) was submitted to the Early Learning Division (ELD) one month early. The Hub is waiting for feedback from the ELD. Once feedback is received, the Hub will await the directions from the ELD for the strategic planning process.

The Hub is still accepting Preschool Promise applications and enrolling students for the 2022-2023 school year. There are openings in Klamath County at Little Learners Preschool, Nic Nacs Quality Childcare, and The YMCA of Klamath Falls. Applications for the 2023-2024 school year will open after Spring Break.

Ronda Osborn has been hired as the new Family Resource Facilitator for Douglas County.

The ELD commissioned each of the 16 Hubs across Oregon to conduct Raise Up Oregon (RUO) listening sessions with different community partners. Regionally, the South-Central Early Learning Hub (SCELH) was assigned families who are/were engaged with ODHS services, and ODHS employees. The Hub contracted with Heidi McGowan, who facilitated two listening sessions in March. One session was hosted with families, and one session was hosted with employees. Heidi will be compiling a feedback report for submission to the ELD.

The next Family Advisory Committee meeting is April 11 at 6:00pm. Families will be providing input about visioning and how the Hub will be moving forward.

Equity Lens

The Klamath Professional Advisory Committee discussed the Hub Equity Lens and how equity is being applied in Klamath County. Klamath Family Head Start started a monthly equity committee. The Foster Grandparent program is introducing all of their new foster grandparents to equity and the understanding of implicit bias. Groups also shared that they are either utilizing an equity lens or have equity as a standing agenda item during meetings.

Red is the Road to Wellness (RRW) Presentation

William Barnes, Director of Red is the Road to Wellness (RRW), presented about their services. RRW was founded with a philosophy to address community concerns because the community cares, not because there is a problem. RRW uses trauma informed and culturally responsive services and work to reduce re-traumatization for individuals engaged in their services.

RRW employs five trained Peer Support Specialists, two Case Managers, two Administrative Staff, and two Clinical Staff. RRW staff provides services daily to a range of around 60-100 individuals, serves 50-112 meals, and handle 10-25 clothing requests.

The RRW Hope Center offers phone docking stations, goal setting and support to accomplish goals, educational and motivational television programming, walk-in peer support services, support and educational groups, drug and alcohol services, assistance with criminal record expungement, food services, clothing services, computer stations, laundry cards, and bus tokens.

The RRW Supportive Employment Program helps individuals who are not easily employable get to a place of employment. RRW has accomplished this by building relationships with local businesses and temp agencies in the community.

Community Outreach is done two to four days per week by identifying homeless strongholds and building relationships with the houseless communities of Klamath County.

RRW provides harm reduction through monthly needle exchange events, providing overdose kits, and by employing a harm reductionist who is available six days per week.

RRW prioritizes individuals at risk of substance abuse or those who are currently using substances. Emergency housing is available to individuals through short-term hotel stays, and to provide immediate stabilization and case management. Transitional housing is available for up to twenty-four months; people only need to have a desire to change to receive transitional housing support. RRW does not support ongoing substance use.

RRW offers Individual Housing Assistance, and will pay for some rental background checks on a case-by-case basis. RRW works with other providers in the community that help with rental assistance, and will help individuals complete applications for those programs (ex., Klamath Lake Community Action Services, Klamath Housing Authority). RRW generates an available housing list at least once per week.

RRW website: rrwlife.com, Main Line: (541) 797-0088

William T. Barnes, RRW Founder and CEO: william@rrwlife.com, (541) 281-2793

Partner Updates

Cassie Rose - Foster Grandparent Program – The Foster Grandparent Program is looking for guest speakers to provide in-service trainings to volunteers who serve as classroom Grandma's and Grandpa's in early learning and K-3 settings. If anyone would be willing to provide a training from 20 min to 2 hours, contact Cassie by email at crose@retirement.org.

Patricia Pahl – Cascade Health Alliance (CHA) – CHA has a Community Health Improvement Project (CHIP) Equity Group who meet regularly and are always looking for individuals to join. If you are interested in joining the CHIP Equity Group, contact Patricia Pahl, CHA Health Equity Manager by email at patriciap@casadecom.com.

Kathleen Walker-Henderson – Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children (ORAEYC)- The Children's Learning Fair will be held April 15 from 9:00am – 2:00pm at the Klamath County Fairgrounds.

Kathleen Walker-Henderson – Klamath Community College (KCC) – The Annual KCC GALA will be held on May 13, more information can be found online at <https://www.klamathcc.edu/news/2023/03/hay-klamath-auditons.html>.

Klamath Community College is looking for a volunteer for the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee application can be completed online at <https://www.klamathcc.edu/en-US/about/budget/index.html>.

Heather Freilinger – Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) – Child care providers in Klamath Falls have increased from 92 to 97. There is still a delay with processing child care provider background checks at the state level. CCRR is working with an additional 13 individuals interested in becoming child care providers. Three Spanish-speaking providers in Klamath Falls received the startup and expansion grant.

The annual Spring Fling will be held at Klamath Community College (KCC) on April 29, and will have six hours of training. Keynote speaker for the Spring Fling will be Dr. McGee presenting about Behavior Supports and Temperaments. Each participant will receive a kit valued at \$20 in their participant bag.

The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF) is offering a Capital Improvement grant in Klamath County, which is geared towards family child care providers. The Research Institute (TRI) with Western Oregon University will be hosting an informational session about the grant opportunity.

Melinda Gomez – Klamath Family Head Start – Head Start hosted a Farm Literacy Night at the fairgrounds and had over 178 Head Start families attend. Booths included the 4-H program with farm animals, Klamath Falls City Police K-9 unit, car seat station, and the Klamath County Library.

Head Start Kindergarten Prep night will be April 18. KFHS is also planning a multi-cultural event in May. Head Start is compiling a multi-cultural family cookbook, and are asking Head Start families to submit recipes.

Klamath Family Head Start will begin accepting applications for the 2023-2024 school year in April.

KFHS contacts: ERSEA Manager - Jordan Linney, jordan.linney@kfheadstart.org, Equity Committee Event Lead, and Stephanie Potter – Ages 0-5 Education Manager, and Kindergarten Readiness event coordinator, stephanie.potter@kfheadstart.org.

Brayanna Montgomery - Integral Youth Services (IYS) – The IYS Love Our Children Event will be hosted on April 1 at Steens Sporks Park. If you are interested in hosting a booth, contact Taylor Hampton, taylorhampton@iyskfalls.org.

Sanora Hoggarth – Take Root – The Parenting a Second Time Around (PASTA) series will be finishing on Thursday, with the discussion of Establishing a Parenting Style. The Spring Term schedule will be coming out after spring break, and will include a virtual Baby 101 workshop, and an in-person infant and child CPR class. Take Root will also be hosting a Story Time at Basin Book Trader, and a one-night Social-Emotional workshop.

Take Root Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Klamath.County.Take.Root.Parenting.Connection/>

Sanora Hoggarth – Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) – The last Early Learning Gathering for the 2022-2023 year will be on April 18 with guest speaker, Erin Helgrin. The focus of this gathering is How We Engage and Show Up for Families.

KPI is currently dispersing TeachMy Toddler Kits to the community. Let Sanora know if you are interested in receiving kits to distribute.

Yecenia Rodriguez – Central Oregon Disability Support Network (CODSN) – CODSN will be having a breaking barriers conference in Redmond. If families are interested in attending the conference, CODSN has some funding to help with fuel costs, or a potential hotel stay.

Jaelynn Luna - Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC) – The OCDC Chiloquin site has been undergoing renovations. Renovations are nearly complete and the site should be opening within the next two weeks. During the renovations, OCDC Family Health Services and Education Services have been offering weekly in-home services to families. The OCDC site at Klamath Community College (KCC) opened last month. With the opening, OCDC was able to add two classrooms, serving an additional 14 students. Both Chiloquin and KCC locations will be served by SMART Reading.

Heather Robinson – Cascade Health Alliance (CHA) – The local System of Care (SOC) website is now up and running. Anyone in the community experiencing a barrier to accessing health-care or wellness resources, and would like to have the barrier discussed at the local System of Care Governance, can submit a barrier form on the site at <https://www.cascadehealthalliance.com/community/system-of-care/>

Danielle Walker – Community UPLIFT – Since January 1, there have been 46 total Community UPLIFT referrals, 23 in Douglas County, and 23 in Klamath County. Community UPLIFT is a free service to providers and individuals that help connect families to resources across the region. When a referral is received, a Family Resource Facilitator connects with the family, gets to know them, and offer referrals to services based on indicated needs and preferences.

Other Discussion:

If anyone has any suggestions for trainings or presenters for upcoming Klamath Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings, let Danielle know. Danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us.

Next Meeting:

April 26, 2023 from 10 am to noon.