

# LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

Meeting Notes

April 23, 2024 | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

## Attendance

Lane Stratton (v)  
Michael Benson (v)  
Jen Schultz

Miranda Philibert  
Gail Buermann (v)  
Gillian Wesenberg

Athena Wikstrom  
Danielle Walker

Please note: For ease of member access, South-Central Early Learning Hub – Lake County Community Governance Council meetings will be held virtually unless otherwise notified.

No quorum reached. March 2024 minutes unable to be approved. Formal approval of the March 2024 minutes to be revisited at the next Lake County Community Governance Council meeting.

**Care Connections and Education / Child Care Resource and Referral** – Heather Freilinger was unable to attend due to a conflict, Gillian shared the Care Connections and Education update on Heather’s behalf.

The number of child care providers in Lake County increased from four in April 2023 to six in April 2024. There is one individual currently in the process of becoming a child care provider in Lake County. Care Connections & Education offered 165 hours of training opportunities from July 2023-March 2024. Nineteen Lake County child care providers have participated in the training opportunities.

The child care Start-up & Expansion Grant for new providers and providers wishing to expand their services, received two applications from Lake County providers, 22 from Douglas County providers, and 18 from Klamath County providers. Grant awards will be announced in May 2024.

Senate Bill 1040 passed during the 2023 legislative session, requiring the Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) to create a Micro-Center Pilot Program. Applications for the Micro-Center Pilot Program are now open. The primary goal of the Micro-Center Pilot Program is to identify and ease barriers to licensing that make it harder for successful operations of small capacity programs in underserved communities. The data collected during the pilot will help with guiding the development of future regulations and policies that may help small capacity programs’ viability. The information shared by participants will be used in a legislative report that will be completed at the end of the pilot. The information may be used for other legislative workgroups that are currently addressing barriers for child care programs to expand their businesses.

Applications can be submitted online at: [Department of Early Learning and Care : Micro-Center Pilot Program : For Providers : State of Oregon.](#)

**South-Central Early Learning Hub** – Gillian shared the Department of Early Learning and Care contracted with BUILD to help define the role of Early Learning Hubs. BUILD is working with DELIC, the Early Learning Council (ELC) and Hubs to ensure everyone is on the same page statutorily and plans to provide a definition about the work of Hubs by December 2024.

Athena attended the Christmas Valley Community Baby Shower on April 20, 2024. There were seven families in attendance who were either expecting or had given birth within the past year. One parent was unable to attend due to a transportation barrier but is currently engaged with Healthy Families services. Vicky with Healthy Families will be delivering items from the Community Baby Shower to this family. Another family attended from Lakeview because their baby’s due date is during the Lakeview Community Baby Shower. At the baby shower, Athena shared information about Community UPLIFT and generated at least one Community UPLIFT referral. The Hub also distributed free preschool flyers with information about Honker Preschool Promise and Klamath Family Head Start Lakeview services, including Early Head Start, Head Start, and Preschool Promise.

Lane shared appreciation for the movement of programs and services into Lake County, especially North Lake. Gail seconded his appreciation and thanked Athena for attending. She also applauded the Lake County Community Baby Shower planning team for hosting the event in Christmas Valley.

**North Lake School District** – Gail shared the importance of early childhood experiences and advised that ages birth to five are an area of focus in North Lake. Preschool was included in their state K-12 Early Literacy Grant. The last Early Literacy meeting for this year is in May. There are Professional Development opportunities for Early Literacy already scheduled for the 2024-2025 school year. The work of including preschool in the Early Literacy Grant is helping bridge the gap between early learning and K-12. North Lake will be offering a summer school program that incoming kindergarteners will be invited to participate in. The summer school program will help make the transition into kindergarten easier for them.

**Lakeview School District #7** – Honker Preschool has worked hard to fill the open preschool teacher position due to the recent loss of their preschool teacher. With minimal time to meet state Preschool Promise teacher requirements, the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) kindly provided a waiver for Kim Sorensen to finish the year as the lead Preschool Promise teacher with Jen supporting her in the work. During the summer, Kim will be working to obtain the Oregon Registry (ORO) Step needed to be the lead teacher in the 2024-2025 school year.

Lakeview School District #7 is offering a weekly summer camp at the reduced cost of \$65 for four days of care. The camp will run Monday through Friday from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Children must be three years old by June 1, 2024 and can be up to the age of ten to attend the summer camp. Families can sign their children up for different weeks to give flexibility to those who will be traveling during the summer. Kim Sorensen supervised the camp last year, but with increased training required for Preschool Promise, she will co-supervise the summer camp with another individual. Nine high school interns will take Conscious Discipline training and then help design and run the summer camp.

Michael Carter shared that Shawn Gerber is now certified as a water safety instructor. He will be training students to become lifeguards so the pool can open over the summer. In the past, water safety instructors had to travel from Klamath Falls or Bend to train new lifeguards, which prevented the pool from opening.

**Take Root** – Bailey Guido – Take Root and Lake ESD partnered again to provide Family Engagement Boxes in Paisley. There are currently four families subscribing to the Paisley Family Engagement Boxes. Take Root is also working with Gail to begin Family Engagement Boxes in North Lake this Fall.

Tomorrow night is the Warner Family Engagement Night in Adel. There are seventeen people registered for the event, and food will be provided by the Downtown Bakery and Café.

**Next Meeting:** May 28, 2024, at 1:00 pm.

**Adjournment:** 1:36 pm.