

KLAMATH PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

April 28, 2021 | 10:00 AM – Noon

Attendance

Athena Wikstrom
Amy Quayle
Ceresse Harris
Charlene Shaw
Dena Haudenschild
Gillian Wesenberg
Jill O'Donnell

Heather Freilinger
Johanna Scholer
Jessica McAuliffe
Kathleen Mitchell
Kathleen Walker-Henderson
Maurita Johnson
Melinda Gomez

Rhonda Nyseth
Rhonda Janecke
Sylvia Cox
Jessie Dubose
Kay Ortega
Danielle Walker

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 and approved March minutes as submitted.

Upcoming Early Learning Division (ELD) Requirements and Legislative Update

Gillian advised that the South-Central Early Learning Hub's Regional Governance Council (RGC) met to discuss budgeted funds that were not expended due to COVID-19. The group approved the purchase and distribution of infant/toddler kits throughout the region. These kits will be purchased from Lakeshore and received before June. Due to limited availability, kits will target infants and toddlers 6-36 months who are listed as priority populations in the Early Learning Hub's Early Care and Education (ECE) Sector Plan.

Gillian gave a legislative update on House Bill 3073, advising that amendments have been made to the bill. Danielle will share the overview of House Bill 3073A with the Klamath PAC (see attached). House Bill 3073A establishes the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC). DELIC will replace the Early Learning Division (ELD) and will be a stand-alone agency, no longer overseen by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE).

The current Early Learning Division Director Miriam Calderon accepted a position with the Biden-Harris administration to work with early learning policy at the national level. Alyssa Chatterjee, who has focused on early learning policy throughout her time working for the State of Oregon, was named as the acting director of the ELD by the Governor.

Gillian has been meeting with Desta Walsh and Maurita Johnson, our regional District Managers for the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), and Family Coaches for the region. Maurita shared that Family Coaches help families achieve economic stability. Creating a strong connection between early learning and ODHS Family Coaches is critical for the family coaches to support the foundation of early learning so children can thrive in school as the children advance from birth and then K-12.

Kindergarten Transition, Informing Parent with an Equity Lens Focus

The group discussed how to incorporate and utilize the equity lens in getting preschool and kindergarten registration information out to families in a timely manner. It is important to encourage families who may benefit from these programs, particularly publicly funded preschools, to register early so they have the opportunity to participate before programs fill up in the fall.

The South-Central Early Learning Hub is updating a Publicly Funded Preschool flyer, which includes information about all free preschool programs in Klamath County. Suggestions for reaching families included distributing information through the following channels:

- Pediatric clinics
- Klamath County Library Service District

- Cascade Health Alliance (CHA) text messaging
- Free Dental Days in Merrill and Malin
- Play 2 Learn events
- Post Offices, especially in rural areas such as Keno, Chiloquin, Gilchrist, etc.

Parent Focus Groups

In the new Scope of Work for Early Learning Hubs, the state is requesting that we generate and utilize Parent Councils as a part of our Hub Governance Structure. In order to comply with these upcoming requirements, the South-Central Early Learning Hub will be hosting two Regional Parent Focus Groups, one in May and one in June. Heidi McGowan will facilitate the parent focus groups to determine parent needs. Parents will receive a \$50 stipend for their attendance including their feedback. The Hub is generating a flyer for parents who may be interested in attending. Once the flyer is finalized, we will share it with the Professional Advisory Committees and Governance Councils across the region to help reach parents of young children.

Partner Updates

Preschool Promise – The Early Learning Hub has opened the process for applications for continuing students (current Preschool Promise students who will not age out of the program) for the 2021-2022 school year. We are working towards opening the application process for all students. There is potential for summer Preschool Promise opportunities but the Early Learning Hub and Preschool Promise sites are waiting for more information from the state.

Heather and Charlene shared that they are working with Preschool Promise providers to provide technical assistance, including professional development trainings. One barrier they have experienced this year is not being able to visit Preschool Promise sites in person.

Community UPLIFT – Community UPLIFT connects expecting families, families with children 0-5, or up to the age of 21 with special needs, to resources in Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties. Online referrals can be completed at www.community-uplift.com or via smart phone by texting the keyword “uplift2” to 484848. For more information on Community UPLIFT, contact Danielle by phone at (541) 880-4655 or email at danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us.

Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) – Amy Quayle shared that the second virtual Early Learning Gathering is coming up. The gathering will focus on social-emotional learning and what it looks like in the classroom.

There will be another Growing Early Mindsets (GEM) institute with Dr. Kendra Coats. Also, scholarships are available for upcoming conferences. Please contact Amy for additional information.

Take Root Parenting Education – Take Root staff will be attending the Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative Conference next week. The videos from Kathleen Walker-Henderson for Teach My Kits are now finalized. Ready! for Kindergarten classes filled up quickly. Take Root is partnering with South-Central Early Learning Hub’s Community UPLIFT and Lake District Wellness to provide a series of Trauma Informed Care facilitated by Dr. Amy Stoeber.

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) – Heather Freiling advised that the Spring Fling Conference will be held on May 15. Heidi McGowan will be the Keynote Speaker discussing Brené Brown’s Dare to Lead. There is a registration fee of \$25. Some cohorts receive free registration. Participants in the Spring Fling will receive children’s books that were recommended by Heidi.

Jill O’Donnell – Jill O’Donnell shared she is running for re-election to the Klamath County School District Board and would appreciate the group’s support.

Klamath Family Head Start – Sylvia Cox advised Klamath Family Head Start is accepting applications for both Early Head Start and Head Start for the 2021-2022 school year.

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) – Dena Haudenschild advised there is an Early Childhood Partnership meeting next week. This meeting will focus on building the county plan for Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE). If you would like to be added to the invitation list, please contact Dena.

Free Dental Days – Rhonda Nyseth shared that the Klamath Basin Oral Health Coalition, Free Dental Days event will be held on May 22 at Malin Community Hall and May 23 at the Merrill Civic Center. The event will also include free vision screenings, and the committee is working towards offering COVID vaccinations.

Next Meeting:

Klamath PAC: May 26, 2021 from 10:00 am – Noon. Hosted virtually.

HB 3073 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood

Action Date: 04/12/21

Action: Do pass with amendments. Refer to Rules, then to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-0-0-0

Yeas: 8 - Lively, Neron, Power, Reynolds, Schouten, Weber, Wright, Zika

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/22, 2/24, 4/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Makes Early Learning Council responsible for leading cross-sector strategic planning for statewide early learning system. Establishes purposes of statewide early learning system. Modifies duties of Early Learning Council. Modifies membership and duties of State Interagency Coordinating Council. Modifies Employment Related Day Care subsidy program provisions. Makes Department of Human Services and Early Learning Council jointly responsible for program rules. Requires sliding scale for copayments, not to exceed seven percent of household income. Requires Early Learning Council to establish process for determining true cost of child care compared to market rate by July 1, 2022. Requires report to legislature by December 31, 2022. Repeals Oregon Department of Education's Early Learning Division. Establishes Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) as independent state agency, led by Governor-appointed Early Learning System Director beginning July 1, 2022. Establishes purposes of DELIC. Transfers responsibility to administer funds received pursuant to federal Child Care and Development Block Grant and Child Care and Development Fund, other federal funds and grants received by the State of Oregon, and resource and referral system from Office of Child Care to DELIC. Requires annual report to Legislative Fiscal Office. Allows family child care providers who are parties in contested case hearings to be represented by a labor union representative. Modifies provisions of Preschool Promise Program. Changes quality rating system to quality recognition system. Requires Superintendent of Public Instruction to collaborate with Early Learning System Director for provision of early intervention/early childhood special education programs. Requires State Board of Education to consult with Early Learning Council on promulgation of related rules. Requires Department of Education and Early Learning Division to develop and implement a plan that provides for seamless transfer of duties, functions, and powers. Requires Director of Oregon Department of Education to deliver to the Early Learning Authority all records and property, as well as employees. Transfers fund balances. Transfers Employment Related Day Care subsidy program to DELIC beginning June 30, 2023 and requires Department of Human Services to deliver related records and property. Requires transition reports to legislature September 15, 2021, December 31, 2021, and September 30, 2022. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Early learning in Oregon
- Child care system
- Needs of providers and families
- Governance in other states

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

HB 3073 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND:

The Early Learning Division of the Oregon Department of Education was established by passage of House Bill 3234 in 2013. That measure transferred certain duties previously assigned to the Early Learning Council to the Division. Since that time, the Division has served to govern and manage most of the state's early child care and education programs and services.

House Bill 3073 A makes the Early Learning Division into an independent state agency, titles the new agency the Department of Early Learning and Care, modifies related definitions and duties, and transfers the Employment Related Day Care subsidy program currently managed by the Department of Human Services to the newly created agency.