

May 24, 2023 | 10:00 AM – Noon

**Attendance**

Rhonda Janecke	Robyn Derrick	Jennifer Jackson
Denise Swingle	Kathleen Walker Henderson	Kay Ortega
Cynthia Hurkes	Valeree Lane	Gillian Wesenberg
David Elliott	Crystal Lemus	Sanora Hoggarth
Pam Glacier	David Lev	Alexis Mann
Charlene Shaw	Heather Freilinger	Danielle Walker
Brayanna Montgomery	Valeree Lane	Ronda Osborn

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 April minutes. Kathleen Walker-Henderson made a motion to approve March minutes as submitted. Charlene Shaw seconded the motion. No further discussion.

**South-Central Early Learning Hub Update**

The Regional System Assessment has been completed and submitted. The Hub is waiting for feedback on the Regional System Assessment. The Hub is also working with the Early Learning Division (ELD) on the update for Raise Up Oregon 2.0. The ELD assigned each Hub region in the state a different department. Our Hub was assigned Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS). The Hub, in partnership with Douglas and Klamath/Lake ODHS offices, hosted two, hybrid (virtual and in-person), focus groups. One focus group was to receive feedback from families receiving ODHS services. The other focus group was to receive feedback from ODHS staff. Hub staff will be meeting with ODHS to ensure information shared with committees is non-identifiable.

Raise Up Oregon: <https://oregonearlylearning.com/raise-up-oregon>.

Legislatively, there is an extra \$2.3 billion in revenue for the years 2023-2025. In lottery and lottery bonds, there is \$17 million more than anticipated. Republican Senators have not been meeting and policy bills have not been voted on. If the Legislature does not meet to vote on policy bills, those bills disappear.

There will be a hearing about the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) on Thursday at 8:30 am. The DELIC Budget bill is House Bill 5013. The DELIC budget bill does not include the 7% increase for the Early Childhood Equity Fund, the Relief Nursery expansion, or Oregon Prenatal-Kindergarten (OPK). The proposed budgets are for individual departments. At the end of the Legislative Session, there will be a Reconciliation Bill (Christmas Tree) where there is a possibility for extra funding to be put into departments. The Governor signed an extension for departments to receive funding at their current service level until September 15. This gives the Legislature time to meet again in a Special Session.

**Preschool Promise —Danielle Walker** – Preschool Promise is still accepting applications for the end of the 2022-2023 school year. Families who are interested in finding out if a provider is a good fit for the family or those who would like a jump-start into the upcoming year are encouraged to apply. Age-eligible children may participate in Preschool Promise for up to two years. Once a child is determined eligible, they can stay in Preschool Promise with no additional income re-verification.

The Hub has opened applications for the upcoming 2023-2024 Preschool Promise year. To apply, visit [www.southcentralhubenrollment.com](http://www.southcentralhubenrollment.com). For the 2023-2024 year, eligible students need to turn three or four-years-old by September 1, 2023, live in Oregon, and have a family income of up to 200% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

**Community UPLIFT – Danielle Walker**— Community UPLIFT connects expecting families, families with children 0-5 or up to 21 with special needs, to resources in Klamath County. Community UPLIFT has received a total of 1,131 referrals. Since the beginning of the quarter in April, Community UPLIFT has received 37 referrals, with 27 in Douglas County, and 10 in Klamath County.

Referrals can be completed online at <http://www.community-uplift.com/>. You can also text the keyword “uplift1” for Douglas County, “uplift2” for Klamath County, or “uplift3” for Lake County to 484848. For more information about Community UPLIFT,

or if you are interested in a presentation about Community UPLiFT, contact Danielle Walker. Phone: (541) 880-4655, Email: [danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us](mailto:danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us).

**Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) Report** -- Cynthia Hurkes reported about the Conscious Discipline project. The project will be completed in June 2023. KPI partnered with Care Connections and Education, the regional Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR), and planned three phases for the Conscious Discipline project.

During phase one, virtual Conscious Discipline training was presented by a master trainer to regional early childhood professionals. Participants also worked through a self-paced e-course. There were a total of 95 educators that participated, and 88 of them completed the training. Attendees included home visitors, childcare providers, kindergarten teachers, 3rd-grade teachers, administrators, and high school teachers. The first 60 participants received a kit containing tools for utilizing Conscious Discipline, valued at \$600.

Phase two, facilitated by CCRR, funded a Spanish Conscious Discipline cohort. The Spanish cohort followed the same, self-paced e-course, and virtual training. There was no translation, and all training was only in Spanish. Twenty-one educators, including childcare providers and instructional coaches, participated in the Spanish Cohort.

In phase three, KPI partnered with Creating Community Resilience in Douglas County to offer Conscious Discipline to families. KPI created partnerships in Klamath and Lake Counties to offer Conscious Discipline to families.

KPI invested \$68 thousand dollars, and Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) invested \$32 thousand dollars. Many other partners, including Creating Community Resilience (Douglas County), School Districts, Take Root, and others invested funds into the Conscious Discipline project. There was a total of 129 thousand dollars invested over the three phases.

Not all parent surveys have been received. Once the surveys are in, there will be project reports compiled and shared.

### **CityServe/CityFest Presentation**

Over 50 churches partnered to bring CityFest and CityServe to the community. The goal is to proclaim a message of hope through evangelistic gatherings, training events, and community service projects. CityFest is a week-long event that culminates from 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm on Saturday, May 27, with free family activities. The family fun zone will have a mechanical bull, carnival games, a petting zoo, a gaming tent, pony rides, and more. There will be action sports demonstrations with motorcycle and bicycle performances, and Gospel presentations. At 6:00 pm there will be musical performances by Newsboys, Ryan Stevenson, and Marisol Park. Food Trucks are available, and families are encouraged to bring a picnic.

After the CityFest event, CityServe will continue bringing people of faith together to serve the community. CityServe focuses on homelessness, youth and families, and clean-up and restoration. CityServe held events in Klamath Falls and Malin. There will be projects in northern Klamath County as well. Upcoming CityServe events include the Chi-Town Family Festival in Chiloquin, a Community Clean Up in Merrill, HIRVI Building Restoration in Chiloquin, Window Clean Up and Decoration in Klamath Falls, and the Bonanza Christmas Lights. CityServe is looking for projects. If you need volunteers or have suggestions, contact CityServe. Visit <https://www.klamathcityfest.org/cityserve> for more information.

### **Summer Resources for Families**

The Klamath County School District (KCSd) is offering a Jump Start Kindergarten program. The program will set the foundation for a positive school experience, and, provide students and their families with a smooth, successful transition to kindergarten. Jump Start Kindergarten is available to students enrolled at Bonanza, Ferguson, Keno, Merrill, Peterson, and Shasta. Program dates are Monday-Thursday, August 14-24, 2023. Register online at <https://www.kcsd.k12.or.us/families/jump-start.cfm>.

Klamath Falls City School District (KFCS) is offering summer camps for children enrolled in city schools. Summer Camp information is not currently posted on their website. Contact Klamath Falls City Schools for more information.

Klamath County Library Summer Reading Program and Summer Event information can be found online at: <https://klamathlibrary.org/>.

Klamath KID Center will be hosting a BINGO fundraiser June 25 from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. The event will be outside at the KID Center, 3801 Altamont Dr., Klamath Falls. Everyone is welcome. Tickets sold at the door, two BINGO cards for \$25. Price includes food and raffle tickets.

## Equity Lens

The Klamath Professional Advisory Committee discussed the Hub Equity Lens and how equity is being applied in Klamath County.

The Hub hosted parent focus groups to learn what is important to families during the transition into kindergarten. Responses from Spanish-speaking families indicated culture and relationships are important. Who is the teacher? What will the change be like? English-speaking families wanted to know what children need to learn to be successful in kindergarten.

Programs in our community need to be aware of the culture and the unique wants and needs of individuals and families entering programming. Over the next month, ask yourself these questions. How can I bring more people to the table? How can I talk about uncomfortable topics?

## Partner Updates

**Southern Oregon Regional Educator Network (SOREN)/Southern Oregon ESD (SOESD)** – Denise Swingle -- SOREN/SOESD is offering an introductory parenting class on June 8 for two hours in the evening. The following two days there is a training for adults who coach or mentor parents and caregivers. Upon completion, attendees will become certified facilitators of Parenting the Positive Discipline Way.

**Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR)** – Heather Freiling – A new capital improvement grant for childcare providers has become available for providers in our region. The grant is offered through The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF). For more information, visit <https://oregonspark.org/early-educators/grants/>.

Oregon Center for Career Development (OCCD) has scholarships available to people interested in receiving an early childhood Associate, Bachelor, or Master's Degree. OCCD Scholarship information can be found at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1F0ljPw8DayeR0QLM1B-pD-TVjuAdGGtM/view>.

In Klamath County, CCRR is working with about 15 individuals working towards becoming child care providers. CCRR has provided 213.5 hours of training to 303 participants since July 2022.

**Klamath Community College (KCC) – Kathleen Walker-Henderson** – KCC attendance has increased by fifteen percent. KCC completed fundraising efforts for Build the Basin Apprenticeship Center, an \$11 Million project for Career Technical Education (CTE). The KCC Foundation hosted a fundraising GALA and made over \$27 thousand for student scholarships. The Grow Your Own teacher program will now include early childhood educators wanting to get their Bachelor's degrees.

**Klamath Promise – Jessie DuBose** – Graduation Sensation is scheduled for Thursday, June 1 at noon on Main Street in Klamath Falls! Seniors will be parading down Main Street in their caps and gowns. Klamath Promise hopes to crowd the street to show support for the Class of 2023. After the parade, there will be a Party in the Park where Klamath Promise distributes scholarships to graduating seniors.

## Next Meeting:

June 28, 2023 from 10 am to noon.