

May 25, 2022 | 10:00 AM – Noon

Attendance

Behany Holmes	Jill O'Donnell	Rhonda Janecke
Amber Singh	Jordan Hosack	Yecenia Rodriguez
Dena Haudenschild	Joseph Maurer	Gillian Wesenberg
Denise Swingle	Kathleen Walker-Henderson	Cynthia Hurkes
Jennifer Jackson	Kay Ortega	Athena Wikstrom
Jessica McAuliffe	Kendra Santiago	Danielle Walker
Jessie DuBose	Lisa Bertash	

Please note: The Klamath Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held virtually due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) concerns.

Welcome and Introduction

The PAC reviewed and approved the April minutes. Jill O'Donnell made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Kathleen Walker-Henderson seconded the motion. No further discussion.

Early Learning Hub Update

Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation (KPI) – KPI finished the 10-session Conscious Discipline series. There were approximately 25 early learning educators/organizations in attendance from Klamath County out of 95 subscriptions available.

Early Learning Gatherings concluded in April. The gatherings focused on professional learning, family engagement, social-emotional development and self-regulation.

A new staff member has been hired for KPI and Take Root in Klamath County. The new staff member will be introduced to the Klamath PAC at the June meeting. In the fall, KPI will be looking for ways to partner with organizations to provide Conscious Discipline for families, potentially incorporating Conscious Discipline into events already occurring.

KPI will take Klamath County priorities to Regional Governance Council in June. If RGC approves the listed priorities, a short Request for Application (RFA) will be distributed in the fall for programs to request funding. Priorities included Parent Cafes, Play2Learn activities/texting subscription, resources for families on wait lists, and ensuring bilingual opportunities.

South Central Early Learning Hub (SCELH) – The SCELH is responsible for Coordinated Enrollment which is the qualification and enrollment into Preschool Promise classrooms, for the majority of Preschool Promise grantees in the region. The Early Learning Division (ELD) recently released information that any current Preschool Promise grantee who is meeting certain requirements is eligible to continue providing Preschool Promise services and will receive an extension of their contract. All providers throughout the region are planning to continue. The Hub is still expecting an RFA for Preschool Promise expansion and have been told by the ELD the RFA will be available in the spring. Gillian is working with Sylvia at Klamath Family Head Start and Maureen at UCAN Head Start to determine how we can coordinate enrollment efforts.

Hubs are working with national consultant, Erin Watson, to complete a Regional Assessment. Early Learning Hubs are the facilitators of the Regional Assessment, while cross-sector partners will be completing the work. The Regional Assessment is intended to be a snap-shot of the needs, goals, gaps, and barriers the region faces. This year, the Regional Assessment is focusing on Raise Up Oregon Objective Two, and is due in April 2023.

The SCELH has been updating current data, and gathering additional data from community partners. The compilation of data is due to the ELD in early August. The Hub is hoping to receive data from the Klamath County Economic Development Association (KCETA) survey about how the shortage of child care impacts the county's workforce, A Family Gathering Place Relief Nursery, and others, so it can be incorporated into regional data. If you have data to include, please send it to SCELH staff.

Kathleen asked if there will be an expansion of Baby Promise. At this time, there has been no discussion for the expansion Baby Promise.

Equity Lens Application / STEAM Kit Distribution

The South-Central Early Learning Hub in Klamath County received approximately 250 STEM Kits (200 English / 50 Spanish) from the region's STEAM Hub, geared towards children ages 3-5, and would like to discuss a proposal to distribute kits to children and families across the county. STEM kits include measuring cups, a planet ball (foam stress ball), popsicle sticks, a magnifying glass, stickers, crayons, yarn, foam beads, rubber bands, a container for experiments, vroom cards, and an instruction manual to help students explore and use the materials for projects and learning at home.

STEM Kit distribution will focus on the Hub's Priority Populations as listed in the Early Care and Education Sector Plan:

- Children/families living in areas of geographic isolation including experiencing poverty.
- Children who are experiencing displacement: families experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and children in kinship care.
- Children from African American / Black, Asian, Hispanic / Latinx families, including native Spanish speakers.
- Children from Native American/Tribal Families.
- Children who are experiencing physical or developmental disabilities or delays, including those with mental health concerns and/or trauma.
- Infants and Children aged 0-3.

The group discussed options for distribution, and suggestions included:

- Free Dental Days in rural areas
- IYS Mobile Hub Outreach
- Community Baby Shower
- Rural library branches (similar distribution as TeachMy Kits)

There has been a suggestion to have programs fill out a short proposal to receive kits. Information collected would include the number of requested kits, when and how the kits will be distributed, and which priority population they will reach. Danielle will create the proposal form and distribute to partners.

The group further discussed the application of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) as relating to the Hub's Regional Equity Lens (attached), developed with Cliff and Alexis from Capacity Building Partnerships. Kathleen advised she recently completed a training recently about advancing equity for early child care professionals. DEIJ is still a new concept for many of the participants who attended, making the topic uncomfortable for them. Jill shared the Klamath Chapter of the Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children (ORAEYC) and Klamath Promise both use the Equity Lens in their planning processes.

Partner Updates

Klamath County Economic Development Association (KCEDA) – Kendra shared that the Klamath County survey about the impact of child care on the workforce in Klamath County, has received 289 surveys to-date. Surveys will be distributed to Jeld-Wen employees later this afternoon. The survey will close in early June results will be shared once the survey data has been compiled.

Home Visiting Systems Coordination & Community UPLIFT – Family Resource Facilitators are reaching out to community partners to provide general information on Community UPLIFT and offer presentations. If you would like a presentation or know of anyone who might be interested in the Community UPLIFT process, let Danielle know.

Community UPLIFT connects expecting families or families with children 0-5 or up to 21 with special needs to resources in Klamath County. Online referrals can be completed at or via smart phone by texting the keyword "uplift2" to 484848. For more information about Community UPLIFT, contact Danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us or by phone (541) 880-4655.

Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC) – OCDC will be hosting another vaccine clinic/resource fair on June 18 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm and will have tacos, bouncy houses, snacks, and more. At the last event, there were 300-350 attendees. Out of those, 50 people were vaccinated. OCDC is inviting additional community partners to participate and distribute information. The target population is migrant workers, but the previous event had participants from the Mills Edition neighborhood in Klamath Falls. If your program would like to host a booth and include your logo on the flyer, email Kay Ortega at Kay.OrtegaPena@ocdc.net.

Preschool Promise – The South-Central Early Learning Hub is accepting Preschool Promise applications for the 2022-2023 school year. Placements next year will occur when the Hub receives approval from the Early Learning Division. Families with students returning to Preschool Promise next year have received a shortened Returning Student Application.

Preschool Promise in Klamath County is currently full for the 2021-22 school year, but is still accepting applications for the remainder of the school year. Students can be enrolled into Preschool Promise until the last ten days of the school year; once a student is qualified, they remain eligible until entering kindergarten.

To be eligible for Preschool Promise, students must turn 3 or 4 by Sept. 1 of the beginning of the school year (ex., for 2022-2023, children need to be 3 or 4 by Sept. 1, 2022), are residents of Oregon, and have a family income of up to 200% of Federal Poverty.

Apply at: <http://www.southcentralhubenrollment.com/> or contact us by phone at (541) 957-4809.

Klamath KID Center – The Klamath KID Center will be hosting a fundraising yard sale in July. Food carts will be in attendance.

Other – Jill O'Donnell shared that the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is revising the Kindergarten Assessment in hopes that it will be more appropriate and helpful.

May 2022 Kindergarten Assessment Redesign Update: <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/assessment/Pages/Kindergarten-Assessment.aspx>

Next Meeting:

June 22, 2022 from 10 am to noon.