

KLAMATH PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

May 26, 2021 | 10:00 AM – Noon

Attendance

Rhonda Nyseth	Dena Haudenschild	Maurita Johnson
Amy Quayle	Eve Davis	Melinda Gomez
Athena Wikstrom	Gillian Wesenberg	Melissa Kelley
Ceresse Harris	Heather Freilinger	Rhonda Janecke
Charlene Shaw	Kathleen Mitchell	Sylvia Cox
Cynthia Hurkes	Kathleen Walker-Henderson	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 April minutes as submitted.

Upcoming Early Learning Division (ELD) Requirements and Legislative Update

Gillian shared an update on upcoming Early Learning Division (ELD) requirements and the legislative session.

- House Bill 3073B establishes the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC), details can be found at: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2021R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB3073/B-Engrossed>
- ELD Director, Miriam Calderon, accepted a position with the Biden-Harris Administration. Alyssa Chatterjee will be the Acting Director of the ELD.
- Early Learning Hubs will be utilizing a new Scope of Work. The Scope of Work will define partnerships with Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) and how Hubs and CCRRs work together to expand child care across the region.
- The ELD will be hosting the Early Learning Hub Collaborative in August for Hub Directors, CCRR Directors, and ELD staff.
- Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) grant funding will now be included in Early Learning Hub funding and decisions will be guided by Early Learning Hub Governance Councils.

Federal/State Funding Opportunities

The group discussed upcoming federal and state funding opportunities.

Heather Freilinger shared that the ELD is issuing a grant opportunity for child care providers. Information can be found at: <https://oregonearlylearning.com/COVID-19-Resources/Grants> and <https://oregonearlylearning.com/COVID-19-Resources/For-Providers>.

Sylvia Cox advised that Head Start Directors will meet to discuss upcoming opportunities on June 30.

Kathleen Walker-Henderson shared that Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) has grants available early care and education. Additional OCF grants for community rebuilding are available to areas affected by wildfires.

Dena Haudenschild advised that Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) received additional funds through the Student Success Act (SSA) to increase their level of service.

Input for Regional Governance Council

The group participated in a discussion regarding upcoming Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) summer funding. KPI is asking each Professional Advisory Committee to share input and recommendations that can be presented at the Regional Governance Council (RGC) on June 2.

Cynthia Hurkes shared that KPI summer funding needs to be expended between July and September, and will be used for family engagement, kindergarten readiness, and kindergarten transition. Cynthia shared suggested options for summer funding. The group made the following recommendations:

- Conscious Discipline
- Vroom
- Culturally Sensitive Resources
- Culture Camp
- Potential scholarships to children for summer activities
- Abriendo Puertas (Opening Doors)
- Teach My Kits and supportive piece w/ supportive workshops. Offer on Zoom and be able to track
- Ready! For Kindergarten

Klamath Family Head Start is willing to add upcoming events to their website calendar.

Parent Focus Groups

The South-Central Early Learning Hub has upcoming Parent Focus Group in English and Spanish for families with children 0-6. The Hub will use feedback to inform our partners in all of our work to gather parent voice and choice. This feedback will also help inform our upcoming plans and in the formation of the Parent Advisory Council. Families will receive a \$50 stipend for their time and feedback.

Danielle shared that there was one focus group held on May 20 from 9:00 – 10:00 am and gave an overview of the questions that parents were asked. An additional Parent Focus group will be held on June 3 from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

Parent Focus Groups for Spanish-speaking families are being developed and will be hosted in June.

Equity Lens

The group discussed how they have been using the Hub's regional Equity Lens. For example, the installation of accessible play structures with rubber matting and ramps for children who have mobility challenges, and welcome signs posted in multiple languages. Amy shared that she is attending a self-start training, where it was discussed that the term "inclusive" should mean that everyone belongs.

Partner Updates

Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) - Rhonda Nyseth advised that the Klamath County ODHS Symposium is taking place in September this year, focusing on sexual abuse.

Oral Health Coalition – Rhonda Nyseth advised that the Free Dental Days did not have many children in attendance. The coalition hopes this is because children receive dental services at community pre-schools and schools.

Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) - Dena Haudenschild shared that EI / ECSE hired a licensed counselor / behavioral health analyst to help with classroom behavior plans. Dena Solyst was also hired to help coach EI/ECSE classroom staff and community preschools.

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) – Heather Freilinger advised that CCRR hosted their annual Spring Fling, featuring Dare to Lead with facilitator Heidi McGowan.

A second step cohort, featuring portions of Conscious Discipline, was recently completed in Douglas County and will be available in Klamath County over the summer.

Klamath Family Head Start - Sylvia Cox advised that their 3-5-year-old program is ending for the summer. The Early Head Start program will continue throughout the summer.

Take Root - Amy Quayle shared upcoming parenting series registrations links

- Preparing for Parenthood: <https://conta.cc/3wzP5Rh>
- Mindfulness and Compassionate Parenting Workshop: <https://conta.cc/3qZCdkj>

Next Meeting:

Klamath PAC: June 23, 2021 from 10:00 am – Noon. Hosted virtually.