

REGIONAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

Meeting Notes

May 31, 2023 | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Attendance

Steve Schenewerk
Rhonda Janecke
Lane Stratton
Jennifer Jackson
Dena Haudenschild
Kyle Stevens
Julie Bettles

Michael Carter
Valeria Atanacio
Carmen Ellis
Analia Nicholson
Gillian Wesenberg
Julie Hurley

Sondra Williams
Heather Freiling
Cynthia Hurkes
Athena Wikstrom
Vanessa Pingleton
Danielle Walker

For ease of member access, Regional Governance Council (RGC) meetings will continue to be held virtually unless otherwise notified.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair, Steve Schenewerk welcomed members of the Regional Governance Council (RGC) and individuals introduced themselves. Members of the RGC reviewed the minutes. Michael Carter made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, Dena Haudenschild seconded the motion. No further discussion.

Early Learning Hub Updates

The South-Central Early Learning Hub finished and submitted the Regional System Assessment to the Early Learning Division (ELD).

The South-Central Early Learning Hub, in partnership with Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), hosted two feedback sessions to provide insight for the Raise Up Oregon 2.0 update. One feedback session was for families who are currently involved in, or, were previously involved in ODHS services. The second was for ODHS employees. In attendance were families from Douglas, and Klamath/Lake (attending in person at the Klamath Falls ODHS office). Before releasing data, Hub staff are meeting with Desta and Maurita about ensuring confidentiality for families who attended the feedback sessions.

The South-Central Early Learning Hub Family Governance Advisory Committee has representation from across the region. Families have been raising the need to get the word out about resources and support for families. The Hub is trying to support families on what they can do to lead the work. Partnerships with families will support our work in supporting families.

The Hub partnered with Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) to develop a childcare provider workforce survey. The survey will glean information about why individuals are choosing to stay in the childcare field and why they might have exited. The survey went to 1,500 people in the region.

Legislatively, state senators are still not attending legislative meetings. It is possible that state budgets won't be passed. If procedural bills aren't voted on, they will die. Budgets will continue through July 15. If budgets are not voted on, there will be a special session. The state received an extra \$2.3 billion in revenue, and extra funds from lottery and lottery bonds.

EI/ECSE update - Sondra Williams -- Sondra oversees EI/ECSE in Douglas, Jackson, Lake, Klamath, and Josephine. In the past few months, EI/ECSE received three grants, all of which focus on inclusion. Partners met together as a region to help determine how to use funding. The region decided to bring a Professional Development to

support quality community preschools. Building Blocks is a two-year framework that will focus on how to best support adults who work with children with disabilities. This includes community partners, home-based preschools and childcare, Preschool Promise, and Head Start programs. The first two sessions are training sessions about inclusion. The second part of the program is practice-based coaching. Training will be kicking off in late September.

Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education numbers declined across the region during COVID, but are now seeing an uptick.

Tribal Hub Update

Valeria Atanacio, Early Learning Division, Tribal Affairs Director, shared an update about the Tribal Early Learning Hub. In 2021, House Bill (HB) 2055 passed that established a Tribal Advisory Committee to create Oregon's first tribal-specific Early Learning Hub. Once the Early Learning Division becomes DELC in July 2023, a new Office of Tribal Affairs will be launched to support early learning and child care in direct partnership with the nine federally recognized tribes with a goal to promote and improve true government-to-government consultation.

The Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC), tasked with developing the Oregon Tribal Early Learning Alliance (OTELA), includes two representatives from each of the nine tribes. So far, OTELA has developed a mission statement, configuration and purpose, hired staff, generated a website, and developed reportable metrics. The Tribal Advisory Committee has met in person to discuss OTELA framework and pathways as an entity.

For updates about the Oregon Tribal Early Learning Alliance, contact Valeria Atanacio or Dorianne Houser.

Valeria Atanacio, Tribal Affairs Director – (971) 375-5049 or valeria.atanacio@ode.oregon.gov

Dorianne Houser, Tribal Affairs Coordinator – (971) 718-1910 or Dorianne.houser@ode.oregon.gov

Early Learning Division Update

Carmen Ellis joined the RGC to provide an update about the transition from the Early Learning Division (ELD) to the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC) on July 1, 2023. With the DELC implementation, email addresses will change to end with @delc.Oregon.gov. All emails sent to old addresses will be forwarded through 2023. ELD will transition from ODE to DELC on July 1, 2023. This includes early learning programs, child care workforce professional development, child care licensing and background check services, Office of Tribal Affairs, and shared services support functions. DELC will have dedicated operational shared services (e.g., IT, human resources, procurement, budgeting, and accounting). There will be a new DELC website with information on DELC's programs and services. DELC will have new branding materials and an updated logo. Grantees will use a new grant management system to manage and submit claims. Training and resources will be provided for the new grant management system.

Employment Related Daycare (ERDC), and its supporting staff, will be migrating from the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to DELC in the July transition. There will be no changes for families applying for ODHS as they will still use the same application process. Most of the changes will be internal and not noticeable for families. New policies will allow families to receive cash and childcare assistance at the same time. There are fewer reasons ERDC cases can close. ERDC will be added to the DELC website, and a new "Quick Tips for Families" resource will be available on the DELC website to support families participating in ERDC. Applications for ERDC will still go through a family's ONE Oregon account at one.Oregon.gov.

There are very few changes for providers and partners. Listed providers who receive subsidy payments through ERDC will be called "ERDC providers" instead of "DHS-listed providers." Additionally, ERDC emails will change to end with @delc.Oregon.gov. All emails sent to old addresses will be forwarded until 2024. DELC will now be in charge of making changes to the ERDC program. There will be more opportunities for partners to engage earlier in DELC's process to make changes to policy and rules. Partners are being asked to rebrand materials to the new DELC logo and branding. ELD website links are being redirected to the DELC website.

Preschool Promise – The Early Learning Division (ELD) expects to send grantee agreements on July 1, 2023. The grant agreement is in translation and will be available in various languages. Grantees must sign the English version.

ELD is currently reviewing licensing thresholds for Preschool Promise grantees who are required to be licensed. ELD is examining the enrollment data of grantees who failed to meet the enrollment threshold. All grantees in the South-Central Early Learning Hub region have met their enrollment thresholds.

Six of the two hundred thirty-three Preschool Promise grantees across the state chose not to proceed with the Preschool Promise grant in 2023-2024. South-Central Early Learning Hub had one grantee who opted out: Roseburg Professional Childcare, with a total of thirty slots. The goal of ELD is to reallocate slots to their respective Hub regions. ELD is working on implementing a more efficient process for future Preschool Promise slot reallocations. Hubs can continue with the enrollment process by tentatively placing children in Preschool Promise programs.

Strategic Planning – This year’s deliverable for Strategic Planning is focused on Raise Up Oregon Objective 2. Strategic plans, action steps, and timelines are being created in the community by Hub governance and staff. The Strategic Plan is due to the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) in November 2023. Hub Strategic Plans will be integrated with the DELIC Strategic Plan, due in June 2024.

Raise Up Oregon– The Raise Up Oregon 2.0 draft was posted online last week and can be found online at <https://oregonearlylearning.com/raise-up-oregon>.

If you have questions about updates that were provided, contact Carmen Ellis at carmen.ellis@ode.state.or.us.

Budget Committee

Steve Schenewerk presented a Budget Committee update. As of now, there is no update for the Oregon Senate and House. The budget funding will be the same as the 21-23 biennium.

The Budget Committee developed a budget process one-pager that was approved by the Regional Governance Council (RGC). Once a budget is developed, it will be forwarded to the Douglas Education Service District.

Over the summer, the Hub will be looking at Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) priorities. The Hub will focus on how to adjust KPI strategies and implementation.

Preschool Promise Hub Updates

Athena shared a Preschool Promise Demographic Update. Roseburg Professional Childcare will not continue with the Preschool Promise Grant for the 2023-2024 Preschool Promise Year.

In 2022-2023, the South-Central Early Learning Hub completed the qualification and enrollment process for the following Preschool Promise sites:

- Brockway Elementary
- Elkton Preschool
- Gilchrist Elementary
- Honker Preschool
- Klamath Early Childhood Development Center / Little Learners Preschool
- Nic Nacs Quality Childcare
- North Douglas Elementary
- Roseburg Professional Childcare
- Sutherlin Schools Preschool
- Victoria’s Home Daycare and Preschool
- Wildflower Child are
- The YMCA of Klamath Falls
- Yoncalla School District

Preschool Promise sites that complete their own enrollment include:

- Yimisa Preschool (Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians)
- The Klamath Tribes Early Childhood Development Center
- Klamath Family Head Start – Lakeview Site

- UCAN Head Start – Glide Site

Families applying for Preschool Promise and children placed into Preschool Promise programs meet the Hub's priority populations.

Priority Population	Children Enrolled
Children/families living in areas of geographic isolation including experiencing poverty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 188
Children who are experiencing displacement: families experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and children in kinship care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30
Children from African American / Black, Asian, Hispanic / Latinx families, including native Spanish speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 • 35 listed multi racial • 15 listed Spanish as their Primary Language
Children from Native American/Tribal Families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7
Children who are experiencing physical or developmental disabilities or delays, including those with mental health concerns and/or trauma.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 listed IFSP • 13 listed diagnosed disability • 20 listed developmental concerns

Families interested in Preschool Promise can still apply for the current 2022-2023 Preschool Promise School year to give children a jumpstart into preschool or see if a site is a good fit. There are current openings at Roseburg Professional Childcare, Honker Preschool, The YMCA of Klamath Falls, and Nic Nacs Quality Childcare.

The South-Central Early Learning Hub is now accepting applications for the 2023-2024 school year.

Roseburg Professional Childcare will not be continuing with Preschool Promise in the 2023-2024 school year. The Hub has been advocating with ELD/DELCO to keep the 30 slots in the community. The Hub has heard from families that Roseburg needs Preschool Promise Slots.

Community UPLiFT Update

Danielle shared Community UPLiFT Updates and Community UPLiFT Quarterly Reports.

The new and returning student applications for Preschool Promise has a Community UPLiFT description and information about how families can self-refer themselves to Community UPLiFT. The Preschool Promise application also asks families if they are interested in a referral to Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) if they have indicated they have concerns about their child's growth, development, learning or behavior. Once Hub staff determine they are interested in a referral, Hub staff use the Community UPLiFT platform to refer the family to EI/ECSE.

The new Family Resource Facilitator, Ronda Osborn, has been reaching out to community partners in Douglas County to learn more about their programs, and is also working on the Douglas County resource directory to familiarize herself with resources in Douglas County. She is also attending county meetings, and attending community events. Within the last two weeks, Hub staff met with Early Head Start and FARA.

Since inception, Community UPLiFT has received a total of 1,124 referrals with 705 in Douglas, 400 in Klamath, 14 in Lake, and 3 in other counties/states.

Last quarter Community UPLiFT had 50 referrals total with 25 in Douglas and 25 in Klamath. Since April 1, we have had 40 Community UPLiFT referrals, 27 from Douglas, and 13 from Klamath.

Childcare Incentives

Robin VanWinkle shared about the Douglas County Childcare Coalition Workforce for Childcare Incentives. There may be an opportunity to have additional resources for the 2023-2024 year.

In the past, the Douglas County Childcare Coalition received private funds to incentivize new workers and existing owners/operators who expanded slots in Douglas County. Incentives were offered for staff to stay in the childcare workforce. Funding started in September 2022 and have supported many new and current employees in the childcare

field. An estimated 58 new childcare slots were supported in Douglas County due to the funding. Initial funding has been depleted.

The Douglas County Childcare Coalition has been in conversations with a funder, who has supported early learning coalitions in other counties. The funder suggested looking at a regional model by adding Klamath and Lake Counties into the workforce incentive program. Funding would only be provided for incentives, not for staff to coordinate the funds. Douglas County staff is not able to work in additional counties, and Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) does not have the bandwidth to staff a coalition in Klamath and Lake County.

The Oregon Community Foundation grant to continue work opens June 30, 2023, and is an opportunity to expand if communities are ready for it. The Douglas County Childcare Coalition could be a resource for other communities looking to start a childcare coalition.

Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation

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 \$68,000, 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 \$129,000 invested over the three phases.

Program Updates

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) – Heather Freiling – CCRR provided 696 hours of training with a total of 1,125 participants. CCRR led several networks that created accessibility for training opportunities, including online, evening, and Saturday courses. Both Umpqua Community College (UCC), and Klamath Community College (KCC) student cohorts have doubled in size.

CCRR offers technical assistance for Preschool Promise Providers, including individualized coaching observation and communities of practice for 16 Preschool Promise programs including 25 classrooms and teaching teams.

Since July 2022, there are 42 new childcare providers across the region.

Home Visiting Systems Coordination (HVSC) – Vanessa Pingleton -- The HVSC committees have been restructured. The first gathering of the Family Support Professional was two weeks ago. The next gathering will be August 22, 2023. More information will be coming out about the gathering once details are finalized.

Take Root – Vanessa Pingleton – Take Root work is continuing and parenting opportunities are available. Take Root flyers for upcoming opportunities will be sent to the group.

Next Meeting Date

September 13, 2023 from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm