

REGIONAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

Meeting Notes

June 2, 2021 | 11:00 AM – 1:20 PM

Attendance

Dena Haudenschild	Michael Carter	Analicia Nicholson
Denise Swanson	Rhonda Nyseth	Vanessa Pingleton
Eve Davis	Rhonda Janecke	Athena Wikstrom
Gillian Wesenberg	Steve Schenewerk	Ceresse Harris
Heather Freilinger	Troy Duker	Danielle Walker
Heidi McGowan	Vicky Taylor	

Please note: The Regional Governance Council (RGC) meeting was held virtually due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) concerns and guidance on public meetings from the Governor.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair, Steve Schenewerk opened the meeting with member introductions and an icebreaker.

Early Learning Division (ELD) and Early Learning Council (ELC) Actions

Members of the Early Learning Division (ELD), Hub Manager, Denise Swanson, and Policy Analyst, Troy Duker, joined the Regional Governance Council (RGC) meeting.

Troy Duker gave an update about the legislative session, which ends on June 27. Governor Brown has signed three bills that the agency introduced this session:

- HB 2053 – Hubs Community Plan technical fix
- HB 2054 – KPI Grant Eligibility changes
- HB 2059 – Allows refinement of the SPARK program

Senate Bill 757, expands conditional enrollment of the Central Background Registry for out of state background checks. This conditional expansion will hopefully cut down the length of time it takes for background checks to be completed.

Agency Bills with fiscal aspects in the Ways and Means Committee:

- HB 2055 – Creates a Tribal Hub
- HB 2166 – Contains the Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion Program
- HB 3073 – Creates the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC), and moves the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program from Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to DELIC.
- Senate Bill 4950 – Transfers the Central Background Registry to the Office of Childcare (separate from HB 3073) and requires recorded program staff and volunteers to enroll in the Central Background Registry.

Another bill that the ELD is neutral on, is Senate Bill 236, which bans the practice of suspension and expulsion, was referred to the Rules Committee.

Scope of Work / Theory of Change and Proposed Funding Allocation Formula

Denise Swanson gave an update about the Early Learning Division, Early Learning Hubs, and the upcoming Theory of Change and Scope of Work. The ELD hired a consultant to develop a Theory of Change toolkit for Hubs to utilize while working with their Governance Councils. The ELD is hoping to contract with the same consultant to develop additional toolkits for the Scope of Work requirements, which includes the Regional Assessment, and to assist in developing Shared Measurements for Hubs across the state.

The ELD will again be receiving a Federal Preschool Development Grant (PDG) that will help provide data and technical assistance to Hubs while completing the required Sector Planning. Data and technical assistance will be provided through Portland State University (PSU).

The Early Learning Hub Collaborative will be virtual in August. The August Collaborative is focused on building the child care supply.

Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI)

Cynthia Hurkes reviewed the KPI Summer Funding proposal that was discussed with the Douglas, Klamath, and Lake County Professional Advisory Committees (PACs). County suggestions included:

Douglas:

- Ready! for Kindergarten
- Ready! for Kindergarten with coaching for teachers
- VROOM
- Abriendo Puertas (Opening Doors)

Klamath:

- Conscious Discipline
- VROOM
- Culturally Sensitive Resources
- Culture Camp
- Potential scholarships for summer activities
- Abriendo Puertas (Opening Doors)
- Teach My Kits with supportive workshops for parents
- Ready! for Kindergarten

Lake:

- Listening Sessions
- VROOM
- Conscious Discipline
- Abriendo Puertas (Opening Doors)
- Parent trainings around being a supportive school parent

The group discussed possibilities and Heidi McGowan led them through a decision-making process where all members were in favor of utilizing KPI Summer Funding for:

- Conscious Discipline
- Abriendo Puertas (Opening Doors)
- Mini Grants – individualized for the needs of each county. If programs do not apply for these funds by, funds will be expended on other items.
- Ready! for Kindergarten
- Teach My Kits

Early Learning Hub Update

Gillian Wesenberg advised that the Early Learning Hub is hosting three Parent Focus Groups in English, facilitated by Heidi McGowan, and two Parent Focus Groups in Spanish, facilitated by Pacific Research and Evaluation (PRE).

Heidi shared some of the questions that she posed to the first group (two additional groups are upcoming). Parents shared that they are interested in the social-emotional wellbeing of their children. There was appreciation for the services families receive, including Ready! for Kindergarten and Conscious Discipline. Parents expressed they would also like to have assessments and supports earlier in their child's life.

Denise shared that the work the Regional Governance Council did today in approving the KPI Summer Funding plan is exactly the type of coordination the ELD is looking for. In the Theory of Change, having mutually reinforcing activities is an expectation and the South-Central Early Learning Hub is doing a great job. Once the ELH grant is formalized, there will be a clear timeline for the Scope of Work with required

deliverables (Regional Assessment, Strategic Plan, Annual Work Plan, Sector Plan and Stewardship Council) and technical assistance to assist Hubs in the completion of the deliverables.

Partner Updates

Community UPLIFT – Vanessa Pingleton gave an update on Community UPLIFT advising there have been 705 regional referrals to date including 37 referrals in this quarter.

Community UPLIFT is expanding the data portal to include Family Care Plans from Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs), which includes the ability for referring organizations to view their submitted referrals, and the ability for organizations to run reports for their submitted referrals.

There are three more Trauma Informed Care Trainings with Dr. Amy Stoeber. The trainings are geared to support first responders, which broadly includes law enforcement, firefighters, EMS, home visitors, case workers, etc. Registration for the trainings are available at: <https://www.smore.com/1sz5a>.

Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) – Cynthia Hurkes advised that Teach My Kits, have been distributed to partners throughout the region. There are about 100 kits left in Klamath County, and KPI is looking for additional partners to distribute them. KPI was also able to support the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties. The final Growing Early Mindset (GEM) Cohort is being held in June.

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) – Heather Freilinger advised that Care Connections and Education, the regional CCRR, hosted the Spring Fling training with Keynote Speaker, Heidi McGowan, presenting Dare to Lead.

There is an upcoming Spanish-speaking cohort in Klamath County with the majority of providers having participated in college courses over the past few years. Additionally, the CCRR is assisting in getting new technology for providers and are offering statewide professional development webinars.

Next Meeting Date

September 15, 2021 from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm