

May 25, 2022 | 10:00 AM – Noon

Attendance

Rhonda Janecke	Cynthia Hurkes	Sanora Hoggarth
Danielle Walker	Kathleen Walker-Henderson	Melissa Dorsey
Gillian Wesenberg	Vanessa Pingleton	Jennifer Jackson
Athena Wikstrom	Filicia Poteet	Tina Zaragoza
Melisa Miner	Maurita Johnson	Yecenia Rodriguez
Crystal Lemus	Kay Ortega	

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 May minutes. Kathleen Walker-Henderson made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Maurita Johnson seconded the motion. No further discussion.

Early Learning Hub Update

The Preschool Promise Request for Application (RFA) is available at <https://oregonearlylearning.com/preschool-promise> it will be open until July 21 at 11:59pm.

The South-Central Early Learning Hub is currently accepting Preschool Promise applications for the 2022-2023 school year to qualify students so they can be placed at sites as soon as the Early Learning Division approves student enrollment. Families can apply for Preschool Promise at www.southcentralhubenrollment.com.

The Early Learning Division (ELD) has contracted with Erin Watson from Weaving Change to develop a process for the Regional Assessment. Gillian recapped the Regional Assessment requirements from May's meeting. Hubs are expected to utilize data to determine the needs and barriers within the community.

Gillian reviewed the PowerPoint presentation from Erin Watson providing more information on the Regional Assessment process. The Regional Assessment is a process to understand how conditions within programs, organizations, communities, and systems are helping and hindering regional Raise Up Oregon objective two. Understanding the Raise Up Oregon objective enables the Hub and its partners to design more effective strategies to bolster what is effective and address barriers. The ELD determined Hubs will focus on Raise Up Oregon System Goal 1, Objective 2 which states "Families have access to high-quality (culturally responsive, inclusive, developmentally appropriate) affordable early care and education that meets their needs," for the first annual Regional Assessment. Assessments will be due annually every April.

The ELD is asking for the initial Regional Assessment data to be submitted at the beginning of August to compile at a state-level for a legislative presentation. It's important to provide the information before the end of July for it to be sent to the state by the beginning of August. Anecdotal data and family stories are just as important to include as quantitative, numerical data. The Hub will continue to gather data after August to be included in the Regional Assessment. Please send any additional data collected to Danielle at Danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us.

Group Discussion

The South-Central Early Learning Hub staff will be "shepherding" the Regional Assessment process, and also everyone is a part of moving the work forward. We are collectively pulling together a snapshot of the state of our region in relation to RUO Objective 2, including the biggest barriers and needs. We need to know where we are so we can collectively move forward to make it possible for families to have access to high-quality, culturally responsive, inclusive, and affordable early child care and education services.

The group discussed some conditions affecting child care access, including:

- Facilities – Lack space in current facilities, lack of available facilities, inability to remodel potential facilities, facilities that are not accessible for children/individuals with mobility needs.
- Cost of insurance for providers
- Teacher burnout/lack of knowledge around self-care.

- Hispanic/Latinx families have expressed the importance of receiving services and materials in their native language. For example, seeking out native-language speakers to present workshops in Spanish. There is work happening in this area, including:
 - The fall Conscious Discipline series will be offered to a Spanish Cohort.
 - The Preschool Promise Expansion Request for Application (RFA) was not released to current or perspective Preschool Promise grantees until the document was translated into Spanish.
- Maurita shared that by building strong support systems for child care providers, all children – including those in ODHS self-sufficiency (ex. SNAP, TANF recipients) and child welfare (ex. children in resource/foster care) populations – will be impacted in a positive manner.

Equity Lens Application / STEM Kit Distribution

Danielle presented the STEM Kit Distribution Request form, which includes information about materials in the STEM Kits, our Equity Lens priorities, and our regionally determined Priority Populations. The Hub is requesting that interested partners fill out basic contact information, a distribution plan, how kits will serve the regional Priority Populations, and how the distribution will meet the region's goals relating to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ). Once the STEM Kit distribution requests have been distributed to partners and received back, the chairs of the Klamath PAC will review and make determinations about distribution.

There are approximately 200 kits available in English, and approximately 50 available in Spanish. Any program/event/organization can apply to receive STEM Kits.

Partner Updates

Oregon Childhood Development Center (OCDC) – Kay shared that over 400 people attended the June vaccination event. Forty-five individuals received the COVID vaccination, and seventeen individuals received their flu shot. Nine partner agencies came to share resources with attendees. There may be additional events over the summer as Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is interested in hosting a monthly resource / vaccination event. OCDC is looking into changing the event times by starting them later in the day. This change would be beneficial for agricultural workers who are not able to attend during the hours that were offered in June.

Any programs interested in participating in the monthly vaccine clinic/resource fair at Asi Es Mi Tierra, email Kay Ortega (Kay.OrtegaPena@ocdc.net).

Family Advocacy & Support Network (FASN) - Yecenia shared that there is a Spanish Early Intervention/ Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) training tonight from 6:30-8:00 pm. The training is about special education services, needs, and rights, as well as why it is important to be involved in a child's education. There is no deadline to register. The majority of Spanish-speaking families will text message Yecenia to register and receive the participant link.

Home Visiting Systems Coordination (HVSC)/Community UPLiFT – Vanessa provided an update for Community UPLiFT. Klamath County received seven referrals in May and three so far in June. Danielle is doing outreach to community partners to let them know about Community UPLiFT, either by re-connecting with or connecting with new partners.

PSU wrote a one page Professional Development (PD) Investment Report based on evaluations for trainings offered by HVSC, dating back to 2019. The report enables the region to see why PD opportunities are so important. Community UPLiFT provider surveys will be going out to community partners later this week to determine how the Community UPLiFT process is working for those who submit and/or receive referrals. The HVCS committees across the region found the Community UPLiFT Lunch and Learn to be valuable and are in the planning process to host another Lunch and Learn in October.

Integral Youth Services (IYS) – IYS is offering the Free Summer Lunch Program from June through August to provide healthy, USDA approved lunches when free school lunches are not available. Lunch sites are county-wide, with 24 total lunch services sites. Lunches are available to all children and youth ages 1-18. The Summer Lunch Kickoff will be hosted at Mills-Kiwanis Park on Tuesday, June 28th from noon – 1:30 pm. If your organization would like to attend the event, send a request email to Taylor Hampton or Tina Zaragoza.

WIC – WIC staff will be at the Farmers Market on July 2nd and July 30th distributing WIC Farm Direct Nutrition Vouchers (FDNV) where families can choose fresh, locally grown fruit, vegetables or cut, edible herbs and pay the farmer with their WIC issued FDNV checks.

Kindergarten Readiness Partnership & Innovation (KPI) – The Request for Application (RFA) to receive one of three Klamath County grants of \$7180 from KPI will be going out to partners later this week. Grant application activities must be geared towards the Raise Up Oregon goal, of Children Raised in Health, Stable, and Attached Families. The RFA and activity must

focus on Hub Priority Populations, and Klamath County priorities as decided by the Klamath PAC and Regional Governance Council (RGC).

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) – CCRR is currently providing support for Preschool Promise providers. The CCRR will also assist existing and potential Preschool Promise sites with the Preschool Promise Expansion RFA.

CCRR is prepping a "bootcamp" for the upcoming 22-23 year geared towards both new and current providers. The Bootcamp will be hosted near the end of August. If anyone is interested in becoming a Preschool Promise Provider, contact Melisa Miner (541) 492-6616 / melisa.miner@douglasesd.k12.or.us or Charlene Shaw at Charlene.shaw@douglasesd.k12.or.us.

Preschool Promise – The South-Central Early Learning Hub is accepting Preschool Promise applications for the 2022-2023 school year. Eligible students turn 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.

The South-Central Early Learning Hub is still encouraging families who believe they are over income to also apply for Preschool Promise as they may still fall into the income guidelines.

Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) – The Klamath Child Abuse Symposium will be hosted in August and will focus on Human Trafficking. Maurita will send the registration link when it becomes available.

Klamath Community Baby Shower – Will be hosted on October 8th from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Klamath Early Childhood Development Center, 2450 Summers Ln., Klamath Falls.

Next Meeting:

September 28, 2022 from 10 am to noon.