

# KLAMATH PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Notes

June 23, 2021 | 10:00 AM – Noon

### Attendance

Amanda Squibb	Heidi McGowan	Rhonda Nyseth
Amy Quayle	Jess (unknown)	Rhonda Janecke
Athena Wikstrom	Jessie DuBose	Vanessa Pingleton
Ceresse Harris	Jill O'Donnell	Vesta Kerns
Cheyenne Shellito	Johanna Scholer	Danielle Walker
Cynthia Hurkes	Kathleen Mitchell	Dan Pantuso
Gillian Wesenberg	Kathleen Walker-Henderson	Melinda Gomez
Heather Freilinger	Maurita Johnson	

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 May minutes with a revision to the Regional Governance Council meeting date as June 2.

### South-Central Early Learning Hub Update

Gillian advised that the South-Central Early Learning Hub hired a videographer to create promotional videos for Preschool Promise sites that can be shared to websites and social media platforms. The Hub also hosted Parent Focus Groups that were facilitated in English by Heidi McGowan, and in Spanish by Pacific Research and Evaluation (PRE).

Gillian also provided an overview of the legislative session:

- House Bill 3073B was received by the Ways and Means Committee and, if the bill is approved, it will create the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC). The bill will also move the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program from Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to DELIC.
- Additional state funding will expand Oregon Pre-K (OPK), Early OPK, Early Head Start, Preschool Promise, Healthy Families, Relief Nurseries, Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative (OPEC), Reach Out and Read, and support the generation of a Tribal Early Learning Hub.
- Funding for Early Learning Hubs may be restored, but is unclear how funds will be re-allocated.

### Parent Focus Groups

Heidi shared an overview of the South-Central Early Learning Hub Parent Focus Groups hosted virtually across the region. Three groups were facilitated in English by Heidi and two groups were facilitated in Spanish by Pacific Research and Evaluation (PRE). The draft report that was sent to the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) prior to the meeting and provides an overview of the English Parent Focus Groups. Heidi will add results from the Spanish groups to the final draft. The groups included 18 individuals who spoke English and ten who spoke Spanish, with representation from Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties. Most participants were mothers, however, one father participated. Heidi reviewed the draft report highlights.

Participants were asked:

- What makes a community a good place to raise kids?
- What does it mean for your child to be ready to go to school?
- What trusted resources do you turn to in supporting getting your child ready for school?
- What support services have you utilized?

- What supports do these programs provide?

Consistent themes across the groups included:

- Families expressed gratitude for available resources
- Programs being utilized across the region included:
  - Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS)
  - Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
  - Healthy Families
  - Head Start
  - Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC)
  - Relief Nurseries
  - Medical Providers
  - Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI)
  - Take Root Parenting Connection
  - Preschool Promise
- Families would like to be able to tour early learning and K-12 facilities
  - For families in Spanish-speaking groups, this was to ensure safe environments
- If not already involved, many families do not know what services are available or how to engage in them
- Families in the Spanish-speaking groups had a desire for their children to be able to learn English and Spanish in learning environments
- There is desire for parent training including:
  - How to prepare children for kindergarten
  - Developmental milestones
  - How to advocate for children, especially those with special needs
  - Social-emotional readiness for kindergarten
  - Community resources
- Parents would like to have parent groups and child play groups
- Additional resources in Spanish were requested

### Lakeshore Kits

Athena provided an update on Lakeshore Kits for infants and toddlers. All kits have been received and a distribution plan with the tri-chairs was developed. Dena Haudenschild received the Lakeshore Kits and has begun distributing to partners, including Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), Early Intervention, Klamath Tribes, Klamath Family Early Head Start, and Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC) in Malin.

### Nutrition Hub Presentation

Rhonda Janecke and Amy Quayle presented materials developed by the Nutrition Oregon Campaign in Klamath County. Materials presented is focused toward prenatal providers and providers serving children birth to three-years-old. The Nutrition Hub would like to receive feedback and suggestions on how materials can be used in the community. One of the goals of the Nutrition Hub is to reduce the risk of chronic disease in children such as diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke, and cardiac disease, by focusing on what a pregnant mother eats, and what a child eats during the ages of birth to three-years of age. Klamath County has chosen to focus on reducing health disparities for those who are most at risk by reducing the percentage of babies born with low birth weight from the current statistic of 8% down to 5%. In effort to reduce the rate of infant mortality and low birthweight babies in Klamath County, the Nutrition Hub will outreach to systems and stakeholders who work with new parents and families. They will provide education to programs about the developmental origins of health and disease and the importance of nutrition. Please provide any feedback on messaging to Rhonda Janecke or Amy Quayle.

### Partner Updates

**Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR)** – Heather Freilinger advised that the CCRR developed an ad that will be played in movie theaters in Douglas and Klamath Counties to encourage anyone considering being a child care provider to contact the CCRR. The ad can be viewed at: [Rewarding Career 45 Subtitles](#).

**Preschool Promise** – Families can apply for summer and fall Preschool Promise programming at [www.southcentralhubenrollment.com](http://www.southcentralhubenrollment.com). Eligible children are 3 or 4 by Sept. 1, are residents of Oregon, and their family's

income is up to 200% Federal Poverty Level (FPL). In Klamath County, summer programming is available at They YMCA of Klamath Falls, Gilchrist School, and Nic Nacs Quality Childcare.

**Community UPLiFT** – Vanessa Pingleton shared that Community UPLiFT has received 51 referrals in the current quarter for the region, 16 of those are from Klamath County. Community UPLiFT is continuing with an expansion that will give partners the ability to add family care plans, provide feedback on submitted care plans, and will add the ability for partners to review referrals that they have submitted and see where a family is in the Community UPLiFT process.

Community UPLiFT is working with Portland State University (PSU) to complete Family Journey Mapping, which tracks families before the Community UPLiFT process, during the process, and after the process. Seven families completed the journey mapping with PSU, and the final version of the mapping will be shared at the next Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting.

Community UPLiFT is continuing to collect family feedback via a survey on the Community UPLiFT Process. 39 families have completed the survey with a goal of 50 participants. Currently, 89% of people are very satisfied with Community UPLiFT and the process.

Five of the six Trauma Informed Care Trainings focusing on first responders (EMTs, Home Visitors, Family Coaches, etc...) with Dr. Amy Stoeber have been completed. The final training will be a panel on Sept. 22 from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm.

FAN (Facilitating Attuned Interactions) Level I and Level II will be offered on Sept. 28 & 29<sup>th</sup>. Registration information has not been received but will be sent out to the PAC as soon as it is available. FAN Supervisor training was offered last month, which includes mentoring throughout the summer and one additional course after the new year.

**Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI)** – Amy Quayle shared that 15 families are finishing Ready! for Kindergarten for two and three-year-olds today, and 16 finished the four and five-year-old Ready! for Kindergarten class last week. Teach My Kits have all been distributed to partners across the region. KPI will be receiving the blue Teach My Kit for younger children where families can view training videos and arrange for delivery of kits after the training is completed.

Cynthia Hurkes shared that regionally, KPI is working in partnership with Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) to draft a plan for Conscious Discipline. Mini grants are available up to \$7500 for organizations, please forward the applications to organizations who are eligible.

**Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS)** – ODHS is hosting the Klamath County Symposium on August 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The keynote speaker is Cory Jewell Jenson, presenting about childhood sexual abuse. ODHS is partnering with the Klamath County Sheriff's Office to provide a faith-based opportunity at OIT on the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup>. The Sherriff's Office has sent out letters to over 70 different churches in the Klamath County area.

**Klamath Community College (KCC)** – Kathleen Walker-Henderson advised that KCC is doing a raffle to raise money for Fall Term Scholarships: <https://www.klamathcc.edu/en-US/Foundation/Foundation-Events/Foundation-Raffle>.

### **Next Meeting:**

Klamath PAC: Tentative August 25, 2021 from 10:00 am – Noon.