

REGIONAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

Meeting Notes

Sept 13, 2023 | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Attendance

Steve Schenewerk
Rhonda Janecke
Dena Haudenschild
Jennifer Jackson
Michael Carter

Maurita Johnson
Sandy Henry
Hilary Mankofsky
Heidi McGowan
Julie Hurley

Gillian Wesenberg
Heather Freilinger
Vanessa Pingleton
Athena Wikstrom
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.

Early Learning Hub Updates

Steve Schenewerk shared an overview of the South-Central Early Learning Hub. The Hub is an independent system. The Hub works across the region of Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties to work towards three overarching goals as listed in Raise Up Oregon 2.0. The early childhood system is equitable: integrated, accessible, inclusive, anti-racist, and family centered. All families with young children are supported to ensure their well-being. All children are thriving in early childhood and beyond.

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) Update

Heather Freilinger - CCRR – The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF) released a grant for capital improvements in rural Oregon, and was available to child care providers across the region. In Douglas County, eight providers received the grant. In Klamath County, three programs received the grant. One provider received the grant in Lake County. There is a potential \$114,000 for capital improvement available to twelve family child care providers in the region. CCRR will be helping the grant recipients with deliverables for the grant.

Since July, CCRR has offered over 142 hours of training.

CCRR has Navigators at Klamath Community College (KCC) and Umpqua Community College (UCC) for students who are interested in pathways for Early Care and Education (ECE). Each school has a cohort of 30 ECE students. In April, CCRR received a commendation from the UCC President, who shared the Early Care and Education pathway program is one of the only growing programs at UCC. CCRR funded some library textbooks at KCC and UCC to help eliminate debt for ECE students. UCC holds a picnic once per quarter, and invites new students and child care providers to offer networking opportunities. Navigators were able to recruit two new students through the picnic last quarter.

CCRR hired Erica Hinshaw who will serve as a second Preschool Promise Coach and Administrative assistant in Klamath County.

Providers in process: Lake County has three individuals in the process of becoming child care providers. Klamath County has 17 individuals in the process of becoming child care providers. Douglas County has 14 providers in the process of becoming child care providers.

Child Care Providers:

Douglas County has 30 Registered Family providers, 6 Certified Family providers, 8 Certified Centers, 8 Head Start sites, 5 Family Relief Nurseries, 6 Preschool Recorded programs, 3 School-Aged Programs, 56 Exempt Providers, 3 Exempt Programs, and 7 Preschool Promise providers.

Klamath County - 23 Registered Family providers, 10 Certified Family providers, 8 Certified Centers, 5 Head Start sites, 4 Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC) sites, 1 Family Relief Nursery, 4 Preschool Recorded programs, 2 School-Aged Providers, 2 Alternate Pathway providers, 7 Exempt providers, and 4 Preschool Promise providers.

Lake County – Not provided during Regional Governance Council meeting.

Care Connections & Education / Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) website: www.672care.org

Douglas County Childcare Coalition website: <https://www.childcareis.org/>

Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) Deliverables Update

Hillary Mankofsky, Early Learning Hub Coordinator with the Department of Early Learning and Care, joined the Regional Governance Council to provide an update around DELIC and new deliverable requirements for Early Learning Hubs.

DELIC Deputy Director and Programs Director, Serena Stoudamire, is leaving her position. Her last day is Friday.

Hillary shared a *draft* reporting timeline:

Reporting Requirement	Due Dates
Strategic Plan, including Work Plan	11/30/2023
Comprehensive 2-Year Strategic Plan including Work Plan	9/1/2024 9/1/2025 (updated)
Budget ₁	9/1/2024; 9/1/2025;
Quarterly Reports	60 Days Following the End of Each Quarter (February 28, May 30, August 30, November 30)
MOU with CCR&R to identify the agreed upon activities and clarity of each partner's role in advancing the strategic plan	6 months after Execution Date of Grant
Monitoring	March-May 2025
Governance Membership Roster, Parent Council Membership List, By-Laws, Conflict of Interest Policy, Documentation of Training for Parent Leadership Committee, Documentation of Governance Member Training	As requested by Grant Administrator.

DELIC and the Hub managers are streamlining reporting requirements to match what the state needs from Early Learning Hubs. The Strategic plans and Work Plan templates need to be updated. The due date for the Strategic Plan is going to be moved into 2024.

Based on feedback from Hub Directors, any mention of Raise Up Oregon Objective 2 has been removed from requirements. One reason was that the focus objective was from the original version of Raise Up Oregon, which has since been updated to Raise Up Oregon 2.0. The other reason is that Objective 2.0 overlapped CCRR work.

The Early Childhood System Assessment deliverable was also removed. DELIC could not clearly define what they would be doing with the information gathered. There was not enough benefit for the amount of time and effort that was put into the Early Childhood System Assessment. The data gathered created internal processes for DELIC that will be shared with Hub Directors in the future.

Hubs will be required to submit a two-year strategic plan, budget, quarterly reports, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR). DELIC is working on a Hub Monitoring process. Upon request from DELIC, Hubs will also be required to submit the Governance Membership Roster, Parent Council Membership List, By-Laws, Conflict of Interest Policy, Documentation of Training for Parent Leadership Committee, and Documentation of Governance Member Training.

Sandy Henry - The Tribal Early Learning Hub has a meeting this afternoon. Sandy will have updates about the Tribal Early Learning Hub at the next Regional Governance Council meeting.

Gillian Wesenberg – Sue Miller, Chair of the Early Learning Council (ELC), visited Douglas Education Service District (Douglas ESD). Sue shared the ELC will be working with Early Learning Hubs about Backbone Organization structure and expectations.

Strategic Planning

The upcoming strategic plan format is being revised by DELC for the current biennium. The Strategic Plan will align with the updated version of Raise Up Oregon 2.0. While there is still some clarity needed about the upcoming plan, members of the Regional Governance Council (RGC) reviewed the Hub's existing strategic plan and shared their thoughts. Members discussed what is important to keep in the future strategic plan, what might be missing, and what is no longer relevant.

Community UPLiFT and Preschool Promise Update

Community UPLiFT – Danielle – Danielle shared an overview of incoming referrals in the current quarter of July-September 2023. For July, Douglas County received ten Community UPLiFT referrals, Klamath received eleven referrals, and Lake received two referrals. For August, Douglas and Klamath Counties both received nine referrals each. And, since the beginning of September, Douglas has received two referrals and Klamath has received five referrals. Currently Community UPLiFT has received a total of 48 regional referrals for the quarter so far.

The South-Central Early Learning Hub has a new 30-second Community UPLiFT public service announcement. The video was requested by the South-Central Early Learning Hub (SCELH) Family Governance Advisory Committee to help spread the word about Community UPLiFT and how families can get connected to resources within their communities. The video was a joint effort between the South-Central Early Learning Hub Family Governance Advisory Committee and Early Learning Hub staff. The Hub shared the video with the Family Governance Advisory Committee and received great feedback from the Committee about the message and the quality of the translation in Spanish. The video can be viewed at the following links:

Spanish subtitles: <https://vimeo.com/835904539/347a52dd74>

English subtitles: <https://vimeo.com/834421711/b5121a718b>.

Preschool Promise – Athena – Preschool Promise sites have filled more quickly this year than in past years. Preschool Promise sites across the region are full, except Yoncalla and The YMCA of Klamath Falls. Preschool Promise enrollment data indicates that Preschool Promise services are reaching the regionally selected priority populations. The Hub shares Preschool Promise class lists with Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) to ensure students who are connected with EI/ECSE receive the services they need without gaps in care.

The Preschool Promise application now asks if families are interested in a referral to Community UPLiFT. Preschool Promise families who indicate they would like a Community UPLiFT referral are contacted by Family Resource Facilitators who help connect them to community resources like relief nurseries, K12, Head Start, community preschools, EI/ECSE, and more.

Preschool Promise site videos are available on the Hub's website at SCELH.com. The only site video that is not finished is for Victoria's Home Day Care and Preschool. The site video for Victoria's Home Day Care and Preschool is currently in process.

The South-Central Early Learning Hub region lost 30 Preschool Promise slots in Roseburg when Roseburg Professional Childcare (RPC) chose not to continue with the Preschool Promise Grant. Hub Directors and the Hub Association advocated with the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC) for a process to reallocate lost slots. DELC released a reallocation application where only current Preschool Promise grantees were eligible to apply. Since RPC was the only Roseburg based Preschool Promise grantee, no slots were reallocated in Roseburg. The South-Central Early Learning Hub region only received 12 of the 30 eligible for reallocation. Little Learners received three slots, Yoncalla Elementary received four slots, and Honker Preschool received five slots.

For the first time, Preschool Promise has a two-year grant instead of a one-year grant. The Hub is excited that, because of this, Preschool Promise enrollment can begin in the spring and become more aligned and coordinated with other publicly funded programs.

Budget Committee

The Budget Committee is responsible for the development of a budget for South-Central Early Learning Hub funding. The budget is dependent on legislative funding. As of now, funding for the biennium is being determined by the state. Once the Hub receives their contract and funding is known, the Budget Committee can begin generating a budget.

The Hub will be hiring a new Early Learning Program Facilitator Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI). Cynthia Hurkes, the prior Early Learning Program Facilitator, is retiring in December. Hub staff met with other Hubs to compile a list of how KPI funding is leveraged across the state.

Program Updates

Community Baby Shower – Rhonda Janecke – The Klamath County Community Baby Shower will be October 7 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at Klamath Community College (KCC) in Building 4. Over 20 vendors will be participating and sharing information with expecting families and families with children up to 12-months-old.

Next Meeting Date

December 6, 2023 from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm