

# LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

Meeting Notes

September 24, 2024 | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

## Attendance

Michael Carter (v)  
Lane Stratton (v)  
Miranda Philibert  
Jen Schultz  
Wendy Strohkirch

Gillian Wesenberg  
Heather Freilinger  
Vanessa Pingleton  
Bailey Guido  
Athena Wikstrom

Jaelynn Luna  
Danielle Walker  
Seonaid Uebelhardt

Please note: For ease of member access, South-Central Early Learning Hub – Lake County Community Governance Council meetings will be held virtually unless otherwise notified.

The Lake Community Governance Council reviewed and approved the May 2024 minutes. Lane Stratton made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Michael Carter seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion passed.

Heather Freilinger advised Jaelynn Luna is the new Regional Inclusion Facilitator, located in Klamath Falls. Jaelynn will serve Klamath and Lake Counties.

Gillian Wesenberg advised Seonaid Uebelhardt is the new Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) Facilitator.

**Lakeview School District # 7** – Michael Carter shared there is a waitpool for child care. The school district is working on the purchase of a new building to increase preschool capacity. According to the state, small schools across Oregon struggle with nutrition. School District #7 is working on improvements.

Jen Schultz shared Preschool Promise staff are working to improve Oregon Registry Online (ORO) levels and bringing them up. The Central Background Registry process takes a lot of time, which makes hiring difficult. After the unexpected loss of the lead teacher last year, the district made the paraprofessional with the highest ORO step, the lead teacher.

Over the summer, the school district had eight summer camps with over 55 children attending, and ten high school interns leading the camp. The preschool teacher oversaw the summer camps.

K-12 and Preschool Promise moved to a four-day week. Many parents don't have child care for Fridays. The school district applied for two grants to receive funding that would allow for Friday care but have not received funding to make Friday care feasible. Two of the students who lead the summer camps and graduated high school last year, are now substitutes. One has gone into a college Early Care and Education program. Three students, who participated in the summer camp, are now interning in the Preschool Promise class for school credit.

**South-Central Early Learning Hub** -- Gillian shared that she and Athena traveled to Lake County and toured the Lakeview School District #7 Preschool Promise site and Klamath Family Head Start/Lakeview Preschool Promise Site.

The South-Central Early Learning Hub Family Governance Advisory Committee applied for and received the Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) and Early Literacy Grant from the Hub Request for Application (RFA). Families came together to write the grant to place Little Free Libraries across Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties. They will be connecting with land owners to determine where the libraries can be placed. In Lake County, one location will be at the Lakeview School District Preschool Promise site. Middle schoolers will be building the Little Free Library stand, and the Family Governance Advisory Committee will assist with keeping it stocked with books for children under five-years-old.

Gillian also shared information about recently released Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) Policy Option Packages (POPs):

- POP 101: \$5.7 million for agency operations staff
- POP 105: \$3.1 million for child care licensure staff (to reduce ratio to recommended one licenser per 50 child care providers) (Federal Funds)
- POP 580: \$25 million for Early Literacy
  - Dolly Parton Imagination Library
  - Early Learning & Kindergarten Guidelines revision & professional development
  - Other investments (To Be Determined)
- DELIC recognizes that there are other funding needs. Other needs which were not approved to be submitted as POPs include funding for:
  - Employment Related Day Care (ERDC)
  - Tribal Early Learning
  - Family Childcare Provider Health Coverage
  - Ongoing access to other DELIC programs (ex. Preschool Promise, Relief Nurseries, etc.)

The Governor requests state agencies to develop POPs aligned with targeted investments. The Governor then compiles a recommended budget based on POPs and agency needs and submits it to the legislature.

Gillian also shared that Douglas ESD received a DELIC Suspension and Expulsion planning grant. Beginning July 1, 2026, children in any early care and education settings, can no longer be suspended or expelled regardless of how the program is funded. The South-Central Early Learning Hub will complete the first year of planning. Douglas ESD will begin implementation the following year. Planning activities will focus on building community connections and relationships. Dr. Amy King and Heidi McGowan will be contracted to help determine regional needs. Implementation grant funds one Infant / Early Childhood Behavioral Support Specialist to cover the entire region. There are concerns about lack of funding, and the ability of only one Behavioral Support Specialist to meet the needs of all child care providers across the region. A parent engagement piece will also be built into planning and implementation plan.

The state is working to develop a process to connect child care providers with local resources that can help with behavior supports for children by providing things like teacher coaching, classroom environments, and referrals for children to Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE), and more. The process could be a warm line or warm form that providers call or fill out to be connected. The goal of the process is to get more support to providers sooner, before children are at risk of being removed from early care and education settings. The process is in the early development stages and will evolve over time.

**Take Root Parenting Connections** – Bailey Guido advised that the fall Take Root schedule has been released. Last Saturday, Take Root hosted a sensory friendly play date, sponsored by local businesses, Central Oregon Disability Support Network (CODSN), Take Root and Lake County ESD. There will be two additional sensory friendly play dates, one in October, and one in November. Play dates are inclusive of all children.

If enough families register, there will be an in-person Healthy Snacks on the Go workshop on October 4. Families will make healthy snacks for the week. Registration closes on Friday, September 27.

Bailey is traveling to the North Lake School for their Open House to share about Take Root in Lake County. There will be a parent input session in North Lake on October 9. The input session will include a catered, family-style dinner, child care, and a facilitated discussion about supporting children and families in Lake County.

Take Root is partnering with North Lake and Lake County ESD for Family Engagement Boxes. There is currently one family in North Lake who is registered to receive a Family Engagement Box.

CODSN and Take Root are also partnering to provide a Special Education 101 training in Lakeview for parents to learn what they need to know about Individual Education Plans and 504 Plans. Parents and Educators are welcome.

Two Lake County Businesses, The Center and Downtown Bakery and Café, have received family friendly business awards and have become Business Champions for Kids advocates. They will receive a window sticker, and recognition on Take Root and Biz for Kids social media platforms and websites.

**Home Visiting Systems Coordination** – Vanessa advised the August Connect Share and Care training was about self-care, presented by Tessa from Connect, Restore, Thrive (CRT) Counseling. The Connect Share and Care events are hosted in a hybrid setting to accommodate each county in the region. In-person locations rotate between Douglas, and Klamath. Connect Share and Care training brings together family coaches, early childhood home visitors, and family support professionals for one and a half hour training opportunities.

The Take Root and Home Visiting Systems Coordination Leadership Committee and the family support group met earlier this week. Attendance is growing. The leadership team is working on a home visiting summit in Medford and developing a one-pager explaining the benefits of family support. The leadership team also worked on planning additional Connect Share and Care training. Possibilities include motivational interviewing, Conscious Discipline, and poverty. Community UPLIFT is working on adding partners to the data portal and supporting those already in the data portal.

The Center for Coordinating Oregon's Home Visiting Systems (CCOHVS) is meeting on October 3 with the state Home Visiting Collaborative and The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF) Home Visiting Systems Coordination grantees.

**Community UPLIFT** – Danielle provided an overview of Community UPLIFT. Athena and Gillian shared the benefits of Community UPLIFT and data collection. Data collection and information can show gaps in service and the needs of families. For more information, or to schedule a presentation about Community UPLIFT, contact Danielle at [Danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us](mailto:Danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us).

**Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR)** - Heather advised the Klamath County Fall Conference is November 2 at Klamath Community College (KCC). More information will be provided soon. The Douglas County Fall Conference is October 4 and 5 at Umpqua Community College (UCC). Friday night, there will be a showing of Forget Me Not: Inclusion in the Classroom. The keynote speaker for Saturday is Rusty Keeler, an expert on Risky Play. Registration and more information can be found online at:

<https://www.enrole.com/umpqua/jsp/course.jsp?courseId=ECE24&categoryId=10002>

**Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI)** - Seonaid Uebelhardt introduced herself. She is the new KPI Facilitator. Seonaid is housed in Lake County and will begin work there before moving across the region into Douglas and Klamath Counties. Seonaid is excited to get started and would like to attend events and get out into the community.

**Next Meeting:** October 22, 2024, at 1:00 pm.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.