

**South-Central Early Learning Hub
Lake County Community Governance Council
Minutes – September 26, 2023**

Attendees: Michael Benson, Lane Stratton, Jake Greer, Shalom Rorabaugh, Susan Warner, Ken Kestner, Colleen May, Athena Wikstrom, Danielle Walker

The Lake Community Governance Council reviewed the June Minutes. Michael Benson motioned to approve minutes and Colleen May seconded the motion. No further discussion.

South-Central Early Learning Hub – Athena Wikstrom – Gillian is unable to attend the Lake Community Governance Council today. She is at a Coordinated Learning Collaborative for Early Learning Hub Directors, Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR), and Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) this week.

Community UPLIFT -- The Preschool Promise application now asks families if they would like a referral to Community UPLIFT. Through this addition, two Community UPLIFT referrals were generated for Lake County.

The Family Governance Advisory Committee requested the Hub generate a Public Service Announcement for Community UPLIFT. The 30-second videos are available with English audio and either English or Spanish captions. Videos can be accessed online at:

- Spanish Subtitles, <https://vimeo.com/835904539/347a52dd74>
- English subtitles, <https://vimeo.com/834421711/b5121a718b>

The South-Central Early Learning Hub is looking for parents/caregivers to join the Family Governance Advisory Committee. Families receive a \$50 stipend per meeting they attend. If access to internet or technology is a barrier to participation, the Hub can provide hotspots, tablets, or laptops. If you know of a parent or caregiver who might be interested in joining the committee, please let Athena Athena.wikstrom@douglasesd.k12.or.us or Danielle Danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us know.

Preschool Promise -- Preschool Promise at Honker Preschool is fully enrolled and has a wait pool. Honker Preschool received an expansion for five Preschool Promise slots. Once the contract is executed between the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) and Honker Preschool, Honker Preschool will be able to serve seventeen Preschool Promise students.

The Hub is excited that, for the first time, Preschool Promise grantees received a two-year grant instead of a one-year grant. This will allow the Hub to begin enrollment for the 2024-2025 Preschool Promise year in the spring. Enrollment will more closely align with Head Start enrollment, enrollment for other publicly funded preschool programs, and K-12 kindergarten roundups.

Klamath Family Head Start, Lakeview Site – Shalom Rorabaugh – The Lakeview Head Start program and Preschool Promise are fully enrolled with waitlists. Head Start is working on building up community volunteers, and will be offering parenting and other services to families throughout the school year.

Lake County Education Service District (ESD) – Lane Stratton -- All five school districts have a preschool. Plush has 2 students, Adel has 2 students.

There is currently a cut in Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) funding. The ESD will be watching and participating in discussions relating to the funding cut.

The Early Literacy Program bill passed in the legislative session. Lane observed it will be interesting to see the impact for the Hub and early learning in the South-Central region.

Shalom - Is there anything we can do to support and advocate for Early Intervention/ Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE)?

Lane - ESDs are working together to create a task force. ESDs meet again in two weeks on October 8-10. Once there is an advocacy plan, Lane will reach out to the Lake County Community Governance Council.

EI/ECSE – Mike Benson – There is a potential 20% cut to EI/ECSE funding, but EI/ECSE is providing services as usual. The program has carryover funding built up through Medicaid billing that will cover year one of the biennium. Year two of the biennium is where the funding cut will be the most impactful.

Over the summer, ECSE, which is not typically a year-round program, provided services to three children ages three to five who had a higher level of need. Students were able to become familiar with one-on-one aids and the services proved to be beneficial. EI is a year-round program and provided services to one child in the birth to age two.

Some students who were participating in EI/ECSE moved out of Lake County over the summer. As of the beginning of the school year, EI/ECSE is currently serving seven students. Referrals for evaluations are being received and families are being contacted. Mike will be meeting with Jennifer Shultz at Honker Preschool to discuss potential screenings for Honker Preschool students. EI/ECSE is also developing a plan to reach all of the preschools in Lake County.

Juvenile Department - Jake Greer - Kelly Hall replaced Jim Nichols, who recently retired, as a paid mentor through the Juvenile Department. The transition has been smooth.

Home Visiting Systems Coordination (HVSC) – If anyone is interested in joining the HVSC leadership, contact Vanessa Pingleton, vanessa.pingleton@douglasesd.k12.or.us or Colleen May, colleen.may@ucancap.org.

Next Meeting: October 24, 2023 at 1:00 pm.