

September 27, 2023 | 10:00 AM – Noon

Attendance

Rhonda Janecke	Melanie Mobley	Yecenia Rodriguez
Denise Swingle	Melissa Dorsey	Julie Sheasby
Crystal Lemus	Pam Glaser	Kristie Hampton
Jessica McAuliffe	Patricia Pahl	Brayanna Montgomery
Jordon Falconio	Sierra Anderton	Taylor Hampton
Joseph Maurer	Teri Cline	Athena Wikstrom
Sylvia Cox	Vanessa Pingleton	Danielle Walker

Please note: For ease of member access, South-Central Early Learning Hub – Klamath Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings will be held virtually unless otherwise notified.

Welcome and Introduction

The PAC reviewed and approved the June minutes. Rhonda Janecke made a motion to approve June minutes as submitted. Joseph Maurer seconded the motion. No further discussion.

Gillian is unable to attend today's meeting. She is at a Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) Learning Collaborative for Early Learning Hub Directors, and Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) Directors.

Community Baby Shower Update

The 6th Annual Community Baby Shower is being hosted at Klamath Community College (KCC) Building 4 on September 7, 2023, from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. Set-up for the Community Baby Shower is at 8:30 am on October 7. There are over 20 vendors registered to be at the event. Some giveaway items include a new crib and mattress, two gliding rockers, two double strollers, and a Grow With Me car seat that fits children from infancy up to 110 lbs. The Oregon Health Insurance marketplace donated \$600 to the Community Baby Shower. The Community Baby Shower will be a bilingual event with Spanish translation provided by Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC) staff.

Pregnancy Hope Center – Community Presentation

Teri Cline, Director of the Pregnancy Hope Center, joined the Klamath Professional Advisory to give an overview of Pregnancy Hope Center Services. The Pregnancy Hope Center helps women make informed decisions about their pregnancies.

Medical services provided at the Pregnancy Hope Center include pregnancy testing and verification, limited OB ultrasound, prenatal vitamins, prenatal consultation, and education.

Resources:

- Confidential intake with a trained advocate
- 10-course pregnancy and infant parenting education series (in person or online)
 - Your first trimester
 - Your second trimester
 - Your third Trimester
 - Labor & Delivery (does not take the place of the Prepared Child Birth class at Sky Lakes)
 - Infant Hygiene
 - Getting to Know Your New Baby
 - Infant Safety
 - Bonding
 - Soothing
 - Family Finance (this is the only class required to be in-person)

Individuals who take part in the Pregnancy & Parenting Class Series can gain knowledge, confidence, emotional support, and resources. Courses are available on Tuesdays at 4:30 pm or Wednesdays at 5:15 pm. Individuals learn how their bodies change during pregnancy, how to safely care for an infant, and how to develop important life skills like household budgeting. By participating in eight of the ten offered courses, individuals can earn a layette (starter box full of baby essentials like blankets,

onesies, sleepers, bottles, outfits, bibs & more), diapers (a bundle of diapers once per month from baby's birth until baby turns two-years-old), a new portable crib with a bassinet attachment, a voucher for shopping at Goodwill, and a certificate of completion. Individuals also earn Baby Bucks to spend in the Pregnancy Hope Center boutique. Baby Bucks can be turned in for infant clothing (preemie to 18-months) and items like strollers, bouncy seats, swings, and more. A rear-facing infant car seat carrier can be earned by participating in all ten courses. The classes can be completed in Spanish online on their own device or at the Pregnancy Hope Center on one of center's computers.

The services available at the Pregnancy Hope Center are not income-based. About 90% of clients are Oregon Health Plan recipients, and a lot of other clients can be considered a dependent on another individual's insurance. The Pregnancy Hope Center tends to serve individuals and families in lower income brackets, but is open to serving anyone with no income requirement.

Deliverables Update

Early Learning Hubs have received notice from the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC), that the Strategic Plan deliverable will be changing. Hubs are waiting to see what the process will look like. The South-Central Early Learning Hub continuing conversations about successes and barriers relating to child care needs. The group split into breakout rooms to discuss the following questions.

What are you hearing/noticing about child care in the community with the new school year?

Are there challenges you are facing around child care?

What successes have you experienced with child care?

Barriers

Lack of facilities remains a barrier for child care providers opening new or expanding current services.

Families need care for non-traditional hours (before/after school, evening, overnight, weekend, etc.).

The upcoming Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) waitlist process will be a barrier for families in need of child care subsidies. ERDC will introduce a waitlist after November 3, 2023 because of increased demand and limited funding.

Even if a family has been qualified for ERDC, it is difficult to find child care openings for children.

A lack of transportation to and from child care programs are a barrier for some families.

Finding qualified staff is a challenge for child care programs. It is hard to hire and retain teachers, instructional assistants, meal preparers, bus drivers, etc.

The high cost of child care is a challenge for families. Some parents choose to stay at home with their children versus entering into the workforce.

The lack of available child care for sick children is a barrier for working families.

There is a lack of child care options for children with special needs.

If child care providers accept ERDC payments, then quit accepting ERDC payments, it leaves families to pay out of pocket for care or to find a new child care provider who accepts ERDC.

Some families are relying on family/friends for child care, which is not always the optimal place for children.

Successes

With the school year starting back up, families with school-aged children have some respite care, loosely defined as break for care providers, while their children attend school during the day.

Klamath County received three new Preschool Promise slots during the recent slot reallocation process. The process was introduced by the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) to re-distribute slots from Preschool Promise Grantees who chose not to continue to receive the Preschool Promise grant.

Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) qualifications were expanded. ERDC helps families who are working, in school, or receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) pay for child care, including registration fees.

Preschool Promise Update

Hubs advocated with the Department of Early Learning and Care for slot reallocation of lost slots across the state. Roseburg Professional Childcare chose not to continue with the Preschool Promise grant and opened up 30 slots for reallocation in the South-Central region. Only 12 of the 30 available slots were distributed across the region, and many other Hub regions did not receive the full slot reallocation. Only current Preschool Promise grantees could apply for reallocation slots. Since there are no

Preschool Promise grantees in Roseburg, there were no slots reallocated in that area. Klamath County did receive three extra slots in the reallocation process.

For the first time, Preschool Promise grant is a two-year grant instead of a one-year grant. Having a two-year grant will allow the Hub to open the Preschool Promise application process and begin accepting children into Preschool Promise earlier in the year. Hubs will also be able to coordinate and align Preschool Promise outreach with other publicly funded programs.

Preschool Promise slots filled up faster in the 2023-2024 school year than they had in previous years. There is only one opening available at the YMCA of Klamath Falls right now.

Resources for Children and Families

Safe Families can occasionally offer host homes for families in need of child care while looking for a child care provider. Safe Families can't do regular child care, but can offer some resources via host families in special circumstances.

Yesterday's Plaza has a clothing room on their lower level. Individuals and families have the ability to go into Yesterday's Plaza, let the staff know they need clothing. Staff will let them pick out a few outfits at no charge.

Fairhaven Church offers a free clothing closet every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:00 am. Clothing is available for all ages, but individuals need to bring their own bag. Fairhaven Church is located at 5400 OR-66, Klamath Falls, OR 97601. The church can be reached by phone at (541) 882-1662.

IYS has coats for youth at 110 N. 10th Street.

Klamath Family Head Start has potential employment opportunities. Klamath Family Head Start is accepting applications for entry-level and above. Apply online at KFheadstart.org. Children of Head Start employees must qualify for Head Start to have child care.

Equity Lens

The Klamath Professional Advisory Committee discussed the Hub Equity Lens, and how equity is being applied in Klamath County.

The Community Baby Shower will be bilingual this year, with Spanish translation offered by Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC).

Partner Updates

Community UPLIFT – Danielle Walker – The Family Governance Advisory Committee requested a public service announcement be created for Community UPLIFT. Yecenia with Central Oregon Disability Support Network helped with the Spanish translation for the video.

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

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

There have been 1,160 Community UPLIFT referrals since the beginning of Community UPLIFT. The Preschool Promise application now asks if families are interested in a referral to Community UPLIFT, this update has generated an increase in referrals across the region, especially in Lake County.

Klamath Family Head Start – Jessica McAuliffe – Klamath Family Head start is not fully enrolled, but are working towards full enrollment. Head Start accepts applications year-round. Applications for the 2024-2025 school year will open in March 2024.

Cascade Health Alliance (CHA) – Rhonda Janecke – CHA members have the benefit of signing up for Translink services, which provides transportation to medical appointments. Flex rides are now available for individuals who need transportation to the grocery store, laundromat, parenting education classes, and more. Translink services may also be available for transportation to therapeutic classrooms, like the A Family Gathering Place Relief Nursery. For more information about Translink, contact Jennifer Daniels by email JenniferD@casadecom.com.

A Family Gathering Place – Joseph Maurer – A Family Gathering Place Relief Nursery received a grant to purchase a van to provide transportation to families. A Family Gathering Place also received a grant for facilities improvement including new windows, lights, and updating doors to be ADA accessible. The Relief Nursery will also be remodeling its facility to add a commercial kitchen to provide in-house meals to students. The Relief Nursery currently uses the YMCA to provide meals to students.

Next Meeting:

Sept 27, 2023 from 10 am to noon.