

# KLAMATH PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Notes

Oct. 16, 2019 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM

### Attendance

Rhonda Janecke	Kay Ortega Dena	Gillian Wesenberg
Charla Oppenlander	Haudenschild	Cynthia Hurkes
Jill O'Donnell	Kathleen Walker-Henderson	Amy Quayle
Cindy Walsh	Wendy Brown	Danielle Walker
Melinda Gomez	Melinda Collier	Phone: Vanessa Pingleton
Sylvia Cox	Holly Stork	Phone Heather Freilinger
Sue Scheiss	Yecenia Rodriguez	
Filicia Poteet	Jocelyn Amaya	

### Pacific Research and Evaluation (PRE) Final Report and Discussion

The Pacific Research and Evaluation Final Report, which was an approved project by the Regional Governance Council last biennium, was shared with the Klamath Professional Advisory Committee (PAC).

The PAC took 15 minutes to do a quick review of the document and then split into groups of three to discuss the standouts they noticed using the following questions as a guideline:

- Does any geographic area stick out in the data/why?
- Is there anything that you know should be considered that isn't reflected in the data?
- How does demographic data compare to data on who is currently being served (or not begin served)?
- Do you know of a program or school that is willing and able to consider expansion or starting up a preschool or child care in the region?

### Data Questions:

- Does the research reflect migrant workers in Klamath County? Numbers may change based on seasonality; harvest times, etc... When was this data gathered?
- Did we get a good cross section of families represented in the survey?
- How do we reach the "in-between" people? The ones who are not in poverty but not able to pay for Child Care and are sitting on waitlists?
  - The Early Learning Hub, Klamath Family Head Start, and OCDC have partnered to send out an additional survey developed by Children's Institute, to the parents on the Head Start wait lists for Klamath and Lake Counties

### Standouts:

- Transportation
  - Bussing children into towns/cities – length of time children are on a bus
  - Lack of funding and qualified bus drivers

- Lack of facilities to expand or create new ECE programs
  - Cost of retrofitting a space
  - Cost of building a new center
  - Other costs associated with running a facility: teacher, support staff, maintenance, etc...
- Lack of options for families with infants
- Sometimes families who cannot be reached, do not want to be reached
- Higher number of minorities at Mills, Stearns, Malin, and Merrill Elementary Schools
  - The group is curious if this could be based on cheaper housing costs in these school catchment areas
  - Merrill and Malin Elementary Schools are over 50% Hispanic
  - Chiloquin Elementary School is over 50% American Indian/Alaskan Native
- There are high rates of families that would receive Free and Reduced Lunches at Chiloquin (87%), Stearns (92%), and Mills (92%) Elementary schools. All schools throughout the county are over 50%, which is still a high percentage.
- Language Barriers
  - More than just a language issue; we need to be culturally understanding and embracing
  - The Hispanic population is growing; schools could have a safe space with someone who is guaranteed to speak Spanish where the family feels comfortable asking questions and not needing to rely on their children to translate, who may or may not be sharing correct information with their parents
- High Health Complexity
  - Social Complexity + Medical Complexity = Higher Health Complexity
    - Social Complexity Ex. - Parent/family member in prison, child has lost a parent, has experienced ACES, parent or themselves in mental health care)
    - Medical Complexity - Ex. Diabetes and Asthma together
- Fewer daycare/preschools in rural areas – data indicates a need in these areas
- Community Strength – the Klamath County Library has 12 branches throughout the county
- Poverty levels
  - Noted the difference in median incomes between Douglas, Klamath and Lake Counties
- We need to reach the individuals and can make a difference, and include them at the table
  - Ex. Superintendents
- 91.8% of parents indicate that they want to participate, but we still get very few parents that attend the training/events that are hosted for them that they have asked for
  - Ask parents – “What keeps you from participating?” “What would help you get there?” etc...
  - \*Idea\* - Live streaming trainings/events through media platforms such as Facebook
- Surveys and interviews indicate a need to break down barriers between Early Care and the K-12 system
- Living wages for the qualified workforce
  - Qualified workforce is staying home with their own children due to cost of childcare vs. pay for ECE staff

- Income guidelines for State and Federally funded preschools are not working
- The community needs to know what their options are for Early Care and Education
  - Market their options (Ex. Center Based Care vs. Home Based Care, etc...)
- Based on surveys, we need to build the communication and a partnership between K-12 and ECE
  - What does this partnership look like?
  - Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation (KPI) is starting work in 2020 to build communication between these parties
- Parents prefer and want full-day preschool opportunities

#### **Preschool Expansion Opportunities:**

- Head Start programs want more children, but lack facilities and qualified staff
- KCC – Klamath Community College
- Stearns Elementary School
- Sky Lakes Medical Center
- Option – Buy Triad to create a community preschool

#### **Community UPLiFT, KPI/P-3, Take Root Updates**

**Community UPLiFT** – Community UPLiFT will host Lunch and Learns for partners to learn more about the program. The Klamath County Lunch and Learn is October 30, 2019 from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm at the Washington Federal Annex building at 5215 S 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Klamath Falls, OR.

**KPI** – The informational session for Klamath County, with Dr. Kendra Coates about Growing Early Mindsets (GEM) is be hosted October 16 from 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm at the SOESD building in Klamath.

#### **Partner Updates**

**Klamath Family Head Start** – Will have an Application Day at their building on November 1, 2019 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm for Early Head Start and Head Start. Families need to bring Proof of Income, Immunization Records, Health Insurance Cards, and a Birth Certificate.

**ECl** – Is welcoming new referrals; referrals can come from anyone in the community.

**NAEYC** – Annual Early Childhood Education Conference will be held November 2<sup>nd</sup> at Klamath Community College, and is designed for Early Childcare Professionals

**KCC** – The Ford Family Foundation has renewed the Early Learning Professional Development Grant for \$31,000.

**Community Baby Shower Partners** – 172 families came through the baby shower. With moms, their partners, and children, the Klamath Community Baby Shower served about 500 people. Many programs heard good things from parents who attended, and there were some great suggestions such as having a Spanish translator, and having water available at the entrance to the event.

#### **Next Meeting:**

November 20, 2019 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at SOESD, 2685 Foothills Blvd.