

# LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

Meeting Notes

October 22, 2024 | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

## Attendance

Michael Carter (v)  
Lane Stratton (v)  
Miranda Philibert  
Jen Schultz  
Rhayanna McLain

Colleen May  
Gillian Wesenberg  
Heather Freilinger  
Vanessa Pingleton  
Bailey Guido

Athena Wikstrom  
Jaelynn Luna  
Danielle Walker

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 agreed to hold September minute approval until the November meeting. No motion.

**Klamath Family Head Start Lakeview Site** – Shalom shared the Head Start 45-day federal health requirements are coming up. Children enrolled in Head Start are required to have a vision screening, hearing screening, and developmental screening within 45-days of enrollment.

Preschool Promise at the Klamath Family Head Start Lakeview Site has three openings. The Head Start program, for ages three to five is full. The Early Head Start program for children ages 6-weeks to three-years-old, has a waitlist.

Gillian shared the South-Central Early Learning Hub (SCELH), is happy to provide marketing assistance for Preschool Promise throughout the region. Contact the South-Central Early Learning Hub with creative Preschool Promise marketing strategies.

**Lakeview School District #7** – Jennifer shared Honker Preschool Promise is full. Honker Preschool is interested in accepting any available Preschool Promise slots from the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC).

Honker Preschool Promise staff are going through Central Background Registry background checks, Early Care and Education (ECE) college courses, professional development, and creating Oregon Registry Online (ORO) accounts.

Honker Preschool moved to a four-day week (Mon. – Thurs.), leaving parents in need of Friday care. More funding is needed to make Friday care a viable option for the school district and ensure care options are affordable for families.

Preschool Promise students took a field trip to the High School Pumpkin Patch in the Agriculture Farm. Students rode the bus, selected pumpkins from the field, and received a lesson about how pumpkins grow. Honker Preschool hosts regular family engagement nights. Last week, Honker Preschool hosted a booth at the two-day Harvest Fair. Honker Preschool sold playdoh kits at the event; playdoh kits sold out the first day.

Grant funding that was utilized in offering summer camps for children last year, will end before next summer. Jennifer is looking for grant opportunities so Lakeview School District #7 can offer summer camps again next year.

**South-Central Early Learning Hub** – Gillian shared Seonaid Ublehardt resigned from the Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) Facilitator position when her family decided to move to Washington.

The Hub qualifies and enrolls students for Preschool Promise across the region for most sites. The Klamath Tribes, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and Head Start programs contract with DELIC to complete their own enrollment. Preschool Promise sites are mostly full, with only a few openings in Klamath County.

Newly passed legislation prohibits children in early care and education settings, regardless of funding, from being suspended or expelled beginning July 1, 2026. In preparation, the state released suspension and expulsion planning grants to help support the implementation of the legislation. Douglas ESD applied for the planning grant and has created an interagency agreement with the South-Central Early Learning Hub to facilitate the planning process from now until June 2025.

The South-Central Early Learning Hub has been working closely with Child Care Resource and Referral to develop focus groups of parents, behavioral health providers, in-home child care providers, center-based child care providers, and community partners to determine needs and capacity when it comes to supporting childcare providers in the upcoming legislation. The Hub is contracting with Heidi McGowan to facilitate the focus groups, and with Dr. Amy King to assist with developing the implementation plan.

The state is developing a warmline or warm form for child care providers to reach out when they experience children in their programs who may have challenging behaviors. The warmline / warm form process is still under development.

Heather advised focus groups and advisory groups are in the planning phase, with more information to come. Preschool Promise and Head Start already do not allow suspension or expulsion in their programs. Family child care providers who receive state funding are nervous about what upcoming legislation means for their programs. Child care providers can get assistance with setting up classroom environments, teacher training, and referrals to Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) through CCRR. CCRR also hired an Inclusive Specialist, Jaelynn Luna, who will primarily serve Klamath and Lake Counties. Jaelynn will promote and support inclusive practices by offering technical assistance and consultation services, assessing subsidies for children [who receive Employment Related Day Care (ERDC)] needing extra classroom support, and providing professional development opportunities for providers.

**Home Visiting Systems Coordination (HVSC)** – Vanessa shared the first Home Visiting Summit with the Center for Coordinating Oregon’s Home Visiting Systems (CCOHVS) was held last month. Attendees included the Steering Committee for CCOHVS, Home Visiting Systems Coordinators with The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF), and representation from every sector listed in Raise Up Oregon. CCOHVS is working on developing a long-term plan to support home visitors with things like professional development, equitable pay, and benefits.

The Connect Share and Care for this month was cancelled due to an unexpected conflict. HVSC will have a similar event scheduled in November.

**Take Root Parenting Connections** – Vanessa advised that Take Root staff attended the annual Oregon Parent Educator (OPEC) Conference. There were two days of discussions and training. Three Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) staff attended the OPEC conference. DELIC shared the state is working on integrating Parenting Education Leadership into DELIC operations.

Bailey shared Take Root hosted a Parent Input Session for North Lake families in Fort Rock, Oregon. About seven participants attended and provided feedback. Take Root is seeking a meeting space in North Lake that has two rooms and is closer to families in North Lake as many families traveled over 30 minutes to attend the Parent Input Session. Most in-person parent classes and workshops provide childcare. A separate room to provide care would be beneficial.

North Lake is still receiving Family Engagement Boxes through a partnership with Lake County Education Service District (ESD), North Lake School District, and Take Root. Twenty families are registered to receive Family Engagement Boxes. Families are actively participating and engaging each other on the Facebook page that pairs with the Family Engagement Boxes.

The Parent Support Group, for any parent who experiences a disability or is the caregiver of a child experiencing a disability, has been postponed for two weeks. The group will meet in person at the Daily Middle School Gym or virtually. Upcoming classes include Finger Painting, Circle of Security, and Baby Play Dates.

**Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR)** – Heather Freiling shared the Klamath County office is fully staffed and able to support Lake County child care providers. Quality Improvement Specialists help with technical assistance. The Klamath Community College (KCC) Early Care and Education (ECE) Specialist helps individuals interested in receiving certificates or degrees in the ECE field through KCC.

**Lake County ESD** – Lane advised Lake County ESD received a Community Care Grant through Lake County Mental Health to purchase two years of school supplies for each student in Lake County. The funding will likely supply students in Plush and Adel for longer than two years.

**Healthy Families** – Colleen shared Healthy Families has one Lake County Family Support Specialist. One family graduated from Healthy Families in Lake County this month. Events in the Lake County area have been effective in boosting participation in the Healthy Families program. Healthy Families encourage family engagement and helps families create support systems.

**Family Center** – Rhayanna McLain advised wraparound care is one of the most utilized programs the Family Center operates. There are openings in wraparound care if anyone is interested. The Family Center is working to start Intensive In-Home Behavioral Health Treatment (IIBHT) in Christmas Valley.

**Next Meeting:** November 19, 2024, at 1:00 pm.

**November Agenda:** Approve both September 2024 and October 2024 minutes.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, the Lake County Community Governance Council was adjourned.