

# KLAMATH PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

October 25, 2023 | 10:00 AM – Noon

## Attendance

Dena Haudenschild	Crystal Lemus	Gillian Wesenberg
Rhonda Janecke	Patricia Pahl	Heather Freiling
Kathleen Walker-Henderson	Melinda Gomez	Athena Wikstrom
Laura Barajas	David Lev	Ronda Osborn
Jessie DuBose	Julie Sheasby	Danielle Walker
Jill O'Donnell	Cherry Camonayan (SP?)	
Kylan Taylor	Denise Swingle	

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 September minutes. Kathleen Walker-Henderson made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Crystal Lemus seconded the motion. No further discussion.

## South Central Early Learning Hub

The transition from the Early Learning Division to the Department of Early Learning and Care (DEL) has been completed. Early Learning Hubs are working with DELC to develop the expectations for the new Hub Strategic Plans together to ensure the Strategic Plans are a useful tool for everyone.

Hub staff are excited about the new Family Advisory Governance Council (FAGC) and their accomplishments as a cohesive group that has been meeting for over a year. Last night, the FAGC met with Mitten Mamas out of Michigan. Mitten Mamas will be helping develop group norms, while providing support and guidance. If anyone knows of parents who might be interested in joining the FAGC, please let the Hub know.

Last night was also the Preschool Promise grantee meeting with the grantees, the Hub, and the Childcare Resource and Referral (Care Connections and Education). DELC has granted Preschool Promise grantees a two-year contract for the 2023-2025 biennium, which will allow the Hub and the grantees to begin the enrollment process in the spring. The Hub will be able to coordinate enrollment activities with other publicly funded programs including kindergarten enrollment with families that also have young children. Preschool Promise slots for the 2023-2024 school year filled up more quickly this year than they have in the past. Sites are excited that students were able to start at the beginning of the year and did not have to wait for late contracting from the state to begin providing services to children. There is currently one opening for Preschool Promise in Lake County and six in Douglas County. The Hub is working closely with the Klamath Family Head Start Lakeview Site to ensure both programs are filled and families have the choice of which program they would like to attend.

Community UPLIFT is going strong, since the beginning of Community UPLIFT in 2017, there have been a total of 1,218 referrals to date. Douglas County has received 742 referrals, Klamath County has received 457 referrals, Lake County has received 16 referrals, and there have been 2 referrals from counties outside of the region. The Preschool Promise application now asks families if they are interested in a referral to Community UPLIFT, which generated additional Community UPLIFT referrals and, especially, boosted referrals in Lake County.

If you're interested in a presentation about Community UPLIFT, contact Danielle Walker at [Danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us](mailto:Danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us) or by phone at (541) 880-4655. Danielle will be meeting with Sky Lakes Outpatient Care Management and Klamath Lake Community Action Services.

As a reminder, the Family Advisory Governance Council requested a public service announcement video about Community UPLIFT to help spread the word. The Hub worked with the Family Advisory Governance Council to develop a 30-second video about Community UPLIFT. Videos are available online at the following links.

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

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

### Tater Tots Pediatric Therapy – Community Presentation

Kaylan Taylor, Executive Director of Tater Tots Pediatric Therapy, joined the Klamath Professional Advisory Committee to share information about their program.

Tater Tots is a non-profit pediatric therapy clinic founded by Kayla and Kylan Taylor. The mission of Tater Tots is to provide high-quality, evidence-based, family-centered therapy and services to the underserved children and families of Klamath Falls, and the surrounding rural communities, as well as serve as a community resource that can provide preventative services, educational opportunities, and community events and families.

Tater Tots Pediatric Therapy provides clinical services for physical therapy, speech-language therapy, and feeding therapy for children ages birth to 18. Tater Tots accepts Oregon Health Plan and accepts most major private insurance plans. They also provide other community services, such as a Bike for Life Camp, Social Skills Gaming Club, and a Parent Support Group for parents of children with disabilities (child care included). Tater Tots will also be offering a new parent education course that will focus on expectations for early childhood development expect from early childhood development, safe sleep, care seat safety, and more.

The Klamath County Chamber of Commerce presented Tater Tots with the Big Idea Innovation Award earlier this year! The 2nd Annual Fundraiser with dinner, games and an auction will be held on Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 5:00pm. Tickets are \$75 each or a table sponsorship for eight guests for \$500. RSVP by November 1, 2023 at (541) 887-2207 or [info@tatertotstherapy.org](mailto:info@tatertotstherapy.org).

### Tater Tots Pediatric Therapy

Address: 2450 Summers Lane, Klamath Falls, OR 97603





Phone: (541) 887-2207

Email: [info@tatertotstherapy.org](mailto:info@tatertotstherapy.org)

### Equity Lens

The Klamath Professional Advisory Committee discussed how they are using the Equity Lens in their programs to make decisions based in diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice.

**South Central Early Learning Hub Equity Lens**

 <p><b>1. Get on the same page &amp; surface assumptions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. What, if any, are our commitments and/or agreements regarding diversity, inclusion, and equity? (example: equity statement, values statements, etc.)</li> <li>B. What is/are the goal(s) of the decision or program?</li> <li>C. What are the intended outcomes (of the decision or program)? What does success look like?</li> <li>D. What assumptions are we making (about people, systems, outcomes, intentions)? Do we need to check any of those assumptions for accuracy?</li> <li>E. Where is, or might, bias (implicit or explicit) be showing up?</li> </ul>	 <p><b>2. Involve stakeholders &amp; engage multiple perspectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Whose perspectives, vision, and voice are being represented? Whose are missing? Are those who are most impacted and/or historically underserved represented? How will we bring those perspectives to the table?</li> <li>B. Who has the decision-making power and/or influence? How will those most impacted lead, influence, give input, or guide the decision or policy under review?</li> <li>C. What data do we need? How will we get it? How are we interpreting the data?</li> </ul>
 <p><b>3. Assess equity impact:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Do the affected children and families, who need it most, have needed resources to participate or be successful?</li> <li>B. Are we supporting the children and families' social and emotional well-being in making this decision?</li> <li>C. Does the policy, program, practice and/or decision affect, ignore, or worsen existing disparities based on social identity? How? How might we address or mitigate these?</li> <li>D. What might unintended consequences be? How will we know, or attend to them?</li> <li>E. Is our approach or strategy actually worsening the situation or causing harm (example: mental or emotional health)?</li> </ul>	 <p><b>4. Take action for equity:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. What are our next steps? What do we need to re-evaluate?</li> <li>B. What solutions or interventions could eliminate or mitigate the inequities, disparities, or harm that we uncovered?</li> <li>C. How will we evaluate, and gather information on the impact of the policy, program, practice, or decision that was made?</li> <li>D. How will this program or decision be communicated? What level of transparency is needed? How will those most impacted be communicated with?</li> </ul>

**Advancing equitable outcomes for children and families in the South Central Early Learning Hub**

## Partner Updates

**Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) – Gillian Wesenberg** – ERDC is a child care subsidy program that helps qualifying families with the cost of child care. ERDC services recently expanded, but did not receive increased funding in the recent legislative session. ERDC will be implementing a waitlist after November 3, 2023. If you think someone might qualify for ERDC services and will need child care within the next year, encourage them to apply for the ERDC program before 11:59pm on November 3, 2023.

**Klamath Early Child Development Center – Dena Haudenschild** – Preschool Promise slots are full at Little Learners, with the exception of three reallocation slots awarded to the program earlier in the school year. Slots will be filled once an executed contract is received from the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC). Engagement activities for families are being planned. There will be a Harvest Event on October 31, 2023 with trick-or-treating, snacks, and crafts. In November, there will be a Thanksgiving dinner with families. And, an event is being planned for December.

Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) is seeing an increase in the number of children identified for services. Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) is working with community preschools to find placements for a few children who would benefit from being placed in a community preschool setting. ECI pays for this service.

**Klamath Promise -- Jessie Dubose** – The Klamath Promise Steering Committee Meeting is tomorrow, October 26 at Klamath Community College. If you plan to attend the Klamath Promise meeting, consider wearing pink; tomorrow is Sky Lakes Think Pink Day.

**Klamath Family Head Start (KFHS) -- Melinda Gomez** -- KFHS is fully enrolled with 420 slots. There are over 70 income-eligible children on the Early Head Start Waitlist. The new Child and Family Counselor and her assistant are offering Conscious Discipline trainings for families enrolled in Head Start programs. KFHS is gearing up for winter events including the Snowflake Parade, Winter Luncheon, and a Safety Town event.

**Care Connections & Education, Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) – Heather Freilinger** – Since January, the number of child care providers in Klamath County has increased from 90 providers to 106 providers. There are 16 individuals currently in the process of becoming child care providers in Klamath County.

Care Connections and Education is working with the rural development initiative to partner with Brenda Brown to offer three, full day Spanish classes in Malin for Spanish-speaking providers. There is potential for a Spanish-speaking child care provider cohort in Malin.

CCR&R is fully staffed in Klamath Falls, a Quality Improvement Specialist - Jessica Torske, and two Preschool Promise facilitators serving Klamath and Lake Counties.

**Early Childhood Conference – Jill O'Donnell** – The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Early Childhood Conference is on November 4, 2023 at Klamath Community College. The keynote presenter is Linda Fife, the Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy at Colorado State University. She will present on Play-Based Learning as an Inclusive Approach to Early Childhood. Linda will also provide a workshop about Tips and Techniques for Supporting Diverse Learners.

**Klamath County School District – Jill O'Donnell** – The Klamath County School District has been offering Jump Start Kindergarten, funded through the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Play 2 Learns, family events for pre-k, will be continuing at all the Klamath County School District elementary schools after January 2024.

### Next Meeting:

November 15, 2023 from 10 am to noon