

Attendance

Alana Strickland	Jennifer Jackson	Melinda Gomez
Bethany Holmes	Jessica McAuliffe	Melissa Dorsey
Crystal Lemus	Jessie DuBose	Monica Shaw
David Elliott	Kathleen Walker-Henderson	Athena Wikstrom
Dena Haudenschild	Kay Ortega	Cynthia Hurkes
Heather Robinson	Rhonda Janecke	Vanessa Pingleton
Heather Freiling	Sylvia Cox	
Hilary Mankofsky	Melanie Mobley	

Please note: The Klamath Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held virtually due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) concerns.

Welcome and Introduction

The PAC reviewed and approved the September minutes. Sylvia Cox made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Kathleen Walker-Henderson seconded the motion. No further discussion.

Cascade Health Alliance (CHA) Social Emotional Metric Asset Mapping

David Elliot from Cascade Health Alliance (CHA) the Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) in Klamath County reviewed what capacity looks like for social-emotional services for individuals zero to five years old in the Klamath Basin. The CCO received two months of calendars from social-emotional support providers in Klamath County to determine what is available for children. CHA has received surveys from 16 providers and are still waiting for a few to be returned. According to the surveys received, about 31 percent of the total social-emotional appointment times are currently open for age zero- to five-year-olds. Some providers shared meeting the maximum capacity reported would be difficult, however the reported slots are all bookable for zero- to five-year-olds.

The amount of availability is a bit surprising as public sentiment is there are no available slots within the community and the wait to see a social-emotional or behavioral health provider is exorbitant. Most providers have the capacity for same-day services. CHA’s metric performance for the social-emotional metric was about seven percent. This indicates that about seven percent of children are likely needing social-emotional supports in some form. CHA’s goal is to double the utilization for the community. There is currently capacity to double utilization for social-emotional supports within the community, though much more than about 15 percent would be difficult to achieve with the current capacity.

Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members can self-refer for behavioral health, they do not need a referral. Any providers on the provider list located on CHA’s website has some capacity available. OHA members can call Behavioral Health Case Managers at CHA to receive guidance regarding which behavioral health providers serve different ages.

Jessie shared Klamath County Public Schools all have Klamath Basin Behavioral Health (KBBH) councilors in the buildings. Southern Oregon Education Service District (SOESD) has a Social-Emotional Learning Program Manager that works with all the school districts in Jackson, Josephine, and Klamath Counties. The Social-Emotional Learning Program Manager is housed in the School Improvement Department where professional development is coordinated. The decision to house the position in the School Improvement Department was made as the alternative would be for the role to be housed in Disability Services.

Jessie also shared there are fourteen individuals in Klamath County and two in Lake County currently going through Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) training to become certified trainers with ACE Interface. The goal is to have trainers who can go into the community to provide ACEs trainings.

David advised the group when Cascade Health Alliance meets with other Coordinated Care Organizations around Oregon, Klamath County is always far ahead of other areas regarding behavioral health services.

Dena expressed appreciation for OHP not requiring referrals for behavioral health and allowing it to be a direct call to the provider. She reflected in the past providers often did not provide services for zero- to five-year-olds so it is encouraging there is now availability within the community.

David Elliott can be reached via email at davide@cascaedcomp.com.

Regional System Assessment

Athena provided an overview of the Regional System Assessment and the process. Erin Watson with Weaving Change, a contractor with the Early Learning Division, developed the Regional System Assessment including the template being completed by the Hubs and the carousel that was completed at the Klamath County Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting in September. The Regional System Assessment is designed to determine what is helping and hindering access to high-quality early care and education.

Erin Watson and Athena reviewed the carousel the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) worked on last month, pulled out themes, and developed questions that would help to uncover root causes of some barriers to families receiving high-quality early care and education. Athena asked the group three of the root cause questions from the carousel.

1. What local policies are getting in the way of families accessing high-quality early learning across the region? In what ways?
 - Silvia – While it is not a local policy, state and federal income requirements are a policy that limit families accessing high-quality early care and education. It has helped that Head Start is now able to accept recipients of SNAP benefits as income-qualifying families.
 - Kathleen - Staff and facilities are the biggest hindrance to access. Financial requirements do cause a barrier as well.
 - Melinda - Facilities are the biggest hindrance. There are four Head Start classrooms unable to start because of a lack of facilities. Services are being provided home-based, but the families are needing center-based care.
 - Kathleen – Klamath Kid Center just went through licensing. The level of pea gravel and size of rock is regulated. The cost of the required gravel required through licensing can be prohibitive.
 - Silvia - Preschool classrooms cannot be upstairs according to fire marshal and licensing which is a hindrance to finding facilities.
 - Heather - There was a large start-up grant and capacity increase grant available to providers.
 - Criminal Background Registry (CBR) is taking a long time and causing a hindrance for the workforce getting into the field. There is a delay in getting the fingerprint forms out.
 - Staff who have not completed CBR can work with children and be in the classroom as long as they are with a staff member who has completed their CBR and they cannot be left alone with children.
 - Kathleen – At Klamath Kid Center many families are self-pay, if they get behind on payments, they are dropped from the program. Many middle-class families are struggling with the cost.
 - Heather – During COVID there was some financial relief for child care, there are a lot of families who fall just above the line to receive financial assistance and it causes difficult choices so families can pay for care.
2. We have a good sense that regional organizations aren't always sharing relevant family-level information that could help us to align and enhance our collective work with families. What's getting in the way of this?

Athena – We have heard from providers families have not received services because the organization that could provide the services did not know the families existed. If providers referred the family through Community UPLIFT, they could be connected with the needed services. Additionally, having Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) in place, and Releases of Information would be necessary to share family-level information due to privacy.

Cynthia - One K12 school district in Douglas County has a Family Liaison who works closely with community-based organizations to bring services to priority populations she works with. The position was initially funded through a Community Based Organization (CBO) and the school district chose to fund it due to the need.

Rhonda – Klamath and Lake Community Action Services (KLCAS) tries to keep track of all the local resources, however it's not always up to date. Community UPLIFT, Aunt Bertha, 211, and CURN are great resources.

Cynthia - Hub newsletter

Athena - We are trying to get a newsletter out regularly and have a resource directory for all three counties.

Dena - Is there a resource fair? I have seen small things all over, but what about something big? We all can struggle with falling back into silos.

Silvia – There used to be a big fair at Mills in the past, but it's been several years since it was held.

Kay – There is a resource fair and vaccine event monthly. They do have open spots for any partners to come out for a few hours. Kay has tried to have Klamath Family Head Start at the fair every month. The November fair will be in tents with heaters, food boxes, warm food, resources, vaccines, etc. Food boxes will have a \$25 Sherms Thunderbird gift card. There are twelve to thirteen agencies confirmed to be there. Each month 200 to 300 individuals attend the resource fair and vaccine event.

Kathleen - Feels like we're doing a good job with sharing information, this feels like it's a bigger regional concern.

Rhonda - During the community baby shower, there were families who came up from California and Healthy Families connected them to Healthy Families California to ensure they received resources.

3. What's getting in the way of referring families through Community UPLIFT?

David - Refers to Healthy Klamath Connects opposed to Community UPLIFT due to proximity. There may be ways to coordinate better and share in some education and to educate the community on all referral systems available. There is also a possibility to go the board route and integrate sources.

Rhonda - Vanessa and Rhonda are working to put Community UPLIFT and Healthy Klamath Connects within each other's referral sources. Individuals can refer to Community UPLIFT through Healthy Klamath Connects.

Next Steps

The South-Central Early Learning Hub staff will review the information provided with Erin Watson, develop common themes, pull out root cause questions, and "clean-up" the Ecosystems document. If members have questions or comments but are unsure of how to include them in the document, please reach out to Gillian or Athena and they will ensure that the information is included.

The Regional System Assessment is due in April 2023 and will be a high priority for the South-Central Early Learning Hub over the next few months.

Equity Lens Application

Rhonda shared they used the lens during the community baby shower. Dena's staff did announcements in Spanish and books written in Spanish were handed out as well as books written in English. The goal is to have the community baby shower bilingual next year.

OCDC translated the Hub's Family Advisory Committee flyer into Spanish and provided a translator for the meeting kickoff meetings held in October.

There is a new Preschool Promise site that requested banners in English and Spanish individually.

Last week Dena's group shared their Speech and Language Newsletter which is translated into Spanish on Facebook. One of the groups who shared it onto their page was Español in Klamath so it is able to reach more families across the county.

David is in the Klamath Basin Oral Health Coalition. The Coalition was reviewing their charter and David realized the charter does not have equity centered in it. The group is putting equity into the charter going forward with intention.

David asked to have Equity Lens shared in the minutes each month.

Heather shared the Child Care Resource and Referral, Care Connections & Education is providing classes in Spanish. The video training had Spanish subtitles, however, the words moved so quickly, she is unsure how effective it will be. It brought to light that there needs to be more intentionality going forward.

Dena appreciated Heather sharing because it will be a reminder to her in the future.

Kathleen works on the Klamath Community College scholarship committee. The selection process seems like it could be more equitable especially as the score sheets are updated. The college has a focus on equity, however many of the committee members have not received much training on the topic.

Partner Updates

Preschool Promise – Danielle is out on maternity leave. Douglas County Hub staff members are assisting with her role while she's out.

The South-Central Early Learning Hub is accepting Preschool Promise applications for the 2022-2023 school year. Eligible students turn three or four by September 1, 2022, are residents of Oregon, and have a family income of up to 200% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Apply at: <http://www.southcentralhubenrollment.com/> or contact us by phone at (541) 957-4809.

The South-Central Early Learning Hub is still encouraging families who believe they are over income to also apply for Preschool Promise as they may still fall into the income guidelines. Applications will be accepted all year and a wait pool will be maintained for locations which are fully enrolled.

The Early Learning Division recently released information on the Preschool Promise expansion across the region, so there will be some additional Preschool Promise slots available in Klamath County.

Community UPLIFT – We are still taking referrals while Danielle is out and getting families connected to resources. Community UPLIFT connects expectant families, families with children zero to five-years-old or up to 21 with special needs, to resources in Klamath County. Online referrals can be completed at <http://www.community-uplift.com/> or via smartphone by texting the keyword “uplift2” to 484848. For more information about Community UPLIFT, contact Connie Connie.Rosas@Douglasesd.k12.or.us or by phone at (541) 957-4809.

South-Central Early Learning Hub – The Family Advisory Committee which will be part of the Regional Governance Council had their kickoff and information meetings October 13. One meeting was held during the day and one in the evening so families could attend the one that worked best for their schedules. Twenty-nine families attended from across the region including two from Lake County and an individual from Gilchrist. We did have fathers who attended which was exciting. Nineteen participants shared they would like to join the committee. Any families interested in joining can attend the next meeting in January. Interested families should contact Athena at Athena.Wikstrom@douglasesd.k12.or.us.

Care Connections & Education - Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) – The Fall Conference is taking place at Klamath Community College (KCC). Providers who received grant packages are going to receive gifts during the conference. Melisa will be doing Set 2 training in November. Quick Class Set 2 training will be available on line each month. The training will be about an hour and a half.

Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) – There will be a two-hour Early Learning Gathering November 15. Kindergarten teachers and administrators and preschool professionals are invited.

Safe Families for Children – Giving Brew annual event will be November 29. Safe Families for children is partnering with coffee shops where the shops will donate a portion of their proceeds to Safe Families. The next information meeting is November 2 at the Waffle Head at noon.

Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC) – In Chiloquin the Klamath Tribes has offered a location that is currently being renovated. OCDC has struggled with space over the last couple years. KCC has provided a space that is having some renovations right now. KCC is looking to start with modular then move to a brick and mortar building.

Klamath Family Head Start – The program is fully enrolled.

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) – There have been a lot of children with sensory needs. Preschool Promise expansion seats are still available.

Klamath Community Baby Shower – The baby shower was held at the ECI building. Surveys were completed by 120 people. When individuals completed the survey they were put into the big raffle that included car seats, a glider with an ottoman, and a crib. Families got connected to services they needed during the baby shower. Fifty-four of the 120 who completed surveys were requesting services. Over 200 individuals attended the event. The baby shower may have outgrown the space at ECI.

Next Meeting:

January 25, 2022 from 10 am to noon.

South Central Early Learning Hub Equity Lens



1. Get on the same page & surface assumptions:

- A. What, if any, are our commitments and/or agreements regarding diversity, inclusion, and equity? (example: equity statement, values statements, etc.)
- B. What is/are the goal(s) of the decision or program?
- C. What are the intended outcomes (of the decision or program)? What does success look like?
- D. What assumptions are we making (about people, systems, outcomes, intentions)? Do we need to check any of those assumptions for accuracy?
- E. Where is, or might, bias (implicit or explicit) be showing up?



2. Involve stakeholders & engage multiple perspectives:

- 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?
- 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?
- C. What data do we need? How will we get it? How are we interpreting the data?

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



3. Assess equity impact:

- A. Do the affected children and families, who need it most, have needed resources to participate or be successful?
- B. Are we supporting the children and families' social and emotional well-being in making this decision?
- 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?
- D. What might unintended consequences be? How will we know, or attend to them?
- E. Is our approach or strategy actually worsening the situation or causing harm (example: mental or emotional health)?



4. Take action for equity:

- A. What are our next steps? What do we need to re-evaluate?
- B. What interventions could eliminate or mitigate the inequities, disparities, or harm that we uncovered?
- C. How will we evaluate, and gather information on the impact of the policy, program, practice, or decision that was made?
- D. How will this program or decision be communicated? What level of transparency is needed? How will those most impacted be communicated with?