

KLAMATH PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

October 27, 2021 | 10:00 AM – Noon

Attendance

Melissa Dorsey	Kathleen Walker-Henderson	Vanessa Pingleton
Heather Freilinger	Kay Ortega	Sylvia Cox
Craig Schuhmann	Lisa Bertash	Yecenia Rodriguez
Amy Quayle	Megan Williams	Roberta Wilson
Athena Wikstrom	Melinda Gomez	Dena Haudenschild
Charlene Shaw	Melissa Dorsey	Connie Rosas
Gillian Wesenberg	Rhonda Nyseth	Danielle Walker
Jordon Falconio	Rhonda Janecke	
Joseph Maurer	Stacia Clark	

Please note: The Klamath Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held virtually due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) concerns and guidance on public meetings from the Governor.

Welcome and Introduction

The Klamath Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) reviewed and approved September minutes as submitted with no discussion.

Early Care and Education (ECE) Sector Plan and Parent Council

Gillian advised both the mini-update to the Early Care and Education (ECE) Sector Plan and the new Preschool Promise Slot Allocation Assessment input was submitted to the Early Learning Division (ELD) on October 15. These documents were discussed in September's Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting. The updated plans will be emailed to the Klamath Professional Advisory Committee after the meeting, and the group is encouraged to review documents at their convenience. The plans will be utilized by the Early Learning Division (ELD) to inform the Preschool Promise Request for Application (RFA), which should be released in late November.

To complete the mini-update to the ECE Sector Plan, the Stewardship Committee for the South-Central Early Learning Hub gathered to review new data, some of which included information from Family Focus Groups and Family Surveys that were conducted regionally in English and Spanish, and Head Start / Oregon Pre-K Community Needs Assessments.

Gillian provided information about some revisions and additions to the mini-update of the ECE Sector Plan:

- Updated plan has additional people of color; African American / Black, Asian, Hispanic / Latinx, including native Spanish-speakers.
- In Family Focus Groups, particularly Spanish-speaking groups, parents highlighted safety as a top priority and this information was updated in the ECE mini-update.
- Infants and children ages 0-3 (updated from ages 0-2) remained on the Hub's priority population list; children in this age range are not covered by Preschool Promise, but still a priority in our region. When Baby Promise becomes available in a wider range of Hub regions, the South-Central Early Learning Hub hopes to receive Baby Promise slots.

In the Preschool Promise Slot Allocation Assessment, the Hub was asked to gather the Regional Stewardship Committee again and use data for potential allocation of up to 140 Preschool Promise slots throughout the region. The Allocation Assessment does not exclude anyone from applying for Preschool Promise in the region; current sites and new sites are encouraged to apply for new slots and slot expansion. Heather encouraged everyone to apply, because without the region having a "waiting" list of potential providers available that did not receive allocations in the first round, then reallocated slots from our Hub region will be distributed to locations in another Hub region. Our region needs a list of providers who are also willing to take slots as soon as they become available. The only way we can have a "waiting" list if for lots of providers to apply for Preschool Promise slots.

If you are interested in applying for Preschool Promise in the upcoming RFA process, both the South-Central Early Learning Hub, and CCRR are available to assist.

Gillian provided guidance that in the previous RFA, there was a requirement for parent engagement. Parent engagement is more than math night or conferences, it's having parents involved in the decision process for the classroom. Additionally, there was a requirement to show that referrals to needed services would be provided by the Preschool Promise programs.

Vanessa provided an overview of Community UPLIFT which can be used to provide referrals for Preschool Promise families. In the process, a referral is sent to a Family Resource Facilitator (FRF), who contacts a family within 48 business hours. Once a family is contacted, the FRF completes a social determinants of health questionnaire to determine family needs. Families are offered referrals to programs that meet their needs. Based on family voice and choice, referrals are then sent to chosen programs through a warm hand-off process.

To send Community UPLIFT referrals, people can text uplift2 to 484848, www.community-uplift.com, or visit https://douglasesd.k12.or.us/community_uplift/. For more information, contact Vanessa Pingleton at Vanessa.pingleton@douglasesd.k12.or.us or by phone at 541-530-4368.

Gillian advised that the Hub is responsible for Coordinated Enrollment, which is the qualification process for Preschool Promise applicants. Qualification requirements for Preschool Promise are:

1. Children are 3 or 4 by September 1 of the beginning of the school year
2. Families are Oregon Residents
3. Family income of up to 200% of Federal Poverty Level

Once the Hub has qualified applicants, children are placed into Preschool Promise programs through a lottery process. The state is discussing ending the current lottery process and updating the placement prioritizations.

The Hub provides marketing for Preschool Promise, but also provides information to families about other publicly funded options so that parents are able to choose the best choice for them.

Dena shared her site has an inclusive classroom with children with IFSPs and typical peers together. It has been a really great experience for the children. How encouraging it is to be able to provide an educational experience for 26 children in our community who may not have received services otherwise.

The Hub is looking to create a Regional Parent Advisory Council and would like to get referrals for families who may be interested in participating and sharing their expertise. Parents will be receiving stipends for attending meetings.

Family Stabilization Project

Megan Williams with Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) joined the PAC to present about the Klamath/Lake ODHS pilot program, the Family Stabilization Project. The goal of the project is to prevent families who have been referred to Child Welfare from receiving another Child Welfare referral in the future. The Family Stability Project refers families who have been engaged by Child Welfare, to Self-Sufficiency. Once a referral is received, a Family Coach completes an assessment to determine what services the referred family is eligible for and what they are most interested in, such as housing, mental/physical health, job assistance, etc.

The first, initial contact can be tricky as families may not trust Self-Sufficiency as a separate program from Child Welfare. Once coaches gain trust, they have been successful at engaging families. Families who have not been referred to Child Welfare can receive similar services through Self-Sufficiency at ODHS by visiting their office at 700 Klamath Avenue.

For more information or to refer a family to the Family Stabilization Project, contact Megan at (541) 810-4888.

Community Baby Shower

Rhonda Janecke reported about the 4th Annual Klamath County Community Baby Shower, a large informational fair, which was hosted as a drive-through event at Klamath Early Childhood Development Center. The focus of the shower this year was "Tools to Support Early Childhood Development." Six programs, including Healthy Families, Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE), Take Root, Cascade Health Alliance (CHA), Klamath Family Head Start, and ODHS participated and distributed information about their programs. The South-Central Early Learning Hub provided support to the baby shower by coordinating planning meetings, developing marketing materials, and hosting the survey on their platform.

47 cars with 111 people attended the shower, and 26 families completed family feedback surveys. Danielle provided demographics about families who attended and completed the survey.

Rhonda also shared that CHA donated \$750 to purchase books and materials from Lakeshore which will be distributed as gifts to families who attended and completed the survey. The Pregnancy Hope Center will be the distribution point for families to pick up baby shower gifts. Melinda Gomez shared Klamath Family Head Start donated some of their remaining formula to Healthy Families.

Partner Updates

Klamath Promise – Jessie DuBose shared about the Klamath Promise Steering Committee meeting is Thursday, Oct. 28, from 7:35-9:00am via zoom. Anyone who is not one that mailing list but would like to be can email:

jessie.dubose@soesd.k12.or.us.

Community UPLIFT – Vanessa Pingleton shared what the Home Visiting Systems Coordination Project/Community UPLIFT will be focusing on for the next two-year grant cycle. Grantees are to focus on aligning objectives to the Early Learning Hub objectives including other systems which support children and families. There will be an annual leadership gathering in November.

Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) – Amy Quayle advised there are up to 100 slots available for the upcoming Conscious Discipline training being offered in partnership with Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR). There are 22 individuals in Klamath County registered, and 66 total registrants across the region. Programs who attend will receive incentives for participation.

Amy also shared about the upcoming Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors facilitator trainings. There are three openings for facilitators to be trained in Klamath County; facilitators need to be bilingual and have the availability to present the series in their community. County; facilitators need to be bilingual and have the availability to present the series in their community. KPI is providing the professional development opportunity and curriculum. Trained facilitators will have the ability to implement the series through their agency and Take Root Parenting Education is willing to sponsor a series. Facilitator training for Abriendo Puertas is November 8-19, and is offered in Spanish. Contact Amy Quayle or Cynthia Hurkes if you know anyone who is interested in being trained to be an Abriendo Puertas facilitator.

KPI is working on funding strategies for the upcoming biennium and has requested time on the November PAC agenda to receive feedback about these strategies. Then, the strategies will be presented to the Regional Governance Council (RGC) in December. KPI is focused on transition to kindergarten starting with newborn through five-year-olds, and have supported Ready! for Kindergarten trainings, provided Teach My Kits for families, provided funding for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, and professional development for child care providers and teachers. KPI focuses on serving the Hub's priority populations.

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) – Heather Freilinger shared about the Care Connections and Education Fall Early Childhood Care & Education (ECC) Conference at Umpqua Community College which had 72 attendees. Amy Stoeber provided a training at the conference.

Grants for child care providers will be coming out soon, including reopening grants and stabilization grants.

There is a Spanish cohort in Klamath County, two of the participating providers are now licensed.

As of November 4th, child care licensing will be able to physically visit programs and tour sites again. Since the beginning of COVID-19, all licensing has been virtual.

Child Care Connections and Education created a video which is currently playing at the movie theatre in Klamath Falls. The video promotes the child care profession to individuals who may be interested in entering the child care field. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact Care Connections and Education.

Charlene Shaw advised she is teaching a Mind in the Making Class for providers. This is a set-3 training with 17 hours of professional development. There are 20 participants.

Family Advocacy and Support Network (FASN) – Yecenia shared about an upcoming Community Health Fair at Klamath Community College this Saturday, October 30 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The Mexican Consulate will be there and is expecting over 500 Spanish-speaking individuals. The Mexican Consulate can assist with passport questions and identification cards. COVID (100 doses) vaccines and Flu shots will be available at the Health Fair. There are incentives for individuals who get their COVID vaccination, but it is unclear if they are for boosters or first-time vaccinations.

If you or your program are interested in participating in the Health Fair, contact Yecenia at yecenia@codsn.org. Volunteers are also needed; Central Oregon Disability Support Network (CODSN) will give a \$25 gift card to volunteers.

Klamath Chapter of the Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children (ORAEYC) – The ORAEYC Early Childhood Conference (ECC) will be held at Klamath Community College (KCC) on November 6. Kathleen Walker-Henderson shared the ECC registration flyer in the chat. Danielle will send registration information to the PAC after the meeting.

Klamath Family Head Start – Sylvia advised that they are still hiring staff. Head Start classrooms are almost completely full. There have been a few shut-downs due to COVID, but generally sites have been fully open.

Oregon Department of Human Services -- Rhonda Nyseth provided information about the Breakfast with Santa fundraiser. The fundraiser proceeds assist with funding for recruiting foster families.

Next Meeting:

Klamath PAC: November 17, 2021 from 10:00 am – Noon.