

# KLAMATH PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Notes

October 28, 2020 | 10:00 AM – 12

### Attendance

Rhonda Janecke	Jessie Dubose	Cindy Walsh
Wendy Brown	Heidi McGowan	Athena Wikstrom
Vanessa Pingleton	Heather Freilinger	Amy Quayle
Sue Scheiss	Gillian Wesenberg	Alexis Millet
Jill O'Donnell	Cynthia Hurkes	Danielle Walker
Kathleen Walker-Henderson	Dena Haudenschild	

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

### Welcome and Introductions

Members of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) introduced themselves. Two of the members gave updates during introductions due to scheduling conflicts.

Jill O'Donnell gave an update for Klamath County School District; all county schools with the exception of Chiloquin have begun in-person learning. Chiloquin Elementary, K-6<sup>th</sup> grade is scheduled to return to in-person learning on November 3, 2020. The Klamath County School District will still provide meals for all students. Klamath County Public Health has been an instrumental partner in helping get schools in Klamath County back to in-person learning.

Cindy Walsh gave an update on Klamath Family Head Start. All centers are currently open and running in either full-day, part-day or hybrid classes. Their program is almost full.

A motion to approve minutes with a date revision from June 24, 2020 to September 23, 2020 was made by Sue Schiess and seconded by Jill O'Donnell. No further discussion.

### Strategies for Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation (KPI)

Cynthia Hurkes and Heidi McGowan reviewed KPI and their current strategies, such as partnering with Take Root Parenting Hub by offering virtual Ready! for Kindergarten classes. The South-Central Early Learning Hub committees across the region have been identifying areas of focus for our work, which included parent and family engagement. KPI currently has funding to assist with family engagement at home, and wanted to pose a strategy to the Professional Advisory Committee. This strategy would be sending "Teach My" kits to families with children three to five years old, focusing on priority populations not currently served as identified by the Early Learning Hub Early Care and Education Sector Plan. The priority populations the program will focus on are: geographically isolated families and those experiencing poverty; disabled children/special needs; displaced children (foster care, homeless, kinship care); Hispanic/Latinx; Tribal/Native American Populations.

Cynthia Hurkes reviewed the "Teach My" Kits (<http://teachmy.com/>). The kits have been offered at a \$10 discount with bulk purchases, and about 1300 kits could be purchased for children in Klamath County. The kits are offered in English, with a Spanish speaking guide available to assist family units in learning English.

Rhonda Janecke advised that the Coordinated Care Organization, Cascade Health Alliance (CHA) could potentially gather data on families with children in the three to five age range in geographically isolated areas. A potential avenue for the distribution of kits could be through the Sky Lakes Outpatient Care Management team.

Kathleen, who has familiarity with the Teach My kits, advised that the kits are very family friendly, but it would be beneficial to have the person distributing or another resource talk with the family about utilizing the materials.

Both Douglas and Lake Counties were excited at the possibility of offering these kits to currently unserved families in their area. The process has not been fully put in place, but in Lake County, the Lakeview Superintendent has offered to receive and store the kits for distribution. Cynthia will survey partners to determine distribution by programs. Kits will likely go out to families before winter break. Partners in Lake County who are planning to distribute kits include: school districts, libraries, DHS, home visitors, Healthy Families, and Head Start (families on the waiting list) with the possibility of including additional partners.

The group further discussed the kits, and agreed that this is a strategy that we should move forward with. Cynthia will follow up with interested partners for storage and distribution.

## Supporting Children and Families with an Equity Lens

Alexis Millett with Capacity Building Partnerships led the group through our Equity Lens conversation.

Gillian shared that the Lake County PAC requested that the word “solutions” be removed from section three of the Equity Lens as interventions lead to solutions

Other partners who had the chance to look at and use the Equity Lens shared the following feedback:

Dena advised that Early Childhood Intervention reviewed section three and used it to come up with creative solutions including drive-by deliveries and distance drop off's when families are hard-to-reach.

Jessie found a lot of exasperation when trying to work through the tool and address inequities with stakeholders, parent groups, teachers, etc... It felt as if the message was not understood. The tool addresses inequities and gaps, but doesn't produce outcomes.

Alexis appreciates the creative use of the Equity Lens in generating solutions and the concerns that were brought forward. The Equity Lens is a tool designed to bring forward the inequities. There might not be solutions to these inequities, but it can lead to different approaches and partnerships. The Lens could be a useful tool and raise questions that might not have answers. When using the tool, we can utilize what is useful and leave what is not useful. The biggest value in an Equity Lens is that it slows us down. If the only thing it does is slow down the decision process, it is useful. When decisions are made emergently, we make mistakes.

The PAC was split into breakout groups to discuss the following question:

“What are the skills/tools/build capacity in order to advance equity?” Groups shared the following observations and questions that arose:

- How to include additional partners at our table *or* how to have early learning at other partners' tables.
- How to include child care providers? Thinking about how our meeting schedule affects providers, could come up with a creative solution such as setting a “focused time” of about twenty minutes for child care providers so they are not in two-hour meeting during their child care hours.
- Suggestion: add a header on the PAC agenda that includes the four Equity Lens focus points so that we're keeping equity in the forefront of all of our meetings.
- Times are scary. How do we meet people where they're at?
- Training and skills on strategies to use when bringing forth an equity conversation with partners.

## Preschool Promise

Preschool Promise across the region (and the state) is having challenges filling all available slots due to COVID and other circumstances. The Early Learning Hub has been marketing via social media platforms, through partners, in newspapers, and will be running radio advertisements. If you have additional ideas for promoting, please let us know. Additional suggestions included schools, 211, and adding it into the Healthy Klamath referral site, Aunt Bertha.

To be eligible for Preschool Promise, a child must be three or four-years-old by Sept. 1, 2020, live in a household with an income level of up to 200% of Federal Poverty Level, and be an Oregon resident.

Preschool Promise applications are available at [Southcentralhubenrollment.com](https://southcentralhubenrollment.com). Preschool Promise sites in Klamath County include The Klamath Tribes, YMCA of Klamath Falls, Klamath County School District – Gilchrist Elementary, Klamath Falls City Schools, Lil Hands, and Nic Nacs Quality Child Care. The Early Learning Hub is qualifying children for all sites, except for the Klamath Tribes who will be completing their own enrollment based on a contract with the Early Learning Division.

## Partner Updates

**KPI** – Will be offering three professional learning communities with topics including Dare to Lead and *Leading from the Middle*. KPI is also supporting regional Early Care and Education Conferences. There will be nine regional Growing Early Mindsets (GEM) Institute sessions being offered as well.

**Community UPLiFT** - has regionally received 528 referrals from program inception to now, with 86 in the last quarter (July – Sept). Klamath has received 172 of these referrals from program inception, with 29 in the last quarter. Community UPLiFT will be hosting a Professional Development opportunity with Dr. Amy Stoeber Dec 3 from 1:30 - 4:30 pm, *Helping the Helpers and Creating Connections with Families During These Stressful Times*. There will also be a *Trauma and*

*Resilience 201*, date with Dr. Amy which will be determined. Recordings will only be available for three weeks after each training opportunity. The Home Visiting Leadership meeting will be held on October 29, 2020.

**Take Root Parenting** - classes have been moved to virtual programming. There are three ten-week series going on now, including: Incredible Infants (for expecting parents or infants), Make Parenting a Pleasure (ages 0-8), and Nurturing Parenting for Adolescents (ages 10-18). Take Root also offers standard workshops via Facebooks Live presentations, such as Taming the Tantrum.

**Community Baby Shower** – Have received some surveys and will have a report once the survey closes. There were 75 cars with 136 adults and 84 children who drove by six to eight tables of vendors to gather information. The baby shower committee was happy with the turn-out and feels like it could easily be duplicated in more rural locations. The majority of advertising was done via Facebook, and WIC was able to send out over 300 text messages to their clients.

**Klamath Community College (KCC)** – Winter schedule is posted and enrollment is only slightly down. There are in-person and online opportunities available. Kathleen will no longer be teaching or advising for Klamath Community College after the Early Learning Professional Development (ELPD) grant ends in December. She will, however, be attending the PAC meetings as an individual child care advisor.

**Klamath Chapter of the Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children (ORAEYC)** – Will be hosting the Early Childhood Webinar, *The Power of Positive Connection A Trauma-Responsive Social and Emotional Learning Approach*, on November 7, 2020 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

**Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR)** – Klamath Falls Fall Conference is coming up. The new Assistant Director of Care Connections and Education, Charlene Shaw, will be joining their team next week. Melissa Minor and Brenda Jackson have also joined the Klamath Falls office.

**Next Meeting:**

Klamath PAC: November 18, 2020 from 10:00 am – noon. Hosted virtually.