

KLAMATH PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

November 15, 2023 | 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Attendance

Dena Haudenschild	Christy Hampton	Ronda Osborn
Rhonda Janecke	David Lev	Laura Barajas
Joseph Maurer	Julie Matthews	Athena Wikstrom
Maurita Johnson	Denise Swingle	Danielle Walker
Brayanna Montgomery	Gillian Wesenberg	
David Elliott	Michelle Bassett	

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 Klamath PAC reviewed and approved the October minutes. Rhonda Janecke made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Maurita Johnson seconded the motion. No further discussion.

South Central Early Learning Hub

Debbie Price is the new Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) Grant Facilitator taking over for Cynthia Hurkes. Debbie has a background in education and is excited to begin working across the Douglas, Klamath, and Lake County region.

The Early Learning Division transitioned into the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) on July 1, 2023. The Early Learning Council (ELC) is the governing body of DELIC. In the coming year, the ELC will be meeting with community partners and looking at the Early Learning Hub system. More information about the ELC can be found online at <https://www.oregon.gov/delc/about-us/Pages/early-learning-council.aspx>. The ELC completed the Raise Up Oregon 2.0 update, which outlines the work of Hubs and Child Care Resource and Referral across the early learning system. Raise Up Oregon 2.0 can be found online at <https://www.oregon.gov/delc/about-us/pages/raise-up-oregon.aspx>.

Early Learning Hubs across the state are working with DELIC to develop a new version of the Early Learning Hub Strategic Plan. During the revision, the South-Central Early Learning Hub will be working with regional partners to update the current Strategic Plan and Work Plan.

Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) now has a waitlist, but anyone who needs assistance paying for child care should still apply. Families can apply for ERDC benefits through the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) online through the One Oregon System One.Oregon.gov, in person at their local ODHS office, or over the phone by calling their local ODHS office. A recent ERDC expansion now allows families up to 12 months (previously 3 months) to find a childcare provider before their ERDC benefits case is closed.

Preschool Promise: Preschool Promise sites are full in Klamath and Lake Counties. Most Preschool Promise sites are full in Douglas County, except a few slots that were received during the slot reallocation process at the beginning of the Preschool Promise year.

The South-Central Early Learning Hub accepts applications for Preschool Promise year-round. Eligible students turn three or four by Sept. 1, 2023, are residents of Oregon, and have a family income of up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Families can apply for Preschool Promise online at <http://www.southcentralhubenrollment.com/>, or contact the Hub by phone at (541) 957-4809.

The Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC), Early Learning Hubs, and Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) all play a role in providing support to Preschool Promise grantees. CCRR offers technical assistance, Early Learning

Hubs complete the qualification and enrollment process, and DELC answers contracting questions for Preschool Promise grantees.

Community UPLIFT - Since October 1, Douglas County has received 17 Community UPLIFT referrals and Klamath County has received 9 Community UPLIFT referrals for a regional total of 28 referrals. Families are requesting information about assistance programs for holiday gifts for their children. Bulk email messages went out to families who have participated in Community UPLIFT and Preschool Promise about Salvation Army food boxes and gifts. Families will also receive an email once the Toys for Tots application is available for Klamath and Lake Counties.

Danielle presented to Klamath Lake Community Action Services (KLCAS) last week and has a presentation scheduled with Sky Lakes Outpatient Care Management in December. If you are interested in a presentation about Community UPLIFT, contact Danielle Walker at Danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us or by phone at (541) 880-4655.

As a reminder, the Community UPLIFT public service announcement videos are available online at the following links.

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

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

Equity Lens

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

Cascade Health Alliance (CHA) staff and their Diversity Equity, and Inclusion Department completed a four-day data analytics course with the Oregon Health Alliance (OHA). The course detailed the history of demographic data and explained why there are so many gaps in the collection of demographic data. The most important aspect of collecting this data is knowing the local population and building trust so individuals are willing to share information.

Partner Updates

Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) -- Maurita Johnson – Representative Lisa Reynolds visited ODHS to learn more about the work being done by the Family Preservation team. The work is a collaboration between Self-Sufficiency and the ICWA (Indian Child Welfare Act) team to address the needs of Native American Children in Foster Care. Maurita shared a video clip the ODHS Communications Department developed for Representative Reynolds. The clip is available online at: <https://youtu.be/9jR9YeWoJuo>.

ODHS in Klamath/Lake and Douglas County are two of the early adopters assisting the One Oregon System merge into its own agency. To better meet the needs of Oregonians, local eligibility staff will be moved into the Oregon Eligibility Program (OEP), and virtual eligibility staff will be moved into the state Virtual Eligibility Center (VEC). Klamath/Lake staff will be moved on December 1, and Douglas staff will be moved on December 15.

ODHS is partnering with Warner Creek Correctional Facility in Lake County to help ensure when previously incarcerated individual leave the prison, they have a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits card and start receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), if they are eligible.

A Family Gathering Place – Joseph Maurer -- Representative Reynolds also visited A Family Gathering Place Relief Nursery with her Chief of Staff. Representative Reynolds is a champion for the Relief Nursery model. A Family Gathering Place was able to showcase the growth over the past three years and was able to discuss the needs of the Relief Nursery and how those needs can be supported.

A Family Gathering Place is excited to announce they hired a candidate for their second Outreach Position, doubling the number of families the Outreach Program can serve. A Family Gathering Place is looking for opportunities to develop satellite sites in Lakeview and Chiloquin.

Representative E. Werner Reschke also visited A Family Gathering Place to tour of the Relief Nursery. If you are interested in a tour of the Relief Nursery, contact Joseph Maurer at jmaurer@lcsnw.org.

Care Connections and Education / Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) -- Michelle Bassett – Klamath Falls has two Preschool Promise Facilitators, Melisa Miner and Erica Hinshaw, who provide coaching and guidance for Preschool Promise teachers and administrators.

In October, CCRR offered 17 hours of virtual and 13 hours of in-person training opportunities for child care providers. In November, the Klamath Chapter of the Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children (OAEYC) held its annual Early Learning Conference. Some conference sessions were offered in English, some in Spanish, and some bilingually.

The Klamath Community College (KCC) Early Childhood Education cohort has been growing steadily. CCRR hired Jessica Torske to replace Alexis Mann as the KCC Navigator to help Early Childhood Education students navigate KCC courses and earn their degrees. Jessica works closely with Kelley Fritz, the KCC Early Childhood Education Cohort Navigator.

Next Meeting:

January 24, 2023, from 10 am to noon.