

KLAMATH PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

November 17, 2021 | 10:00 AM – Noon

Attendance

Rhonda Nyseth	Gillian Wesenberg	Vanessa Pingleton
Kelley Fritz	Jane Nicholson	Jesse DuBose
Roberta Wilson	Jill O'Donnell	Melissa Dorsey
Kendra Santiago	Joseph Maurer	Bethany Osborn
Maurita Johnson	Kathleen Walker-Henderson	Yecenia Rodriguez
Abby Harvey	Kay Ortega	Dena Haudenschild
Amy Quayle	Melinda Gomez	Danielle Walker
Charlene Shaw	Rhonda Janecke	
Cynthia Hurkes	Sylvia Cox	

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

Klamath Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) members introduced themselves in the chat. Members in attendance reviewed the October minutes. Melinda Gomez made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, both Charlene Shaw and Sylvia Cox seconded the motion.

Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) – Input for Priorities

Cynthia Hurkes presented the At-a-Glance Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI), a part of the South-Central Early Learning Hub, workplan for 2021-2023. The following current investments were discussed with each county's Professional Advisory Committees (PACs) and approved by the Regional Governance Council (RGC) in spring 2021. Amy Quayle updated about the progress of each investment:

- Ready! for Kindergarten, for ages 2-3, 3-4, and 4-5
 - The first Ready! for kindergarten series starts November 17 and families are still welcome to register
- Abriendo Puertas / Opening Doors – Training of the trainers' certification
 - Still looking for individuals to join the training, there are several openings available
- TeachMy Kits with on-demand videos for ages 2-3
- Early Learning Gatherings for child care community, preschool teachers, kindergarten educators, and home visitors
 - First Early Learning Gathering about self-regulation had 35 individuals in attendance
 - Second gathering is scheduled for February 22, registration information will be sent at a later date
- Conscious Discipline for Educators (part 1)
 - All 100 available openings for the Conscious Discipline (CD) training are filled and there is a waiting list
 - 28 out of 100 educators registered for Conscious Discipline are located in Klamath County

Cynthia requested input from the PAC on the following KPI recommended strategies that will be presented to the Regional Governance Council:

- Abriendo Puertas / Opening Doors (part 2) – A ten-session series for Spanish speaking families focusing on the development of parent skills and community leadership. Partial funding available with the leveraging of blending and braiding funds with community partners, such as staff time.
- Conscious Discipline (part 2) – Regional educators who have attended CD part 1 or who have a background in the training, bring families for shared learning and practice. Will include home visitors.

Additionally, \$50,000 of the 2021-2023 KPI funds will be set aside for community investments. Cynthia will be asking the RGC to choose whether to fund county initiatives or regional initiatives at the December meeting. A formal process for expenditures will be reviewed in January at each county's Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings.

Head Start Overview

Sylvia Cox shared an overview of Klamath Family Head Start and the services they provide.

Klamath Family Head Start serves Head Start children ages 3-5 in Klamath Falls, Merrill, Bonanza, and Lakeview. Early Head Start serves students ages 0-3 in Klamath Falls, Merrill, and Lakeview with the hope of expanding into Bonanza. The Lakeview site also offers Preschool Promise for students ages 3-5.

Before COVID, Head Start used to complete the application process in-person with families either in the office or during Enrollment Days. Klamath Family Head Start is now asking families to begin the initial application process online at: <https://kfheadstart.org/>. A criteria form is used to help determine family eligibility.

Once a family is enrolled into the program, Head Start works with the entire family and gets to know them. Staff help parents create children and family goals, an example of which could include steps to finding a dental provider. Head Start makes referrals and helps families fill out paperwork for programs such as Oregon Health Plan (OHP), ODHS Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), GED or college financial assistance (FAFSA) applications. Families can receive information and assistance in finding additional resources for support, such as domestic abuse, homelessness and housing services, food resources, citizenship resources, budgeting, among others. Head start provides vision screenings for children and works with Klamath Open Door to provide well-child checks for students.

Head Start provides multiple engagement opportunities for children and families, but are currently limited by COVID restrictions. In October, local law enforcement visited the Head Start facility to present information to students about street safety on Halloween. Families are invited to join a reading club, and each classroom has a parent group where parents can help plan activities (projects, field trips, etc.). Out of these parent groups, families are invited to be a part of the Head Start Parent Policy Council, who meet with staff, and has the ability to review policies and provide input on prospective staff members.

Kay Ortega with Oregon Childhood Development Coalition (OCDC) shared that their programs are also Head Start services and provide similar opportunities and parent engagement with families. OCDC works with families to break the cycles of poverty by providing certifications and trainings; building parent leaders. The main difference between Klamath Family Head Start and OCDC is the Migrant Seasonal Head Start program.

OCDC provides Head Start (ages 3-5), Early Head Start (ages 0-3), and Migrant Seasonal Head Start. Migrant Seasonal Head Start is a 9-week, short-term program serving migrant families during the agricultural season, March through November. OCDC services are offered in Klamath Falls, Merrill, Malin, and Chiloquin with The Klamath Tribes.

Family Stability Project

Megan Williams was unable to attend the Klamath Professional Advisory Committee due to a conflicting meeting. Rhonda Nyseth discussed Community UPLIFT with Megan and advised that Danielle delivered information about Community UPLIFT and Preschool promise to Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS). ODHS will begin submitting referrals to Community UPLIFT online vs. faxing them.

Equity Lens Application

Rhonda Janecke reviewed the Equity Lens which was created regionally by the South-Central Early Learning Hub partners. The Equity Lens is a tool that supports the process of advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion outcomes for early learning in our community by utilizing four core principles:

1. Get on the same page and surface assumptions
2. Involve stakeholders and engage multiple perspectives
3. Assess equity impact
4. Take action for equity

The Equity Lens will be sent to the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) after today's meeting. The group shared examples of their equity work. Members pointed out that we need to keep equity at the forefront in decision-making and the way families are served. As a society, there is long way to go to ensure equitable outcomes for all.

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) Update

Heather Freilinger provided an update on Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR). CCRR is working diligently with child care providers in helping them apply for and receive the COVID-19 Child Care Stabilization Grant. The state gives weekly lists of child care providers who have not applied for the grant; CCRR reaches out to programs who have not applied to share information on program eligibility, and offer training opportunities in English and Spanish about the grant and how funds are

able to be expended. Heather shared that one child care program who received the grant would have the ability to provide bonuses to their staff, which doesn't happen frequently. Unfortunately, these funds are temporary and cannot be used to increase staff wages.

Charlene Shaw shared that she is presenting an 18-hour, set-three training to providers called Mind in the Making. There were 23 participants who attended this regional training. Additionally, CCRR completed a Second Step curriculum training for providers.

Partner Updates

Klamath Promise – Jessie DuBose shared the Klamath Promise Steering Committee meeting is Thursday, Oct. 28, from 7:35-9:00am via zoom. Anyone who is not on that mailing list but would like to be can email: jessie.dubose@soesd.k12.or.us.

Integral Youth Services (IYS) – Bethany Osborn encouraged participants to piggy-back with the Mobile Nutrition Hub to reach the isolated and rural populations in Klamath County. They are looking for partners to attend with the Mobile Nutrition Hub and share programs and resources. The Mobile Nutrition Hub flyer was shared in chat and will be emailed to the Klamath PAC after today's meeting. To participate, contact Melinda or Cheyanne at (541) 591-2458. IYS also has a lot of girls coats from last year.

Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) – Rhonda Nyseth advised their Breakfast with Santa event is coming up. This event was designed for children in foster care services but has been opened up to the public as a fundraiser to raise resources for recruitment and retention activities for foster parents.

Klamath Family Head Start – Sylvia shared that there will be a Winter Cluster where families are invited into the classroom to do winter activities with their children and have their photos taken. Head Start will be providing a boxed, family dinner to parents on December 16. Families who are able to can pick up the meal from the Head Start facility. If a family is unable to pick-up a meal, then the transportation department will assist by delivering the meal to the family.

Klamath Family Head Start is also participating in the Snowflake Parade this year and parents are welcomed to help decorate their float.

Family Advocacy and Support Network (FASN) – Yecenia Rodriguez provided information about their Winter Festival which will be held on December 18 from noon - 5:00 pm at Steens Sports Park / Mike's Field House. The event will be a resource fair/vaccine drive for children and catering will be available to attendees. Yecenia will be inviting community partners to participate, provide information on services, and host a children's game. Contact Yecenia for more information – yecenia@codsn.org.

Cascade Health Alliance – Rhonda Janecke shared that Klamath Tribal Health and Family Services is offering a vaccination event for children ages 5 – 11 on November 18 from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm at Klamath Tribal Fitness Center. The first 150 children will receive a Jimmy John's sandwich.

A Family Gathering Place – Joseph Maurer shared that A Family Gathering Place Hired a new site supervisor for the relief nursery who will be starting tomorrow. There is currently one therapeutic classroom with a cap of 8 children ages 3 to 5. The classroom operates Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am – noon and includes a monthly home visit for each family. Therapy for individuals or families is available through Lutheran Community Services (LCS). Food, diapers, and boxes of wipes are provided to families on a weekly basis. A Family Gathering Place also provides an Outreach Program, available to families with at least one child age 0-6, which is similar to the therapeutic classrooms. The Outreach Program includes weekly home visits as well as the food, diapers and boxes of wipes. Respite sessions for outreach families will be added so parents can drop their children off and have time to go to medical appointments, run errands, or have self-care time for themselves. The relief nursery advised that they received a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) to be able to provide field trips, outings, and activities to encourage positive parent-child interactions and develop social-emotional skills.

Klamath Chapter of the Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children (ORAEYC) -- Jill O'Donnell advised their annual Early Care and Education Conference for providers was hosted on November 4 in partnership with the South-Central Early Learning Hub, KPI, and Klamath Community College. There were approximately 80-90 early educators in attendance.

Next Meeting:

Klamath PAC: January 26, 2021 from 10:00 am – Noon.