

# KLAMATH PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Notes

Nov. 20, 2019 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM

### Attendance

Rhonda Janecke	Rhonda Nyseth	Gillian Wesenberg
Jill O'Donnell	Wendy Brown	Amy Quayle
Charlene Shaw	Molly Hamilton	Danielle Walker
Coleen May	Renea Wood	Phone: Margie McNabb
Dena Haudenschild	Kathleen Walker-Henderson	Phone: Cynthia Hurkes
Melinda Gomez	Melinda Collier	Phone: Heidi McGowan
Sylvia Cox	Yescenia Rodriguez	

### Overview of Regional Stewardship Committee Meeting

With the passage of the Student Success Act, the Oregon Early Learning Division has requested that all 16 hubs across the state put together a Regional Early Care and Education (ECE) Sector Plan. This plan includes the generation of a Regional Stewardship Committee charged to guide the planning process and develop the Regional Early Care and Education Sector Plan. This group includes our Regional Governance Council supplemented by additional required partners including parents, and strongly recommended partners such as culturally specific organizations, early care and education leaders, K-12 leaders, and ESDs.

There are three deliverables within the plan that will include data which will help inform responders to the Oregon Prekindergarten, Early Head Start, Head Start, and Preschool Promise Request For Applications (RFA) and provide evidence for the Early Learning Division RFA award decisions.

Deliverable 1: Priority Populations

Deliverable 2: Parent Preferences around Early Care and Education

Deliverable 3: Early Care and Education Expansion Opportunities

The group discussed the data-driven decisions made by the Regional Stewardship Committee in early November.

### Priority Population Selection

As part of Deliverable 1, Analysis of Priority Populations for ECE Expansion, in the required ECE Sector Plan, the South-Central Early Learning Hub compiled data from multiple sources including our Pacific Research and Evaluation (PRE) Landscape Analysis report, parent interviews and surveys, Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Strengths and Needs assessment, and other data sources to determine available, and relevant local data. This helped the Regional Stewardship Committee identify priority populations in our region:

- Children and families living in areas of Geographic Isolation
- Displaced children
  - Homelessness
  - Foster Care
  - Kinship Care

- Children experiencing disabilities
- Children who identify as Latinx/Hispanic and Native American/Tribal Communities
- Children age 0-2-years-old

Due to the high level of poverty across our region and the state. The Early Learning Division (ELD) has asked that we not include this demographic as a priority population, however, selected priority populations will all include poverty as an additional layer, for example: Children and families living in areas of Geographic Isolation and living in poverty. Our Regional Early Care and Education Sector Plan will include narratives highlighting poverty, working poor, transportation, and children and families experiencing mental health needs.

#### **PAC Reflections on Priority Population Selection**

- Hard to find services in rural areas, and also hard for families to travel two to three-hours for services
- Hard to keep services in rural areas
- There is additional funding coming into programs for children with disabilities; a focus might be on mental health and social-emotional wellbeing
- Make a conscious effort to create inclusive classrooms and engaging “typical peers” for children experiencing disabilities in preschool settings
- Recognize that facilities are a barrier for expansion
  - We also need to recognize that we need a trained work force; if we don’t have the work force, facilities are not going to be able to meet the needs

#### **Parent Preferences**

Based on parent interviews and surveys, the top two parent preferences for providers are: trustworthy, consistent providers, and affordable cost, which includes low-cost, no-cost, or providers that accept sliding scales.

Others expressed a need for:

- Flexible and non-traditional hours for the workforce that might need overnight, weekends or drop-in care
- Transportation
- Cultural responsiveness
- Universal access to care in a mixed-delivery setting

#### **Expansion Opportunities for Klamath County**

The group brainstormed additional expansion opportunities for Klamath County:

- Sky Lakes Medical Center has been connecting to with the regional Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR & R) and Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC) to work on a mixed-delivery preschool option to support Sky Lakes employees, OCDC expansion, and the community.
- Klamath Family Head Start is looking to expand Early Head Start access to Lakeview, Merrill, Bonanza, and Klamath Falls.
  - Facilities are a challenge as grants don’t include funding for facilities
  - Expansion creates demand on the work-force. It is difficult to find qualified staff that will stay in the field of Early Care and Education
  - Staff training is also challenging in rural areas
- Klamath Falls City School District
  - Opened a preschool that focuses on typical peers and inclusion
  - There is additional room for a minimum of 20 extra children

- Not state certified – Margie McNabb, with the Early Learning Division, states that school districts can choose to be licensed or not, but must be part of SPARK
- Altamont Elementary School is currently for sale and possibly could serve as an early learning site
- Mills Elementary School is currently about 67% used, and may have room for a preschool classroom
- Klamath Community College is interested in childcare for students and staff; they have the land, but do not have the facilities or funding to build a new facility.
- Vacant buildings: Big Lots; Big R; Churches that used to house child care but no longer do; Children’s Museum; Klamath Basin Behavioral Health (KBBH) dialysis building; former Skate Land building on Washburn.
- There is a need for expansion in all of our outlying communities; Gilchrest is the only school to house a preschool and would like to add additional slots.
- Integral Youth Services (IYS) is a possibility; they have relocated and are looking to rent out the downstairs of their location.
- Will Sky Lakes Medical Center have vacant buildings after their new building is complete?

### **Community UPLIFT, KPI/P-3, Take Root Updates**

#### **Community UPLIFT**

Danielle gave an update on the recent Community UPLIFT Lunch and Learn presentations. There were 35 attendees, not including presenters. Everyone learned about community services including Community UPLIFT and the referral process. Danielle also shared a quick overview of Community UPLIFT for PAC members who were not familiar with the program.

#### **KPI**

- Working on putting together quarterly Early Learning Teams including professionals from preschools and kindergarten teachers.
- Growing Early Mindsets (GEM) will be hosted February 5 and 6 in Roseburg. There is no cost for the training, and some travel expenses may be covered. The travel reimbursements will be dependent on attendance for the training and allowable funding. Contact Cynthia Hurkes for additional information.
- Registration is open until December 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Take Root**

- Dr. Torgeson will be doing a Parenting Emotionally Intelligent Kids on December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Klamath County Library from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm.

#### **Partner Updates**

**DHS** – Has a new interim District Director, Maurita Johnson

**NAEYC** – Annual Early Childhood Education Conference went well and had their most attendees, with a total of 120 professionals. This conference is always held the first week in November.

**Sky Lakes Medical Center** – Healthy Klamath has partnered with OHSU Moore Institute for a Nutrition Oregon Campaign; Klamath County has been selected as a Regional Hub. Stakeholders in the project have decided to look at nutrition, specifically, maternal child health issues. This project connects OHSU’s research in linking epigenetics to nutrition. Input from Stakeholders will help in determining where the project goes. Reach out to Kelsey Mueller if you are interested in attending their committee meetings or are interested in being interviewed.

### **Family Advocacy and Support Network**

- Training: “Understanding Special Education”: November 23 at 1:00 pm at the South Suburban Library Branch.
- Community Event: Winter Festival – an all-inclusive event that will bring community partners, food, activities, and families together. December 7 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Yesenia with Family Advocacy and Support Network will share flyers with Danielle who will forward to the PAC

**Klamath Family Head Start** - Hosting a Health Advisory Meeting – Danielle will forward an invitation to the PAC

**Care Connections & Education** - Melinda advised that Care Connections and Education are still looking for a bilingual professional to fill an open position. The application can be found on the Umpqua Community College website.

### **Next Meeting:**

January 22, 2019 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at SOESD, 2685 Foothills Blvd.