

REGIONAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

Meeting Notes

December 6, 2023 | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Attendance

Steve Schenewerk
Rhonda Janecke
Dena Haudenschild
Jennifer Jackson
Heather Ficht
Sandy Henry

Mary King
Chellsey Maher
David Elliott
Heidi East McGowan
Analia Nicholson
Julie Hurley

Gillian Wesenberg
Sondra Williams
Heather Freilinger
Vanessa Pingleton
Athena Wikstrom
Danielle Walker

For ease of member access, Regional Governance Council (RGC) meetings will continue to be held virtually unless otherwise notified.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair, Steve Schenewerk, welcomed members of the Regional Governance Council (RGC) and individuals introduced themselves.

Early Learning Hub Updates

Gillian Wesenberg -- The Family Governance Advisory Committee (FGAC) met with Mitten Mommas, a parent advocacy group from Michigan, that supports newly formed parent groups. Mitten Mommas will help the FGAC determine what they would like to accomplish. Mitten Mommas is reaching out to members of the Hubs FGAC to get to know them and find out what is important to them. The FGAC may focus on skill-building around legislative advocacy and one or two specific barriers the group is interested in.

There has been some employee turnover at the state with the transition from the Early Learning Division (ELD) to the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC). The Early Learning Council (ELC), the governing body of DELIC, is working with Hubs across the state to learn more about backbone organizations and Hub activities in each Hub region.

Hub staff and Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) attended the Working Together Conference in Bend. The conference discussed child care as an important workforce element for all. Heather Ficht with East Cascade Works is looking forward to supporting work around child care in the future.

Coordinated Care Organizations (CCO) are working on the new social-emotional metric for CCOs across the state. David Elliott with Cascade Health Alliance (CHA) advised the social-emotional metric is focused on identifying and connecting children ages birth to five to social-emotional health services/behavioral health services. CHA is currently in a discovery process and reviewing the most recent data available relating to the metric. A few examples of the data CHA are collecting includes the number of children being screened for social-emotional needs, and the number of children receiving behavioral health services. The metric will not be measurable until 2025 or 2026.

Budget Committee

The Budget Committee met last week. The Hub knows what funding is going to be received but is still discussing specifics with Douglas ESD and the fiscal department. The Budget Committee is working through the Budget as a new process. The committee is working on developing a fully robust budget to present to the Regional Governance Council (RGC).

Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) is now under the South-Central Early Learning Hub.

Strategic Planning Process Update

Heidi McGowan – The Department of Early Learning and Care paused the Strategic Planning process. This is an opportunity for the Hub to develop and discuss key focus points while awaiting direction from the state. The Hub's Regional Priority Populations (based on SCELH Early Learning Sector Plan data, revised 2022), are as follows:

- Children / families living in areas of geographic isolation, including those experiencing poverty
- Infants and children ages 0-3
- Children and families of color
- Children experiencing displacement, including homelessness, foster care, and children in kinship care
- Children who are experiencing physical or developmental disabilities or delays
- Children from Tribal / Native American families

The Hub will utilize the Equity Lens with a focus on priority populations when making decisions around strategic planning.

Hub strategies that were pulled out of the strategic plan and matched to Raise Up Oregon objectives include:

- Continue and expand representation in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) across the region.
- Continue to partner with and support Tribal communities, recognizing the processes of the government-to-government relationship and family choice.
- Expand referrals received through Community UPLiFT, as well as partners referring to Community UPLiFT and that families are connected with. Educate the community about Community UPLiFT as a closed-loop referral source and connection to resources.
- Receive family voice to be utilized in decision-making processes and to provide feedback and direction for Hub priorities. Emphasizing the importance of parents as their child's first teacher.
- Educate the community and partners across the region on the importance of home visiting while coordinating and aligning the system.

Discussion –

From a Tribal standpoint, culture and language must be incorporated into early learning facilities. In each of the treaties, there is a guarantee of education for tribal students. The Tribal Early Learning Hub is working with DELC on having non-competitive tribal set-asides through the Oregon Department of Education and the Office of Indian Education.

There is a new measurement for CCOs in calculating the frequency Oregon Health Authority (OHA) members are screened for social determinants of health, particularly food, transportation, and housing. Data collection from individuals on private insurance plans is difficult.

Preschool Promise

Athena Wikstrom -- Currently, there is only one Preschool Promise slot open in the region. All other Preschool promise slots are full, and most sites have wait pools. Wait pools of qualified students help children get placed into a Preschool Promise site quickly in case of an opening.

Preschool Promise providers received a two-year grant through the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC). This will enable the hub to align the application and enrollment processes with other publicly funded programs. This will enable families to choose their preschool provider based on their preferences versus accepting any available opening.

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR)

Heather Freilinger – Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) programs support child care providers with technical assistance, coaching, and training. The state is providing funding for all CCRRs to hire Inclusive Specialists.

Two new initiatives will be starting in January, Strong Start, and Self-Paced to Step 7. Strong Start is a program for child care providers who have been in business for less than two years. Strong Start provides opportunities to connect

with other programs. Providers receive 22 hours of training, a check-in call from CCRR, and a few site visits. CCRR can help with barrier reduction by providing information about available opportunities. The kick-off for Strong Start had nine participants. Four in Douglas County, four in Klamath County, and one in Lake County.

Self-Paced to Step 7 offers a self-paced plan to support professionals seeking to increase their Oregon Registry Step by taking the guesswork out of training requirements. Self-Paced to Step 7 directs professionals to online training opportunities recognized by the Oregon Registry (ORO). If followed, the initiative will prepare an individual to request a Step 7 on the Oregon Registry.

CCRR supports individuals interested in becoming child care providers to reach professional goals by informing them of next steps and training opportunities. CCRR had an advisory meeting where providers requested to meet more as groups and provide connections to each other.

The Spanish cohort is currently going through a series of classes to learn more about the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS). ECERS is the scale that looks at space, furnishings, personal care routines, language and reasoning, activities, interactions, program structure, parents, and staff.

CCRR was contacted by the Rural Development Initiative, which identified Malin, OR as an area with low child care availability. CCRR partnered with the Rural Development Initiative to host a three-part workshop in Malin for individuals to learn about becoming a licensed provider. Incentives were provided to participants who attended the workshop, and additional incentives are provided once they become licensed.

Community UPLiFT

Danielle Walker – Danielle shared the Community UPLiFT Quarterly Reports. Community UPLiFT has received a total 1,218 referrals across the region. There have been 742 in Douglas County, 457 in Klamath County, 16 in Lake County, and 3 from counties outside of the region. In July through September 2023, the region received 60 referrals, with 26 in Douglas County, 32 in Klamath County, and 2 in Lake County.

Danielle presented to Klamath Lake Community Action Services (KLCAS) and Klamath County Developmental Disability (DD) Services. The Pregnancy Hope Center is interested in joining the Community UPLiFT data portal. Danielle will be meeting with Sky Lakes Outpatient Care Management after winter break. Klamath County Public Health is interested in increasing access to child safety equipment, such as safe sleep environments and car seats.

Home Visiting Systems Coordination (HVSC)

Vanessa Pingleton – Shared an update about Home Visiting Systems Coordination. In October, The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF) hosted the Grantee Leadership Gathering, sharing updates from the state and Home Visiting Systems Coordination work.

Home Visiting Systems Coordination and Take Root are partnering to create a new bucket of work around Parent Voice with a focus on Parent Leadership. Parent input sessions were held in Douglas and Lake Counties, and one will be scheduled in Klamath County. Parents in Douglas and Lake Counties were interested in parent groups, including a dad's group and other play groups. Take Root staff attended events to complete parent surveys in Douglas and Lake County. Once the new Klamath County Take Root Coordinator is comfortable in her role, she will begin collecting parent surveys in Klamath County.

The new meeting HVSC structure combines Take Root Leadership and Home Visiting Systems Coordination. Meetings will have focused time for Take Root, HVSC, and workgroups for HVSC buckets of work (Internal Communication, External communication, Professional Development, Coordinated Intake and Referral), and will be hosted bi-monthly. In months without HVSC meetings, there will be Connect, Share and Care training opportunities. HVSC and Take Root are partnering with UCAN and their Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) coordination funding and Douglas County System of Care to host the Connect, Share, and Care.

Program Updates

Douglas County Child Care Coalition – Heather Freiling – The Douglas County Child Care Coalition held listening sessions to hear from providers about what they need to thrive and grow.

Julie Hurley – The Coalition was invited to apply for a grant from The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF) to continue the child care provider incentive program. The coalition received notice last night that the grant was awarded.

Resource Directory – Athena Wikstrom – The Douglas County and Klamath / Lake County Resource Directories are available online at: <https://douglassesd.k12.or.us/hub-parent-resources/>.

Next Meeting Date

March 13, 2024 at 11:00 am