

REGIONAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

Meeting Notes

December 9, 2020 | 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Attendance

Steve Schenewerk
Michael Lasher
Analicia Nicholson
Jack Thompson
Rhonda Nyseth
Rhonda Janecke

Vicky Taylor
Maurita Johnson
Dena Haudenschild
Heather Freilinger
Cliff Jones
Sandy Henry

Heidi McGowan
Gillian Wesenberg
Vanessa Pingleton
Cynthia Hurkes
Athena Wikstrom
Danielle Walker

Welcome and Introductions

Chair, Steve Schenewerk opened the meeting with member introductions and an icebreaker.

Director Update and Regional Early Learning Hub Actions

Gillian shared about the region's equity journey including the equity lens tool the Hub will be using during its decision-making process. Cliff Jones, with Capacity Building Partnerships, summarized the three-year diversity, equity and inclusion journey of the Regional Governance Council (RGC) and Professional Advisory Committees (PACs) including the baseline information, framework, and mindsets. Through the process, the South-Central Early Learning Hub became a learning community and will use the knowledge and the Equity Lens to expand our partnerships.

Steve Schenewerk reviewed the 2019-2020 Annual Report and celebrated our successes and the obstacles we overcame pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the research and data that was used to develop the Early Care and Education (ECE) Sector Plan and the Strategic Plan; the development of a regional Equity Lens; our response to the COVID-19 pandemic; the continuing efforts of Community UPLIFT; the work of the Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation (KPI); and successful community-wide events across the region.

Preschool Promise

The group brainstormed ideas to market Preschool Promise. How do we communicate and market to children and families who could benefit from preschool supports?

- All foster children are eligible for Preschool Promise. DHS will send out fliers to families through their drive-through window and to families on TANF through their Family Coaches.
- Perhaps the group could host a conference to promote Preschool Promise to business owners, possibly through groups such as the Douglas Child Care Coalition, Klamath Promise and Lake County Chamber of Commerce.
- Generate a website which families can access to one find all programs and what each site offers.
- Request home visitors to discuss Preschool Promise opportunities with families.

State Update and Early Learning Hub Request for Application (RFA) Process

Gillian discussed the Governor's budget which includes a funding cut for Hubs and how the cut could possibly impact the goals of Hubs. Discussion was held about Early Learning Hubs contracting with a lobbyist to advocate for Hubs at the legislature.

Early Learning Hub Request for Application

- State procurement requires all backbone organizations re-bid for Early Learning Hub contracting. In early 2021, the ELH will receive the required information and timeline from the Early Learning Division (ELD). The South-Central Early Learning Hub is looking forward to collaborating with our collective partners to create our application; this is an opportunity to share the story about our work and our accomplishments across the region, suggested starting points: Utilizing the annual report which illustrates the collaborative work and how the early learning hub partners work together across the region.
- Develop a one-page executive summary. The Douglas ESD Communications Department can assist the Early Learning Hub with this development.
- Other suggestions included pulling data and information from Community UPLiFT as well as the Kindergarten and Partnership Innovation's (KPI) two-year report.

The group also discussed the need to increase family voice:

- Go to, or connect with existing parent groups, listen to their ideas, and introduce ourselves.
- Pull family leaders and incentivize them to be part of the Early Learning Hub groups.
- Have paid facilitation of parent groups and ensure there is an adequate set-up time for the formation of such groups so that they will be successful.

Douglas County Child Care Coalition

Heather Freilinger shared that the Douglas County Child Care Coalition has been working to identify needs and has been able to supply resources to child care providers, including newly purchased disinfectant misters. The group is also working to determine what needs will be when businesses open again after the COVID-19 pandemic, by bringing together schools, early childhood educators, and community partners. The Douglas County Child Care Coalition has developed a one-page executive summary that could be shared across the region.

Partner Updates

Community UPLiFT – Vanessa shared that Community UPLiFT has received 595 referrals to-date, with 397 in Douglas County, 192 in Klamath County, four in Lake County and two from counties outside of our region. Neighborhood Works in Douglas County would like to join Community UPLiFT by receiving referrals. Community UPLiFT hosted a training with Dr. Amy Stoeber, *Helping the Helpers and Creating Connections with Families during Stressful Times* on December 3, 2020. The recording and slide information was shared with community partners.

There is an upcoming Leadership Event with The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF), and Community UPLiFT is excited to share our regional work at the event.

Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation (KPI) - Cynthia shared an update about the distribution of Teach My Kits around the region, approximately 3000 kits will be delivered to community partners and distributed to programs in each of the three counties. Cynthia wanted to thank everyone who is coordinating the Teach My Kit distribution, and is excited that over thirty partners are working together on this project.

The first of nine Growing Early Mindsets labs will be hosted on December 10, 2020 with participants from across the region; there are currently twenty-three registrants.

Dare to Lead workshops facilitated by Heidi McGowan will be hosted virtually in January-March. Registration was open to a total of thirty participants and currently has a waitlist.

Klamath County Department of Human Services (DHS) – is working on the 2021 symposium which will cover Sexual Abuse. DHS would like to promote this to child care and preschool providers and possibly get providers to attend the symposium. The Keynote speaker will be Cory Jensen, a national speaker on

sex abuse who has previously presented for and been a partner of DHS and Child Welfare for over twenty-five years.

Care Connections and Education – Heather shared that the regional Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) contract will be moving from Umpqua Community College (UCC) to Douglas ESD in January.

Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians – Sandy Henry advised that children in their program had been attending preschool in-person until Thanksgiving but are now on comprehensive distance learning. Staff has been delivering materials to children and contacting parents, and some programming has been offered via Facebook Live Streaming.

Next Meeting Date

March 3, 2021 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm