

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

April 25, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.

In Attendance, Welcome, Approval of Minutes

Present: Shawn Massingale, CeCe Lynn, Cady Lyon, Callie Lambarth, Summer Swan, Bob Dannenhoffer, Katie Shammel, Liberty Dryden, Kyle Riege, Maddie Bright

Staff Present: Athena Wikstrom, Danielle Walker, Gillian Wesenberg, Susan Stiles, Ronda Osborn, Vanessa Pingleton

Introductions and approval of March minutes Cady Lyon made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Lyberty Dryden seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion Passed.

Health Update

Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer shared COVID cases are low, resembling an average flu year. As we enter summer, the focus shifts to common issues like sunburns and scratches. There's concern about a type of avian flu spreading among birds and cattle. There are no signs of the avian flu affecting humans, yet. Measles outbreaks are up nationwide, so far Oregon and Douglas County are unaffected. However, schools with low immunization rates could be vulnerable. Head Start has nearly 100% student immunization rate.

Hub Update

Athena Wikstrom, from the South-Central Early Learning Hub (SCELH), mentioned that Gillian will be unable to join the Douglas County Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting today. She is attending a state meeting with BUILD consultants, members of the Early Learning Council (ELC), the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC), and Hub Directors. They are discussing Objective 3 from Raise Up Oregon 2.0, as well as the roles and expectations for Hubs, and their future direction.

Preschool Promise is fully enrolled and is accepting applications for both the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years. Families are encouraged to apply and be placed in a waitpool. With turnover, children may still have an opportunity to attend if there are vacancies at their selected Preschool Promise site before the end of the school year.

The Hub is hiring a Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) Facilitator. This position can be housed in Douglas, Klamath or Lake Counties. The Hub is seeking someone familiar with the K12 system.

The Hub's Family Governance Advisory Committee has been active for a year and a half. They are working with Mitten Mamas, a Michigan parent group that provides consultation to other parent groups. A one-pager is in the process of being created for families to use at appointments, school meetings, child care or whatever it is needed for. The one-pager will include comfort items, milestones, concerns, diagnosis, medications, and more. This will assist families in advocating for their children.

Danielle Walker with the South-Central Early Learning Hub (SCELH) stated that Community UPLIFT connects expecting families, families with children birth to five, and up to age of 21 with special needs, to community resources. Family Resource Facilitators converse with families to understand the family's needs and offer referrals to programs the family may be interested in and qualify for. Community UPLIFT is a closed-loop referral system. If a family is referred by another agency, UPLIFT communicates with that agency to track the referral's status. Agencies that receive referrals from UPLIFT are asked to complete a feedback form which lets the Family Resource Facilitator know that the family was contacted and whether the family was able to receive services or be placed on a waitlist.

Families can self-refer themselves to Community UPLIFT or be referred by other programs. Referrals can be submitted through:

- the website community-uplift.com,
- mail,
- fax,
- texting the keyword "uplift1" to 484848, or
- by using the QR code.

Recently, UPLIFT was able to help a family obtain a bicycle to use as transportation to look for work. Presentations about the work Community UPLIFT does are offered by the South-Central Early Learning Hub's Community UPLIFT Family Resource Facilitators both in-person and virtually.

Behavioral Health Presentation

Callie Lambarth, Senior Research Associate at Portland State University (PSU), Katie Shammel, Research Assistant at PSU's Center for Improvement of Child and Family Services, and Summer Swan, Behavioral Health Consultant at Douglas Educational Services District (DESD) provided a presentation about the Early Childhood Behavioral Health Consultation (ECBHC) project in Douglas County. The ECBHC serves young children, families, and early learning providers.

The project began in late 2019 and aims to build adult capacity to meet children's emotional and social developmental needs in early care and education settings. The Early Childhood Behavioral Health Consultation Project serves childcare providers by offering classroom observations, consultation, and training, utilizing a social-emotional learning framework. Consultants work with educators to understand classroom dynamics and improve skills and connect families with community resources. Positive changes in classroom environments and increased provider confidence have been observed, and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

Challenges include meeting growing demand, coordinating with community partners, and improving data collection. The project has had a significant, positive impact on families and providers, by improving parent-provider relationships, and reducing early learning setting expulsions and suspensions.

Currently, services are limited to certain schools in Douglas County, with the project seeking to address gaps and expand resources. A grant-funded internship program allows community members to provide much-needed services as behavior interventionists.

The following questions were posed to the group:

- In reference to behavioral health, what are the precursor behaviors or warning signs providers should look out for before referring students?
- What are the smaller, early red flags that families and providers should watch out for?
- What are community partner organizations doing to support children and families?
- Where are the gaps and what are people saying about them?

Shawn - Head Start and Early Head Start help to develop social-emotional skills in children aged 0-5, identifying standout behaviors needing support through the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), and input from parents and teachers. Behaviors caused by trauma and high stress have been observed and are addressed by offering referrals to county providers. Head Start also tries to identify subtle behaviors that may become problematic as the child matures.

Summer - Working with a student and family involves ensuring basic needs like safety, food, and sleep, are met. These factors can affect a child's behavior. Home visits and family interaction can help identify and remedy issues that may cause increased behavioral challenges.

Athena - Community UPLIFT connects families to resources for behavioral health, Oregon Health Plan (OHP), Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and housing services, to name a few. These resources help with basic needs and physical health.

Vanessa - Take Root provides a range of parenting education classes and support groups. There are special classes for parents with children aged birth to five who are on the autism spectrum. Home Visiting Systems Coordination (HVSC) works alongside several different home visitors qualified in child and infant mental health.

Liberty - Safe Families for Children works to prevent child abuse and child welfare intervention by supporting families who lack a support system. The methods Safe Families utilize include mentoring, assistance with transportation, respite care, and connecting families to community resources.

Dr. Bob - Pediatrician and developmental specialist, Dr. Amelia Roth, will be extending clinic days in Roseburg, making it possible to see more children. Previously, children requiring a developmental pediatrician had to endure long waitlists to be seen at Child Development and Rehabilitation Center (CDRC). By extending clinic hours, the hope is that wait times for families will be significantly reduced.

Shawn - There are long waitlists for counseling services for children and families.

Heather Freiling with Care Connections & Education, the region's Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR), was unable to attend. Athena Wikstrom shared the Care Connections & Education update on Heather's behalf. Care Connections & Education is a local child care resource that provides training and support for early learning providers in Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties.

There are currently 143 providers in Douglas County, an increase of 9 from last year, and 17 individuals in progress of becoming a childcare provider. This fall, there were 112 vacancies available for children in childcare settings.

Between July and March CCRR offered 225 hours of training for childcare providers. The childcare Start-up & Expansion Grant for new providers and providers wishing to expand their services, received 22 applications from Douglas County providers, 18 from Klamath County providers, and two from Lake County providers. Grant awards will be announced in May 2024.

A Micro-Center Pilot Program approved by the legislature aims to identify and ease barriers to licensing for small capacity programs in underserved communities. The data collected during the pilot will help with guiding the development of future regulations and policies that may help small capacity programs' viability. The information shared by participants will be used in a legislative report that will be completed at the end of the pilot. The information may be used for other legislative workgroups that are currently addressing barriers for childcare programs that desire to expand business.

Applications to become a Micro-Center Pilot Program can be submitted online at:
<https://www.oregon.gov/delc/providers/pages/micro-centers.aspx#top>.

The Spring Fling, a one-day training opportunity will occur on Saturday, May 18th with keynote speaker Amy Williams.

Partner Updates

Shawn Massingale – United Community Action Network (UCAN) Head Start / Early Head Start – Head Start is accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year and are already 80% enrolled. Families can apply via the website, ucanacap.org.

The Head Start classroom in Green will be moving out of Green Elementary into a new location near Subway. Head Start will be participating in the Celebrate Literacy event this month.

The Jerry Bruce Community Campus, Head Start, Aviva Health and Fish Food Pantry are hosting a free spring fair on May 4th, 12:00-3:00. Enjoy games, bouncy houses, and more. Food trucks will be available but do charge a small fee. Bring your kids, come and enjoy!

Liberty Dryden - Safe Families for Children - The annual Fiesta was a success. Plans for next year are already underway. Safe Families, in partnership with NeighborWorks Umpqua, opened a second office at Sunset Apartments.

Vanessa Pingleton - Home Visiting Systems Coordination (HVSC) - Home Visiting Systems Coordination is presenting work with other regions and Portland State University (PSU) to the Early Learning Council.

Vanessa will be attending the Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative (OPEC) conference.

Susan Stiles -Take Root Parenting Connection – Take Root is in the spring quarter of parenting classes., Take Root is now facilitating two parent support groups. New this quarter is the Autism Parent Connection group for ages birth to five, which meets every two weeks. Take Root is collaborating with First Interstate Bank for a Budgeting 101 workshop on May 8th. Tonight, April 25th, is the second part of 'Babies Don't Come with Instructions'. The 'Help that Helps' workshop went well and will be offered again. Take Root is participating in the Celebrate Children event at the Wildlife Safari. Vanessa will attend a Family Resource Fair in South Umpqua tomorrow, April 26th.

Kyle Riege- Family Relief Nursery- The Spring into Summer Carnival is June 1st, the previous year's event was well attended by North Douglas and South Lane families. After a lengthy renovation, the Drain Family Relief Nursery is back up and running with a beautiful space for the kids.

Gillian Wesenberg – Early Learning Hub – Gillian was able to join the meeting late and shared that the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC), Early Learning Council (ELC) and Hubs are working with BUILD

to define the work of Hubs. Information is being compiled through December, and results will be shared in the spring of 2025. The Celebrate Children event is April 27th at Wildlife Safari in the Village Park. The Hub, Head Start, Douglas ESD, and several other community partners will be there.

Next Meeting Date

May 23, 2024, from 10:00 am-12:00pm