

# PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

February 22, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.

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## In Attendance, Welcome, Approval of Minutes

**Present:** Shawn Massingale, CeCe Lynn, Cady Lyon, Colleen May, Elise Hansen, Kyle Riege, Liberty Dryden, Bob Dannenhoffer, Jacob Schlueter, Madison Bright, David Mayhill, Michael Carter

**Staff Present:** Athena Wikstrom, Danielle Walker, Gillian Wesenberg, Susan Stiles, Ronda Osborn, Vanessa Pingleton, Heather Freiling, Windy Digbe

Introductions, approve January minutes.

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## County Health Update

Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer shared there was a slight spike of COVID-19 during the holidays. This has been an average RSV and flu season with several hospitalizations for RSV in babies and elderly individuals. Overall, it has been a mild cold and flu season with few serious illnesses and no deaths in Douglas County. Cases of measles are on the rise with outbreaks in 12 states. Immunization rates are going down around the state with measles immunizations at about 92%. Many schools have an immunization rate of less than 80% because of exemptions. Encouraging immunizations while working with families would help reduce the possible spread of preventable diseases.

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## Hub Update

Gillian provided a South-Central Early Learning Hub update. The Hub and Head Start have begun working together to coordinate preschool enrollment in both Preschool Promise and Head Start programs for the 2024-25 school year. This will enable parents to choose the program that meets their needs. Preschool Promise and Head Start opened applications for the 2024-2025 school year in February.

The Hub's Family Governance Advisory Committee is working with Mitten Mommas from Michigan and has been providing family input in Hub decision-making. The Family Governance Advisory Committee meets regularly, and Mitten Mommas provides office hours to accommodate parents' schedules, allowing them to discuss needs and ask questions.

Cady Lyon shared that Umpqua Health Alliance's (UHA's) System of Care will be getting \$200,000 for two years. Funding is earmarked for specific goals. One main goal is giving youth and families a voice in what Umpqua Health Alliance is doing and what their needs are. Entities working toward the same goals include Douglas ESD programs. UHA's System of Care (SOC) is working with Take Root, the South-Central Early Learning Hub, and Douglas ESD's affinity groups to create a process of gathering information. UHA SOC put together a contract with Creating Community Resilience and will be working with Family Faith and Relationship Advocates (FARA). UHA SOC is working on a contract with FEATT to provide training for parents and providers in Douglas County on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). Umpqua Health Alliance is creating a plan outlining the needs of youth in the community and what is currently being in place to support youth.

Umpqua Health Alliance's (UHA) System of Care (SOC) is working to identify and reduce barriers to accessing healthcare. The SOC is expanding the way the community can provide barrier information by generating a new online barrier submission form. The new barrier submission form will capture barriers and set up a plan for automatic follow-up.

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## Legislative Updates

Gillian Wesenberg shared that early learning legislative currently under review, include:

- Employment Related Daycare (ERDC),
- CHIPS Childcare for Construction Workforce,
- Childcare Infrastructure Fund for home-based providers and small childcare centers,
- Early Literacy,
- Early Learning Educator Scholarship Program,
- Stabilization Funding for Relief Nurseries, Healthy Families Oregon, and Nurse Family Partnership.

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## UCAN Housing and Homeless Services Presentation

Jacob Schlueter oversees United Community Action Network (UCAN) Rapid Rehousing, Eviction Prevention, and the Gary Leif Navigation Center in Douglas County. Homeless services offered through UCAN include

outreach at parks and on the street, and extreme weather shelters. UCAN is working to become the emergency shelter of choice for inclement weather such as heat, cold, and air quality (smoke). UCAN has a low barrier shelter where sobriety is not required, although alcohol and illegal drugs are not permitted on the premises. The low barrier shelter requires clients to be non-threatening, non-violent and only certain levels of sex offenders are allowed. UCAN shelters allow pets and offer onsite support seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Staff can assist in filling out applications and providing transportation. UCAN shelters are not permanent housing. The goal for clients is for them to achieve self-sufficiency. UCAN offers wrap-around services through community partners, which include Aviva Health, ADAPT, HADCO, and Veterans Affairs, to name a few. UCAN housing staff can connect clients to Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Head Start, Healthy Families, Housing Services, etc.

UCAN Housing has assisted 92 individuals in emergency the shelter, and 640 individuals at the walk-in facility. Currently, 41 individuals are residing at the shelter:20 males and 21 females. Included in the 41 individuals are 8 children. Six cats and four dogs are also currently sheltered. The success for clients becoming self-sufficient is about 80%.

At the Gary Lief Navigation Center, there are ten pods. Each pod has two beds, food storage, and a microwave. Individuals are not required to share pods with strangers. There are 32 beds in the congregate shelter. Clients receive two blankets, a towel, and a hygiene kit when they reside at the shelter.

Other programs offered through UCAN Housing include:

- Long-term services for qualifying individuals who experience Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI).
- A program in which UCAN pays an individual's rent for three months.
- Eligibility workers do screenings for eligibility and help search for housing. Workers also complete housing quality surveys to ensure housing qualifies for Housing and Urban Development (HUD) standards.
- Budget assistance.
- Job search assistance.
- Family reunification.
- Tenant rights support.
- Point in Time (PIT) count which determines houseless population. The PIT Count Event provides food, showers, laundry, Oregon Health Plan (OHP) enrollment support, and other services. Knowledge of the homeless numbers helps to determine funding received for the county and where to direct funding once received.

From August through June, 313 households received deposit assistance and 1,197 households were helped with eviction prevention across Douglas and Josephine Counties. In Coos County, 112 households received eviction assistance.

UCAN is currently only providing eviction services for five households per week.

UCAN Veterans Services, in partnership with Veterans Affairs, Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) and ACCESS, assist unhoused veterans or unstably housed veterans with obtaining and maintaining housing by providing short and long-term rental assistance. They also provide legal services and help with accessing other services like transportation and childcare.

Qualifications for Veteran Services include:

- Any length of service with the military, with honorable discharge, or honorable release.
- Under 80% of area median income.
- Unhoused or at risk of losing housing.
- Resides in Josephine or Douglas Counties.

Shawn Massingale shared that any children referred from the shelter are automatically qualified for Head Start and Early Head Start. Any child whose family is using the shelter address is moved to the top of the waiting list for the Roseburg site.

The shelter currently has a wait list. Individuals seeking shelter services are asked questions to determine their need and where they are placed on the waitlist. One pod is kept available for families and another pod is available for quarantine issues.

The shelter is located at 948 Mill St. The Navigation Center is open Monday-Friday 9 am – 4pm. The Housing Department is at UCAN's Garden Valley Center.

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## Kindergarten Transitions

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Shawn Massingale shared that Head Start's process for transitions are as follows:

- Families identify which k-12 school their children might attend.
- Reports from Head Start's data system is used to determine the number of children going to each elementary school.
- Appointments are scheduled with principals and teachers for four-year-olds transitioning to kindergarten.
- Students go on field trips to their future kindergarten site to meet teachers, see their classrooms, playground, cafeteria, and become familiar with what a "big school" is like. Usually more than 25 trips are made each spring taking children to see their school of choice.
- Parents are encouraged to attend Kindergarten roundups.
- Head Start provides copies of each student's immunizations, birth certificates, and other necessary documents, to assist the school with the transition.
- Head Start teachers and kindergarten teachers meet to discuss each child's social-emotional and academic needs.
- Staff attend transition meetings to discuss Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) with schools and parents.

UCAN Head Start has a school readiness committee consisting of teachers, administrators, district staff, Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE), and community partners, that meet three to four times a year to discuss kindergarten transitions. In late summer, every school receives a packet for each Head Start child who will attend the school. The packet contains forms filled out by the teacher and parent about the child's strengths and what works for that child. The families are also given a progress and attendance report.

Windy Digby shared in the fall of this year; she reached out to the thirteen districts in Douglas County to schedule transition planning meetings. She scheduled all but two of the district meetings, however those two districts have a small number of students transitioning into their schools. Service providers gather information about children's current levels of progress, interests, progress in identified goals, and outside agencies the child is working with.

Before transition meetings, ECSE updates behavior, positive guidance, support plans and additional needed. Staff help families advocate for their child's needs and understand the difference between IEPs and IFSPs. ECSE is partnering with AVIVA Health and Amelia Roth on medical diagnosis documentation for children with concerns such as ADHD and autism.

A parent handbook about ECSE services is being created. ECSE connects parents to Fact Oregon, which is a program that empowers families and transforms how communities perceive disability.

Heather Freilinger shared that Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) provides professional development for kindergarten transition. For example, Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) training. CCRR's role in Preschool Promise is entirely around coaching teachers and staff and supporting classrooms to achieve a higher quality.

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## Partner Updates

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**Care Connections & Education – Childcare Resource and Referral (CCRR) - Heather Freilinger** shared that CCRR is planning their spring conferences for both Klamath and Douglas Counties. Douglas County's Spring Fling Conference will be on May 18, 2024, at Umpqua Community College (UCC). Amy Williams will be the keynote speaker, providing Responsive Guidance training. Shelby Shaw will be providing sign language training.

More than fifty people are attending Early Care and Education (ECE) classes at UCC as part of the cohort. Individuals can receive college credit for attending an upcoming Southern Oregon University (SOU) workshop. There are college grants available for students enrolled to become early childhood professionals for little to no cost.

There are currently twenty-four individuals connected with Care Connections & Education who have indicated interest in becoming a new provider. New providers are encouraged to participate in the Strong Start program. Training opportunities are available both online and in person. Douglas County currently has 146 providers. CCRR is seeing an increase of registered family providers transition to certified family providers, and to licensed providers.

There is a grant opportunity for child care providers to receive up to \$45,000 for startup and expansion costs. Support is available through the CCRR for anyone who is interested in this opportunity.

The Douglas County Child Care Coalition is working towards the release of a new incentive program for providers.

**UCAN Head Start / Early Head Start - Shawn Massingale** – the South-Central Early Learning Hub and Head Start are working together to recruit and qualify children for the 2024-2025 school year. Head Start is still taking applications for the current year, applications are available online at UCANCap.org. If the family is already in the Head Start system, they can call Brenda Tibbets to complete enrollment. Head Start is still looking for new sites in the Green and Winchester areas. Head Start is supporting a scholarship bill for ECE students that is currently under review by the legislature during short session.

**Family Relief Nursery - Kyle Riege** - The Drain Family Relief Nursery site is still under construction. They're hoping this will be the final two weeks of construction.

Madison Bright shared that the Drain Family Relief Nursery team has been doing everything possible for families during the renovation. They have been hosting Resource Days to feed families in Yoncalla every other Wednesday, while also providing crafts and activities. The alternating Wednesday, classes are held. Every Tuesday and Thursday they have afternoon classes in Cottage Grove. The Relief Nursery team provides transportation to and from both sites. A new teacher was just hired.

**Healthy Families - Colleen May** - Healthy Families will soon be tabling at different farmers markets to distribute Farm Direct vouchers. Feeding Umpqua Food Bank finished a Dutch Luv event and is gearing up for the Cheese and Thank You event. The Cheese and Thank You kick-off event is February 29 at Keller Lumber, but the entire event will run through March. At the kick off, participants will receive free grilled cheese sandwiches and can pick up a passport to be stamped through March at each of the sixteen participating restaurants. Restaurants will donate two dollars for every cheese sandwich sold during the event. Participants who complete the passport, are entered into a drawing for a \$150 gift card.

Healthy Families is still accepting referrals for new families. There will be a Healthy Families site visit in two weeks.

**Home Visiting System Coordination (HVSC) - Vanessa Pingleton** - The Home Visiting Systems Coordination (HVSC) renewal grant application was just submitted to The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF). This year, the grant will end in June of 2025 instead of March 2025. The new ending date will help with fund alignment for grantees.

Cynthia Hurkes is facilitating parent support groups and helping to create group agreements and meeting norms.

**Take Root – Vanessa Pingleton** - Take Root is sending out surveys to anyone that has registered for a parent education course through Take Root. The survey is asking parents what they want and what they have experienced regarding home visiting and parent education. Take Root provided a Screen Strong workshop which was sponsored by Healthy Families, ADAPT Integrated Health, Thrive Umpqua, Explore Engage and Enjoy, and Douglas ESD's Behavioral Health. Abby's Pizza is providing a discount on food, and two girls donated their piggy bank money to assist with the event.

Susan Stiles shared that the parent support groups meet every two weeks. Screen Strong had a two-day workshop on how screens impact our brains. Parents and kids were very engaged and asked a lot of questions. Many parents attended both days. Last week, Take Root attended the STEAM family activity event. Take Root is working on the spring schedule for April through June. They will be attending the Dr. Seuss event on Thursday with Ronda in Yoncalla. Take Root will also be participating in the Roseburg Community Baby Shower this Saturday.

**Community UPLIFT - Danielle Walker** - Community UPLIFT referrals are always accepted. In the previous quarter, there were 41 referrals total, with 18 in Douglas County, 22 in Klamath County, and 1 in Lake County.

**Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) - Windy Digby** - There is a lot of staff movement throughout EI/ECSE. The EI/ECSE Director, Sondra Williams is retiring and in the process of transitioning out of the program. EI's Occupational Therapist accepted a new position, her last day is March 22, so EI will be hiring for that position. Sue Nicklin the Physical Therapist (PT) resigned, a temporary PT was hired, but EI is looking for a permanent PT.

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## Next Meeting Date

March 21, 2024, from 10:00 am-12:00pm