

# PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

January 26, 2023 | 10:00 a.m.

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## In Attendance, Welcome, Approval of Minutes

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**Present:** Robert Dannenhoffer, Shawn Massingale, Colleen May, Abby Drummond, Bevin Ankrom, DeeJay (Diana) Juarez, Elise Hansen, Madison Holmes, Marsha La Verne, Marta Henriksen, Rachel Gustafson

**Staff Present:** Gillian Wesenberg, Heather Freilinger, Athena Wikstrom, Susan Stiles-Sumstine, Vanessa Pingleton, Danielle Walker

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

The Douglas Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) reviewed and approved the November minutes. Abby Drummond made a motion to approve minutes as submitted. Madison Holmes seconded the motion. No further discussion, none opposed.

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## COVID-19 Update

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Dr. Dannenhoffer shared that winter started with an increase in cases of influenza, COVID-19, and RSV. The highest number of cases for all three occurred in December. The number of cases have been decreasing since the peak in December. The pandemic is not over, but COVID-19 cases are lower than they have been, this is indicated by today's numbers with only one case of COVID-19 confirmed in Douglas County and no current hospitalizations. While there are new variants of COVID-19, but there has not been a lot of change in the virus recently. COVID-19's impact on schools should be low.

The cases of influenza (flu) peaked earlier this year than normal, and cases have been relatively low. RSV rates are still present, though they are decreasing. Individuals can be contagious with RSV for two weeks or more. RSV is spread mostly through nasal drainage and cough. Babies and seniors are most affected by RSV, while the rest of the population typically experiences cold-like symptoms. An RSV vaccine will be coming out for seniors, and if it works well for a few years, the vaccination might be extended to babies after additional testing is completed.

The vaccine exclusion date is coming up for schools and child care facilities. Contact public health with any questions regarding vaccine exclusion. Some schools have a high percentage of students being vaccinated with 99% completion, while others have low percentages. Children who are not vaccinated fall into three categories. The first category is children who have medical exemptions, which is low in Douglas County with a total of two children falling into this category. Secondly, are children who have non-medical exclusions, which are parents who don't want their kids to get vaccinations. In Oregon, it is a relatively easy process to opt out of vaccinations. The third category is children who are going to get vaccines but are behind on one or two, this is usually junior high students who have not received their tetanus shot. Dr. Dannenhoffer is concerned about children who have been non-medically opted out of vaccinations as there have been several large measles outbreaks across the country, and without a majority of the population being vaccinated, medically vulnerable individuals are not protected through herd immunity.

Gillian asked Dr. Dannenhoffer his thoughts about the new House Bill 2278 that authorizes pharmacists to administer the influenza vaccine to persons six months of age or older. There is another bill that authorized pharmacy technicians to provide vaccinations, and dentists are allowed to vaccinate individuals at any age.

Dr. Dannenhoffer responded that there are a few barriers to vaccines. The insurance barrier is gone; there is no longer a co-pay for children to receive required vaccinations. In Douglas County, vaccination percentages don't vary tremendously by rurality. Vaccinations are safe and relatively easy to give; more pharmacists are providing vaccinations. Barriers to pharmacies and providers carrying vaccinations are that vaccines are expensive, have a short expiration life, and typically have to be ordered in bulk. If 100 doses of a vaccine are purchased at \$100 each, and the provider has only given 50 doses, disposing of the unused vaccines would result in a \$5000 loss to the provider. This is a huge loss to a small pediatric clinic or family care provider. It is likely that only the biggest clinics and pharmacies will be stocking vaccines to manage a vaccine program and more pharmacists will be providing vaccinations. The state could help by distributing COVID-19 vaccinations in smaller amounts as they have to be ordered in large quantities, currently. Douglas

County is the only county in the state to have a re-distribution program for COVID-19 vaccines. Public Health receives COVID-19 vaccines in large quantities, and distributes them to practices in smaller amounts.

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## Early Learning Hub Update

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Gillian shared the South-Central Early Learning Hub (SCELH) is continuing work on the Regional System Assessment and thanked all of the community partners who have participated and provided input throughout the process.

Early Learning Hubs will be receiving a toolkit from the Early Learning Division (ELD) to assist with the state update of Raise Up Oregon (RUO), RUO 2.0. Hubs have been directed to facilitate meetings with families and regionally ELD selected sector partners. The SCELH region will work with Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) for a parent focus group and an ODHS staff focus group. This highlights the great relationship between the Hub and ODHS in Douglas and Klamath/Lake Counties.

The Hub is still working on Coordinated Enrollment for Preschool Promise and are still accepting applications. There are still some openings in Douglas County.

SCELH has two positions open, one for a Family Resource Specialist in Douglas County, and one for Vanessa's previous position, the Regional Home Visiting Systems Coordinator.

The Hub hosted the second Family Advisory Committee meeting in January. The committee has regional representation from 18 total members with representation from rural areas across the region.

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## Legislative Discussion

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Marsha advised there is a House Bill (HB) to support Oregon Relief Nurseries. The bill was presented to the legislature on 01/24/2023. Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries are asking for a \$5.3 million increase to the current service level to sustain Relief Nursery operations with increased cost of services, including staff compensation to stabilize the existing workforce, and ensure continued services to over 2,300 children and families. Relief Nurseries would invest \$16.4 million to expand services to an additional 874 children with 35 new therapeutic classrooms and 21+ new home visitors at existing sites (\$11.1 million); five new Relief Nurseries in Coos Bay, Tillamook, Beaverton, Sweet Home, and La Pine (\$3 million); enhance services; transportation, support staff, increased total compensation (\$2.3 million).

Shawn shared there are 2000 bills that have been introduced to be reviewed at the start of the legislative session. Several of these bills deal with Early Care and Education programs. Head Start is watching HB 3005 closely, which directs Housing and Community Services Department to provide financial assistance to eligible applicants to pay for allowable costs related to early child care infrastructure activities.

Gillian also provided an update about the current legislative session and bills that the Hub Association is watching relating to early learning.

Description of House Bills can be found online at

[https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills\\_laws/listbills/CurrentSessionBills.html](https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/listbills/CurrentSessionBills.html)

House Bill (HB) 2227 - Requires Department of Early Learning and Care to study adequacy of availability of child care in state.

HB 2228 - Requires Department of Early Learning and Care to study adequacy of early learning in state.

HB 2229 - Requires Department of Early Learning and Care to study adequacy of early childhood education in state.

HB 2230 - Requires Department of Education to conduct study to determine how to address workforce shortage in education.

HB 2231 - Requires Department of Education to conduct study to determine how to address educator workforce shortage.

HB 2232 - Requires Department of Education to conduct study to determine how to use educator apprenticeships to address educator workforce shortage.

HB 2726 - Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Early Learning Division of Department of Education to distribute to specified Early Learning Hub to administer pilot program to coordinate services and other resources provided to low-income pregnant individuals and families with children under five years of age by local and state agencies, human services providers, early learning services providers, health care providers and other community organizations in Jackson and Josephine Counties.

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## UCAN Nurse Home Visiting

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Elise Hansen presented about UCAN Nurse Home Visiting programs: Babies First, CaCoon, and Care Coordination through CORE (Coordinated Referral Exchange). These programs serve pregnant people, children ages birth to five, and children with special health needs from birth to 21 years of age. All home visiting nurses are Registered Nurses and are International Board Certified Lactation Consultants and Certified Lactation Counselors.

UCAN Nurse Home Visiting, can be reached at (541) 802-0888; CORE Fax (541) 804-7234.

<https://www.ucancap.org/home-visiting>.

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## Child Care Coalition Update

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Heather provided information on the child care start-up / expansion grant. Twenty-one providers across the region applied for initial funding. Klamath Falls received three invitations for providers to move forward in the process, all of the Spanish-speaking providers have been invited to move forward in the application process. CCRR will be supporting them with the providers' plans. Four providers were invited to move forward in Douglas County, and one provider received an invitation in Lake County. The provider from Lake County, unfortunately declined the invitation because they accepted a job offer.

Portland State University (PSU) classes and webinars are being offered across the region. Classes are offered with a small fee for college credit, and are otherwise free of charge for Set Two or Set Three (depending on the webinar) training credit in Oregon Registry Online (ORO). The next class will be held on March 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am – 3:30 pm: Foundations of Sensory Processing and the Nuts and Bolts of Sensory Programming.

Care Connections & Education upcoming trainings can be found online at:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/3f549a50701/5e376e28-3ec4-4476-8ac4-6e54b6773d09.pdf?rdr=true>

Care Connections & Education also employs Early Care and Education (ECE) Navigators at both Umpqua Community College (UCC) and Klamath Community College (KCC). UCC now has a group of 20-25 individuals working on ECE pathways with a similar number of students at KCC.

Shawn shared there are 30 students in the online infant/toddler development class this term at Umpqua Community College (UCC). There are fewer students in her lesson planning and curriculum class. Not all of the students attending the class are aspiring to be child care providers, though the college has been seeing an increase in students who are interested in taking child development classes to help them as parents in the future.

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## Hub and Partner Updates

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**Athena – Kindergarten Readiness Innovation and Partnership (KPI)** – Cynthia Hurkes was unable to attend today's meeting, and Athena was able to provide the update for KPI. KPI staff continues to work with Creating Community Resilience (CCR) and partners to fund workshops and incentives for families attending Conscious Discipline workshops. Conscious Discipline workshops are occurring in Roseburg School District at Sunnyslope Elementary School and Sutherlin School District at East Primary. In addition, Days Creek Charter School will offer workshops beginning in March. This collaboration of partners includes Sutherlin School District, Roseburg Public Schools, CCR, UCAN Head Start, Take Root Parenting Connections, and the Douglas County Regional Educator Network (REN).

KPI funded grantee activities based on the PAC group's community input process currently offer READY! For Kindergarten workshops and Conscious Discipline activities throughout the county. The grantees are: Take Root, Sutherlin School District, Head Start, and the Family Development Center.

The next early learning gathering will be held on February 21 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm and will be offered virtually. The focus of this early learning gathering is on family engagement and will discuss positive connections with families to help students grow and learn. Contact Cynthia for more information and to register.

Home Visiting/Take Root Parenting Connection, Care Connections & Education, and KPI held the first Early Learning Educator Affinity Group on January 18 in the Parent Resource Center at the Early Learning and Parenting Resource Center on Stephens. Nine total educators including home visitors, childcare educators, preschool teachers and kindergarten teachers attended. We were excited with their response to spending time together and look forward to the next five monthly meetings. The next meeting is on February 15th. The group aims to reduce isolation, develop relationships, and increase knowledge of their educator roles among each other to help participants become more connected across the continuum of prenatal to kindergarten.

The Spanish-speaking Conscious Discipline cohort finished their last session in November with 21 educators trained in the Conscious Discipline approach. KPI and CCR&R partnered to sponsor the cohort.

**Athena – Preschool Promise** - The South-Central Early Learning Hub still has some availability for Preschool Promise and is continuing to accept Preschool Promise applications for the 2022-2023 school year. Eligible students turn 3 or 4 by September 1, 2022, are residents of Oregon, and have a family income of up to 200% of Federal Poverty. The Hub encourages all families to apply for Preschool Promise even if they believe they are over the income guidelines. Families interested in Preschool Promise can apply at: <http://www.southcentralhubenrollment.com/> or contact the Hub by phone at (541) 957-4809.

**Vanessa – Home Visiting Systems Coordination and Community UPLIFT** – Work with the Home Visiting Systems Coordination project is still moving forward. Committees are looking at data to determine the next steps in the project. As of Monday, January 23, 2023 there have been a total of 1,052 referrals since piloting in September of 2017. For the last quarter, there were 62 referrals with 33 referrals for Douglas County, and 29 referrals for Klamath County.

**Susan Stiles-Sumstine – Take Root Parenting Connection** – The first session of a three-part series for Teaching Your Child to Talk was hosted last night. There are three Ready! for Kindergarten series, one for children ages two and three, one for children ages three and four, and one for children ages four and five. Take Root is collaborating with KPI on an eight-week Conscious Discipline series, and will be starting a nine-week Parenting in Presence group based off Strengthening Families curriculum. There was an Online Safety Workshop last week, and the Grand Opening of the Parent Resource Center is next week.

**Madison Holmes – Family Relief Nursery** – The toddler classroom has now been filled and there are only two spots remaining in the preschool classroom. There was one more baby added to the caseload for Outreach; Family Relief Nursery is not full for the Outreach program, but is getting close. There is a remodel about to start with Family Relief Nursery hoping to have two separate classrooms by September. The goal is to have classrooms running four days a week for toddlers and preschoolers.

**Colleen May -- Healthy Families** – Healthy Families is still accepting referrals for Douglas and Klamath County, while Lake County is getting pretty full. Let Colleen know of any families that might be a good fit for the Healthy Families program.

**Marsha LaVerne – Family Development Center (FDC)** – FDC is almost at capacity except for infant openings in South County and the Winston/Green site. Infant/toddlers attend class two days a week and receive weekly home visits. Marsha and two other Oregon Association of Relief Nursery (OARN) representatives may be attending an infant/toddler mental health conference in Dublin, Ireland. FDC had a great open house and appreciates partners who were able to attend.

**Abby Drummond – Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS)** – Douglas County ODHS has a tax professional who will be in office from February 1st through April 15th to file taxes for free for individuals and families with an income of under seventy thousand dollars.

The First Thursday events have been ongoing and more community partners have started participating. The events host a shower and laundry trailer, used clothing, non-perishable food items, a wireless phone provider, and other necessities. Some partners include Feeding Umpqua, UCAN, and OnWard.

The public health emergency is officially ending at the federal level and February will be the last month families will receive the emergency allotment of SNAP benefits. Working families will likely be impacted the most. Everyone received at least \$95 additional SNAP benefits, while some families have received \$600+ additional SNAP benefits each month. ODHS is foreseeing a huge need for food services when the additional allotments end. It will take families a while to re-budget to cover the cost of food. With the emergency ending, the waivers for Oregon Health Plan (OHP) will be coming to an end. Many families will be losing OHP as well.

**Bevin Ankrom – Oregon Health Authority** – Oregon Health Plan (OHP) will be working through redetermination process with the end of the public health emergency. All members will be asked to go through the redetermination process. OHA is working out what the plan will look like and will be sharing information about what the redetermination letters will look like. The OHP timeline is a bit delayed compared to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Some special waivers will continue based on need, especially around tele-health and some programs that have been successful. OHA will likely start sending information in February, and the redetermination process will likely begin in April.

**Shawn Massingale – UCAN Head Start / Early Head Start** – The last Early Head Start class with eight infants/toddlers opened January 17 when enough staff was hired. One South Umpqua pre-k class is now a home-based class and is utilizing a virtual method due to staffing. The Head Start Preschool Promise classroom in Glide is waiting to open, also due to staffing. Head Start applications for the 23-24 school year opens on February 1. Letters are going out to families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Children are eligible for Head Start if they receive SNAP benefits, are homeless, or if the applicant child is in foster care. Returning students do not need to reapply for Head Start.

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## Future Topics

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Health Updates with Dr. Dannenhoffer

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## Next Meeting Date

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Next meeting February 23, 2023 from 10:00am – 12:00pm.