

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

June 27, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.

In Attendance, Welcome, Approval of Minutes

Present: Shawn Massingale, CeCe Lynn, Cady Lyon, Krystal Sanchez, Madison Bright, Marsha La Verne, Bryanna Paradise

Staff Present: Athena Wikstrom, Danielle Walker, Gillian Wesenberg, Susan Stiles, Ronda Osborn, Robin VanWinkle, Colleen May-Weir, Brenda Jackson

Introductions and approval of May minutes. Meeting minute updates - Applied for Head Start grant, did not secure it.

Cady Lyon made a motion to approve the minutes.

Colleen May-Weir seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion Passed.

Hub Update

The Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) is contracting with BUILD Initiative, a national research organization, to help with projects and facilitation. BUILD Initiative is collaborating with DELIC, the Early Learning Council (ELC), and Early Learning Hubs to define the roles of Hubs. The three main functions for Hubs have been identified as: conduits, conveners, and capacity builders. By spring 2025, the aim is to finalize the roles and future direction of Hubs.

House Bill 2166 and Senate Bill 236 banned the suspension and expulsion of all students in child care and early learning settings as of July 1, 2026. House Bill 5202 was passed to fund a warm line to guide providers in assisting child care professionals with children who need behavioral or early intervention / early childhood special education services. Douglas Education Services District (ESD) received a planning grant to determine what supports are in place and what is needed for the warmline to function. The planning involves focus groups with various providers and behavioral health experts. Douglas ESD is collaborating with the South-Central Early Learning Hub, Childcare Resource and Referral and other experts to gather useful information and create a practical implementation plan. Updates will be provided throughout the process, with the grant period expected to run through June 2025.

Gillian shared that an invite was extended for her to be a part the Community Health Worker Train the Trainer, by Northeast Oregon Network (NEON). NEON is collaborating with the Oregon Health Authority to certify trainers. Ten people are being trained, and Gillian is the only one in Southern Oregon. Gillian can share information with any who are interested. Gillian, Danielle, and Athena are certified community health workers, and Ronda is in training. This has been beneficial for Community UPLIFT and for Preschool Promise. Oregon Community Health Worker Association (ORCHWA) training is available on the ORCHWA website.

Any questions about the RFA can be sent to the Athena (athena.wikstrom@douglesd.k12.or.us), and a question and answer (Q&A) list will be compiled. The application asks about partnerships within the community and how the RFA aligns with the k12 Early Literacy Plan of the local school district.

Preschool Promise is accepting applications for the 2024 -2025 school year. Preschool Promise is a high-quality, free preschool for three and four-year-olds who turn three or four by September 1st, live in Oregon, and are at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). All families are encouraged to apply.

KPI Request for Proposal Expectations/Priority Population

Gillian shared the South-Central Early Learning Hub released a Request for Application (RFA) for Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation and Early Literacy Funds. Pacific Research was contracted to summarize the Early Literacy Plans or all 20 k12 school districts across the region, hold focus groups to determine what is already happening in kindergarten transition and early literacy, and assist with writing the request for application. The goal is collaboration and alignment between early childhood programs and school districts. Grants are due August 30, 2024 by 5pm.

Early Learning Hubs received one year of Zero to Five Early Literacy funds to assist with culturally responsive, age-appropriate early literacy supports. Zero to Five Early Literacy funds will be available until June 30, 2025. K12 school districts also received Early Literacy funds and were required to submit Literacy Plans to Oregon Department of Education (ODE).

Discussion: What early childhood priorities would people like to see for the region? Is there something that can be worked on together?

Shawn opened by sharing the South-Central Early Learning Hub priority populations include the following:

- Children and families in geographically isolated areas, including families experiencing poverty,
- Children experiencing homelessness, including children in foster care or kinship care,
- Children from Black / African America, Asian, and Hispanic / Latinx families including Spanish speakers,
- Children from Native American / Tribal families,
- Children with developmental or physical delays, including mental health concerns and / or trauma, and
- Infants and children aged zero to three.

Are there any suggestions for projects to collaborate on next year considering the priority populations?

Cady Lyon suggested increasing the capacity to provide social-emotional services to the community, particularly enabling preschools to screen and assess children aged zero to five for social-emotional needs.

Green Elementary received a grant through System of Care that helped purchase books for interested families. Over 240 students participated, receiving books that were based on social-emotional learning. The goal was to bring parents and teachers together to discuss needs and issues about what was happening at home. Extending a program like this to other schools would be a good opportunity to get these discussions started between teachers and parents.

Gillian shared, a question being considered at the state level is what is the connection between expulsion, and suspension and the social emotional metric for Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs)?

Colleen recommended reducing the stigma around home visiting for families with children zero to five by highlighting the benefits of programs like Family Connects. The goal is to reduce social-emotional issues by providing support to families and children as early as possible.

Shawn observed social media campaigns could help reduce stigma associated with home visiting.

Athena suggested a Public Service Announcement (PSA) about home visiting could be beneficial in addressing the stigma surrounding the home visiting program if there is funding available.

Cady advised a Public Service Announcement about the home visiting program could potentially be funded with a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) grant.

Partner Updates

Shawn Massingale – UCAN Head Start/Early Head Start – Head Start did not get the Expansion Grant and will try other avenues to replace the classes that were cut at the end of last year. Reallocated slots for Preschool Promise were applied for, the outcome of that will not be known until July 12. Head Start/Early Head Start is still accepting applications even though classrooms are full.

Bryanna Paradise - UCAN Healthy Families – Brenda Jackson was hired for the Klamath Supervisor position.

Colleen May-Weir – UCAN Healthy Families – Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is distributing Farm Direct vouchers, which are food allowances that can be used at local Farmers Markets.

The WIC office is still distributing diapers and pullups to Douglas County families. Families can receive up to 200 diapers a month. To receive diapers, families need to contact the WIC office and pick them up in Roseburg. Families involved with WIC are asked to pick up their diapers at their scheduled appointment.

The Family Connects Cohort for 2025 was received for home visiting nurses. The universal home visiting program provides three home visits with a nurse after a baby is born.

There will be a food bank fundraiser at Little Brothers Pub tonight between 4:30 and 8:00, Ten percent of sales will be donated to Feeding Umpqua food bank.

Athena Wikstrom - Early Learning Hub – The Family Advisory Committee has been meeting for about two years and are achieving great things. There is a monthly meeting with Mitten Mamas and a twice monthly coffee hour for families to connect. A one pager "All About Me" for children has been created for families to use at appointments.

Marsha La Verne – Family Development Center – Family Development Center will be closed for three weeks in August for renovations. Families can still call for basic resources. Staff will return on August 19.

Krystal Sanchez - Early Childhood Migrant Education Specialist - Kids qualify for the program based on the family's seasonal work, not race or language. The focus is on families in agriculture, fishery, and forestry.

A preschool specialist visits homes, provides materials, and supports developmental needs. A specialist also helps find preschools and connect families to community resources. Currently 70 families in Lane and Douglas Counties are being served.

Danielle Walker - Early Learning Hub – Community UPLiFT connects expecting families and families with children (up to 5 or 21 with special needs) to community resources. If you have questions about the program or would like more information, please contact Danielle (Danielle.Walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us) for a presentation. Presentations can be done virtually or in person.

This quarter (Aprile to June), 79 referrals were received. Douglas County received 44, 32 were received in Klamath County, and three were received in Lake County, which is an increase overall.

Gillian Wesenberg - Early Learning Hub – The Hub hired a Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation facilitator, Seonaid Uebelhardt. Seonaid will start in Lake County on July 8.

Robin Van Winkle – Douglas County Child Care Coalition – Douglas County Childcare Coalition has a small grant program available for child care providers, offering up to \$3000 for improvement projects or predetermined play equipment. Applications are due by the end of July.

The Child Care Incentive Program has two parts: incentivizing people to enter the childcare field with bonuses at hiring, six months, and twelve months, and incentivizing providers to expand capacity with financial rewards for specific types of care like backup and extended hours.

There is also an awareness campaign called "Child Care is Fundamental" on Facebook.

The Child Care Coalition is working on a 10-minute mini documentary inspired by a video from Minnesota. It will discuss the business model of childcare, capacity challenges, and successes in Douglas County.

Madison Bright - Family Relief Nursery – Today is the third annual safety event at school. Parents and kids will visit the North Douglas Fire District to learn about fire safety and see the truck. There will also be fun activities and a barbecue.

Summer break starts on August 19 with a return for in-service on September 6, and resume classes the following week. Enrollment for toddler and preschool programs is currently underway. The Family Relief Nursery is looking for a new toddler teacher.

Susan Stiles – Take Root Parenting – The summer parenting classes and activities will be starting soon. Take Root has hired a new Spanish speaking parent educator, Jade Osuna. A STEAM play date with Theresa Middleton and Jeff Plumber is being planned, more information will be available later.

Next Meeting Date

September 26, 2024, from 10:00 am-12:00pm