

# PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

September 26, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.

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## In Attendance, Welcome, Approval of Minutes

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**Present:** Shawn Massingale, Michael Carter, Madison Bright, Bob Dannenhoffer, Katrina Basso, Bryanna Paradise, Karissa Bent, Krystal Sanchez, Kyle Riege, Lola Cornish, Katrina Basso, Colleen May-Weir

**Staff Present:** Athena Wikstrom, Danielle Walker, Gillian Wesenberg, Charlee Scheer, Susan Stiles, Ronda Osborn, Vanessa Pingleton, Robin VanWinkle, Heather Freiling, Heather Sewall

Introductions and approval of June minutes. Madison Bright made a motion to approve the June minutes as submitted. Bryanna Paradise seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion Passed.

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## Health Update

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Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer shared that currently, RSV and flu cases are low in Douglas County. RSV and flu cases peaked in January and February and are expected to increase in the new year.

There was a significant COVID outbreak over the summer. According to wastewater testing, the COVID outbreak over the summer was the largest in Douglas County to date. While hospitalizations occurred due to COVID infections, there were no deaths which was likely due to widespread immunity from vaccines or prior infection. A fall COVID spike is anticipated with a new variant, but milder cases are expected. Flu and COVID vaccines are now available at doctors' offices and pharmacies. Getting both vaccines is recommended. The summer COVID variant was distinct enough that previously immunized individuals had limited protection against infection, though there was protection against severe disease. The new vaccine likely covers this variant, but future variants may emerge before widespread vaccination. This pattern may continue with the coronavirus due to its rapid mutations. COVID is most contagious the day before symptoms appear. RSV is particularly severe for very young and premature infants, as well as older adults. Three new preventive measures are available:

1. A vaccine for seniors 70 and above.
2. A vaccine given to pregnant women at 32 weeks gestation, providing antibodies to the baby.
3. A monoclonal antibody for infants started at the beginning of RSV season. This option reduces hospitalization risk by about 80%.

Other diseases like avian flu and chikungunya are present but not a cause for major concern.

Lane County experienced a higher than usual number of croup cases in children this summer, likely related to COVID.

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## Hub Update

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**Gillian Wesenberg- Early Learning Hub-** The state budget process begins with the Governor developing a budget in spring. State departments are asked what should be added or cut with guidance from the Governor. The Governor provides the budget to the legislature in December, and the Oregon House of Representatives develops their budget that can differ from the Governor's budget.

The Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) received permission from the Governor for policy option packages (POPs). Some of the approved POPs are:

POP 101: \$5.7 million for agency operations staff

POP 105: \$3.1 million (federal funds) for childcare licensure staff

POP 580: \$25 million for early literacy, this includes:

- Dolly Parton Imagination Library,
- Early Learning and Kindergarten Guidelines revision and professional development,
- Other investments to be determined,

Other priorities not approved by the Governor's office are:

- Early childhood suspension/expulsion prevention,
- Workforce supports and addressing House Bill 2991,
- Employment Related Day Care (ERDC),
- Tribal Early Learning,
- Family Child Care Provider Health Coverage,
- Continued need for access to Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) programs such as Preschool Promise, home visiting, relief nurseries, etc.

**Heather Freiling, Childcare Resource and Referral** - Licensing staff have expanding responsibilities including health and safety checks for various programs. The caseload is significant, especially given the extensive travel required to cover Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties. The DELC licensing regional base is located in the Jackson-Josephine area. The POP addressing licensure staffing is attempting to provide one licensure staff per fifty child care providers.

**Gillian Wesenberg, Early Learning Hub** - The South-Central Early Learning Hub's (SCELH) Family Governance Advisory Committee received a grant to establish Little Free Libraries outside Roseburg, Klamath Falls, and within Lake County. In Lakeview, middle school students plan to build a little library stand at the Honker Preschool Promise site in honor of the Preschool Promise teacher that passed away last school year.

Grants were awarded for Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI). The providers receiving the grants were able to connect applications to k12 school district early literacy plans and have existing partnerships within the region.

New legislation effective July 1, 2026, prohibits childcare providers and preschools from suspending or expelling children. Currently, Preschool Promise and Head Start already have this policy in place.

**Shawn Masingale, Early Head Start/ Head start**- Head Start and Preschool Promise programs have long prohibited expulsions. The goal is to provide support to children and families by providing a network of behavior specialists for providers to consult when behavioral issues arise. The Oregon Infant Mental Health Association (ORIMHA) will lead this effort by offering support to providers, children, and families. While programs may still work with families to find an option that is a better fit for the child when families request the option, expulsion for difficult behaviors is no longer an option for providers. Instead of expulsion, behavior plans, and support will be provided to ensure children are in the most suitable learning environment for that child.

**Gillian Wesenberg, Early Learning Hub**- For Preschool Promise, the South-Central Early Learning Hub (SCELH) qualifies and enrolls children, while the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) provides technical assistance to providers. ELH processes applications based on age, Oregon residency, and income factors. Douglas Education Service District (ESD) received a Suspension and Expulsion Planning and Implementation Grant from the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC). Douglas ESD has contracted with the SCELH to complete the planning portion of the grant. SCELH is contracting with Heidi East McGowan to hold focus groups and assist with the facilitation of a Steering Committee that will include Dr. Amy King. The planning process is expected to determine what is currently available within the region and who can support providers to reduce suspension and expulsion.

During the implementation portion of the Suspension and Expulsion Grant, each region will receive funding for one full-time employee (FTE) to support the providers in that region. This same amount of funding is providing the required resources for small regions such as Yamhill County Early Learning Hub and larger regions like the South-Central and Eastern Oregon.

**Heather Freiling, Childcare Resource and Referral** - The goal is to provide early support to providers, not to threaten their childcare licenses. A tiered support system is being implemented, starting with state outreach to DELC-related systems like Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) and Preschool Promise coaches. The team offers additional program support, assessing environments, child-specific needs, and potential referrals. For instances that don't meet Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education eligibility, Mental Health Consultations are only available to limited providers and only in Douglas County right now.

**Karissa Bent, Executive Director at Cobb Childcare and Preschool** - Good representation for the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC) Early Childhood Suspension and Prevention Program Rulemaking Advisory Committee has been achieved, especially from diverse care providers and Metro counties. There is a challenge in implementing a statewide suspension and expulsion ban in early childhood settings given the differences between Metro and rural areas. Metro has too many providers to choose from, leading to confusion about who to call, while rural areas have fewer options for support. The hope is to create an equitable system statewide. The Oregon Infant Mental Health Association (ORIMHA) warm line will receive support requests and distribute them to the Regional Support Provider.

**Shawn Massingale, Early Head start/ Head start** – The role of liaison between the Douglas County Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) and the Governance Council is available if there are any interested parties.

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## Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) Request for Application Update

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**Athena Wikstrom, South-Central Early Learning Hub** –The Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) and Early Literacy Request for Application (RFA) is closed, and grant recipients have been notified. A few applications needing more information are being followed up on. The Regional Governance Council emphasized community partnerships and alignment with local K12 early literacy plans. The Family Governance Advisory Committee excelled, with parents writing a great first-time grant application. The focus was on equity, accessibility, and providing culturally specific and multilingual books to families in convenient locations.

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## Community Presentation and Discussion: Salvation Army

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**Katrina Basso, Family Service and Program Assistant at the Salvation Army** – The upcoming Angel Tree program and Christmas food boxes launch October 1st. Applications are accepted from October 1 to November 5, Tuesday through Friday, 9:00-12:00 and 1:00-3:00. Families need photo ID, income verification, and paperwork with children's names and birth dates. The program covers gifts for children zero to seventeen years old throughout Douglas County.

For remote applicants, email applications are available. Angel Tree tags are distributed in November. Community members can choose tags based on preferences of gender and/or age. The gift pickup for families is on December 21. Along with gifts, families receive a Christmas food box for a complete holiday meal.

In 2023, Douglas County Salvation Army served 120 families through Angel Tree and an additional 66 through Operation Joy. Children typically receive five to ten gifts including age and developmentally appropriate toys, as well as clothes and shoes. Families provide feedback on gifts their child is interested in receiving.

Family Services has food boxes available Tuesday through Friday, 1:00 to 4:00. Food boxes can be accessed once a month by families and provide three to five days of food. Assistance for rent and utilities is offered with consideration for individual circumstances rather than strict income limits. Household vouchers are available by appointment for those setting up new homes, and \$25 clothing vouchers are also offered.

The "Dress a Child" program allows children selected by schools to shop for clothes at Fred Meyer. A \$150 voucher is given for students who wear children's sized clothing, and a \$200 voucher is given for students who wear adult sized clothing. This program helps about 200 children annually.

The Salvation Army has Family Fun Nights which are held six months out of the year on the last Friday of the month from 5:30 to 7:00. The months that Family Fun Nights occur vary each year and are announced through the Salvation Army once planned. There is a Troop Program every Tuesday from 5:30 to 7:00. This program serves youth from four-years-old through 12th grade. Both programs are open to all, regardless of religious beliefs. Both events are free and include dinner.

The Salvation Army hosts a summer camp near Portland, OR for kids seven-years-old through 12th grade. The five-day program includes activities like swimming, rock climbing, and zip-lining. The cost for summer camp is \$25, financial assistance is available. All children are welcome, regardless of church affiliation.

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## Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Update

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**Heather Freiling, Child Care Resource and Referral** - The Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) newsletter has been sent out. The newsletter provides updates on CCR&R activities, available resources, and an extensive training calendar.

The Douglas County Early Learning and Care Conference is scheduled for October 4 and 5, a free screening of "Forget Me Not," a film about inclusive classrooms, will be offered on Friday night. Saturday features six hours of training with Rusty Keeler, including a session on Risky Play. Registration closes Tuesday, October 1. There are ten to fifteen slots still available.

The Strong Start program is continuing. It offers new childcare providers two hours of monthly training and peer connections. A new second-year program has been created, focusing on additional business training. In January, experienced childcare providers will be introduced as peer contacts for new providers entering the first year of the Strong Start program.

Partnerships with Umpqua Community College (UCC) and Klamath Community College (KCC) continue. Southern Oregon University (SOU) workshops are available, and they include college credits. CCR&R's goal is to support professionals in pursuing a passion in becoming early learning teachers without accruing debt.

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## Partner Update

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**Shawn Masingale, Early Head Start/ Head Start-** Head Start is looking for children to fill the Glide Preschool Promise classroom and the Sutherlin Head Start classroom. Head Start is hiring teachers and assistants; applications are available online. Head Start is planning family involvement days in November for parents to spend time in children's classrooms.

**Karissa Bent, Executive Director at Cobb Childcare and Preschool** – It is the 30th anniversary for Cobb Childcare and Preschool. The anniversary celebration will be held on October 19th. There is a part-time floater position available for anyone interested in the childcare profession.

**Heather Sewell, EI/ECSE** - Early Intervention (EI) and Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) classes resumed on September 11. There are 335 students enrolled: 96 in birth to three and 239 in three to five-year-old programs. Myrtle Creek Elementary has a newly remodeled modular classroom. There are two part-time instructional assistant positions open; interested candidates should check the Douglas ESD website.

**Vanessa Pingleton, Program Facilitator for Take Root Parenting** – Take Root partnered with Douglas County System of Care (SOC), Healthy Families, and Connect, Restore, Thrive (CRT) Counseling, to hold a hybrid Connect Share and Care event. The event fostered collaboration among professionals working with the same families.

The Home Visiting Leadership meeting is working on several initiatives:

- Internal communication: Planning a home visiting family support gathering in Medford, supported by The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF).
- Professional development: Organizing Connect Share and Care meetings and planning larger trainings like motivational interviewing and a poverty simulation.
- External communication: Creating a one-pager to promote home visiting benefits.
- Community outreach: Focusing on recruiting new participants and improving follow-up completion.
- Parent voice and leadership: Consulting with Morrison Center to support the creation of a Parent Advisory Leadership Committee.

The Center for Coordinating Oregon Home Visiting Systems (CCOHVS) is mapping home visiting programs statewide. In October, there will be a Home Visiting Summit meeting.

**Susan Stiles, Take Root Parenting Connection** - Take Root Parenting Connection is starting the fall schedule of parenting classes. The fall schedule includes:

- A ten-week parenting series called Make Parenting a Pleasure, at Winchester Elementary in Roseburg on Thursdays, starting September 12 at 6:00.
- The parent support group continues to meet in-person every two weeks on Wednesdays.
- Teaching Your Child to Talk, a two-part workshop, Tuesday October 1 and October 8 at 5:30,
- Play with Me! A two-part interactive workshop, Tuesday October 15 and October 22 at 5:30,
- Help That Helps Workshop, October 9 at 5:30,
- All About Finances, November 20 at 5:30.
- There will be a community educational event at the Education Service District (ESD) in Roseburg on November 14. Two doctors, Sean and Kate Grammy will cover several topics including Molding Children's Behavior and Discipline, Promoting Good Sleep, Anxiety and Depression in Children and Postpartum Depression. This event is made possible through a grant from Here Together Oregon.
- Understanding Developmental Milestones for zero to five-year-olds will be held virtually on December 5 at 5:30, and
- Healthy Body, Healthy Baby, Healthy You, a four-part series will be held virtually on Thursdays October 3 through 24 at 5:30.

**Danielle Walker, South-Central Early Learning Hub** – Danielle provided a Community UPLiFT overview. Community UPLiFT connects expecting families, families with children birth to five, and birth to 21 with special needs, to community resources. Since 2017, there have been 1,459 total referrals, including 851 from Douglas County. Community UPLiFT covers Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties.

Last quarter, there were a total of 85 referrals, 47 in Douglas County, 35 in Klamath County, 3 in Lake County. This number is up nineteen total referrals from this quarter last year. Referrals are increasing due to community outreach and inclusion in Preschool Promise applications.

Community UPLIFT has been added to the Preschool Promise application as an additional feature for parents to choose.

**Robin Van Winkle, Douglas ESD** – The Douglas County Child Care Coalition received Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) funds from Umpqua Health Alliance (UHA) to support 11 home-based childcare programs. Five programs received up to \$3000 for health, safety, or inclusivity improvements. Six programs received pre-selected packages of play equipment to promote physical activity.

On October 23, Business Champions for Kids (Biz4Kids), is hosting an Employer Roundtable. Sarah Blair will discuss a program called "Ramp Out, Ramp In" for expectant mothers. The program allows expectant moms to decrease hours pre-birth and gradually increase hours worked post-leave, while maintaining full pay. This company sees low turnover and high-quality applicants. The aim is to showcase such practices to local employers.

**Bryanna Paradise, Healthy Families** - Healthy Families is accepting new clients and will be participating in the Klamath County Community Baby Shower on October 5.

**Colleen May-Weir, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)** - Farm Direct vouchers for WIC families are available through the end of November. Extra vouchers were received from another county. This program provides \$49 worth of food at farmers markets and U-picks, benefiting both families and local farmers.

Feeding Umpqua has a couple of upcoming events. One Feeding Umpqua event is a 5K run at Diamond Lake on October 5. There will be an Empty Bowls fundraiser on October 7; tickets are \$35 if pre-ordered, or \$40 at the door. This event will feature hand painted bowls. Soups will be available from 11 different local restaurants, and there will be a variety of wines available for those interested in receiving a bottle of wine. The monthly proceeds night at Little Brother's Pub is the second Thursday of each month from 4:30 to 8:00.

There is a diaper depot at WIC. This service may end in January 2025.

**Michael Carter, Superintendent of Lake County School District** – There is a waiting list for the Honker Preschool Promise. The district is working on a new child care building and dealing with permits and related processes.

**Maddie Bright, Family Relief Nursery** – The Family Relief Nursery is preparing for the third annual Fall Festival in Cottage Grove from 11:00 to 3:00. There will be fun activities for families at this free event.

The toddler class is full, and the preschool is still accepting enrollment applications.

The Harvest Feast is in November, and Christmas for Kids is in December.

**Lola Cornish, Safe Families for Children** – Safe Families has some upcoming events which include craft time October 12 from 12 to 2, family movie night on October 18 from 6– 8, and a No Sweet Trick-or-Treat on October 23 from 2 to 5. All events will be held at the Community Room at Sunset Court Apartments, 1800 NE Sunset, Roseburg, OR.

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### Next Meeting Date

October 24, 2024, from 10:00 am-12:00pm