

# PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

January 28, 2021 | 10:00 a.m.

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## In Attendance, Welcome, Approval of Minutes

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**Present:** Abby Drummond, Analuz Torres, CeCe Lynn, Cesia Ayala, Crystal Morrison, Dani McKiddy, Emily Veale, Heidi McGowan, Jacqueline McCall, Judi Mahoney, Kendra Bickham, Shawn Lybarger, Stacy Powers

**Staff Present:** Gillian Wesenberg, Cynthia Hurkes, Danielle Walker, Susan Stiles-Sumstine, Athena Wikstrom, Heather Freiling

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## COVID-19 Updates and Vaccine Roll Out

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Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer joined the meeting to provide an update on COVID-19 and the current vaccine roll out. As of January, COVID-19 will be the leading cause of death in the United States. The spread of COVID-19 and deaths contributed to COVID-19 has slowed; however, the virus is still very present. Douglas County's case rate has been one of the lowest counties in the United States. Vaccines are here and available. Vaccines have been administered to group 1-A as defined by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), and educators are able to receive the vaccine beginning this week. There is a big event Saturday for educators at the Douglas County Fairgrounds, the event is by invitation only. There will be 700 vaccines available. Case trends have been worrisome, valleys have not lasted very long before peaks have hit again. When schools are open, there are a lot of school outbreaks, there are currently 12 school outbreaks. There has been very little spread in the schools, though they cause a lot of contact exposure. Everything mutates, including COVID, the concern is variances that could become resistant to the vaccines. Vaccines have caused very few reactions.

The drive thru flu clinics have been drills for large processes like this and the COVID-19 shot clinic was very successful. Public Health is having a hard time contacting childcare professionals from the e-mails received from the state. Child care providers who are emergency care providers and those receiving subsidies are the only providers eligible for the vaccine per the Early Learning Division (ELD.) Only those who the state has determined are eligible should be contacted and sent the link for registering.

Heather sent out e-mail to providers yesterday stating that Dr. Bob had previously sent out e-mails to the providers and if they did not receive them to contact the CCRR. E-mails go to center director so staff may not be receiving the e-mails and may not have the information.

The plan for vaccinating seniors will be sent out next week.

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## Teach My Kits

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Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) is a program through the Early Learning Hub. KPI expended some of their funds based on expressed needs in communities for three and four-year-olds across the region. Almost 3000 Teach My kits were purchased for families across the region. Due to discounts, the amount of kits that were able to be purchased was far more than expected. 1274 kits were purchased for Douglas County. 775 kits have been distributed by partners so far. Partners include DHS, Relief Nurseries, Head Start, Salvation Army and others. Kits are being stored at the Douglas County Fairgrounds and will be moving to additional priority groups. Families receiving kits are included in the Hub's Early Care and Education (ECE) priority populations who are not currently in early learning programs. Phase two of distribution would include the medical community including pediatricians and clinics. The distribution committee will be reconvened then Cynthia will reach out to targeted clinics. The Teach My Kits include literacy and math lessons and manipulatives. The kits can be seen at the Teach My Kits website:

<http://teachmy.com/teach-my-preschooler-learning-kit.php>. So far, the feedback from partners is that parents are really enjoying the kits. If you would like to be included in the distribution process, reach out to Cynthia.

Partners shared these ideas:

Aviva has a Healthy Start group and would be a good resource for distributing kits.

Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) has begun distribution and are very excited to be able to offer these kits to Oregonians they are working with.

In thinking about our McKinney-Vento kids, is it possible for schools distribute some?

Family Development Center has received great feedback from families who have received kits.

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## Legislative Updates

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The current legislative session just began. There is a policy option plan requesting additional slots for early learning programs including: 2400 Oregon Prekindergarten (OPK) slots, 3600 Preschool Promise slots, 1100 Early Childhood Equity Fund grants, 260 Early Head Start slots, 400 Healthy Families slots, and 1000 Parent Education opportunities. There is a package requesting the formation of a new Tribal Early Learning Hub. There is discussion about Employment-Related Day Care (ERDC) moving from Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to the Early Learning Division (ELD,) as well as changing the ELD to its own authority, creating the Early Learning Authority. Early learning programs who are not currently required to do background checks may be required to complete them in the future based on current discussions. Relief Nurseries are requesting pay parity as well.

Some of the policy discussions are based on a childhood task force report that was presented.

Moving ERDC to the ELD may assist with providers being paid more and it could be a great move. Providers put their income at risk by assisting ERDC as they may not receive the copayments and children are put at risk as they have to be released if the copay is not received.

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## Early Learning Hub RFA

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Due to Coordinated Enrollment and everything currently underway, the Hub's Request for Application (RFA) will not be required, but there will be additional reporting and work that will be taking place of the Request for Application. The Oregon Early Learning Systems Theory of Change is expected to be shared out soon and it includes a definition of what an effective Early Learning Hub looks like. The ELD is working to put out a Scope of Work for Early Learning Hubs in tandem with the Theory of Change. The legislature requested a definition of the Child Care Resource and Referrals (CCRRs) and Early Learning Hubs that includes what each group is charged with and the differences of the groups that has been summarized in a Budget Note.

CCRR and Hub directors are meeting with the ELD together in shared meetings. This has been requested for years and creates alignment and shared messaging.

Recently, an evaluation of the progress of Raise Up Oregon was finalized and released. Raise Up Oregon can be found at Raise Up Oregon: <https://oregonearlylearning.com/raise-up-oregon>. The Raise Up Oregon report can be found at: Raise Up Oregon Progress Report: [https://oregonearlylearning.com/form\\_sets/raise-up-oregon-progress-report-2019-2020-highlights/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://oregonearlylearning.com/form_sets/raise-up-oregon-progress-report-2019-2020-highlights/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).

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## Equity Lens One-Pager

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Dr. Bob shared that the COVID-19 immunization program was supposed to be centered in equity and equity has been thrown out due to a desire for increased efficiencies.

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## Equity Trainings

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ELD is requiring early childhood programs to complete equity training annually. The requirement varies between different programs. Head Start has a requirement of eight hours of training by the end of May. Has anyone done equity training for their staff, found new ways to do training, have trainers they recommend, etc.?

Heather stated that Dr. Lake provided a great equity training virtually at the Fall Conference.

Dr. Bob shared that looking at the ways current systems and processes have been inequitable is a great way to learn about equity and gaps in service. Dr. Bob encourages someone to be a Devil's Advocate during meetings and planning processes to point out potential inequities.

Heather shared that Umpqua Community College (UCC) had a trainer that came in to present on institutional inequities.

The Center for Equity and Inclusion does great work. It is more of a dialogue and experience than a formal training. They were instrumental in assisting the Non-Profit Association of Oregon (NOA). The NOA also has resources for equity.

It may be nice to create a plan as a group and to pool resources if possible.

Abby –ODHS receives equity and cultural competency training through the Office of Equity and Multicultural Services (OEMS). OEMS could likely provide recommendations on trainers, and all the training is offered virtually now.

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## Hub and Partner Updates

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**Judi - Healthy Families** – There is an open position in Douglas County for a home visitor that is open on the United Community Action Network (UCAN) website. All services are still being provided virtually. There has been an uptick in needed services due to the COVID-19 “baby surge.”

**Shawn - Head Start / Early Head Start** – School based programs have been reopened. There are teacher and bus driver positions open and job descriptions are located on the UCAN website. The Winchester site has been closed due to temperature control problems, they are hoping to reopen Monday.

**Dani - Family Development Center (FDC)** – The new Sutherlin site at My Way church is now open. The site has been licensed and certified by the Relief Nursery Foundation. FDC has started the respite program back up at all sites.

**Abby – Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS)** - Most employees are currently working from home. COVID-19 regulations have made it difficult for families as employees are not able to do home visits. Teach My Kits are very exciting as while home visits cannot be done, ODHS is working to do curbside drop offs. ODHS needs release of information documents from families which has been difficult to receive due to COVID-19 regulations. ODHS staff can pick up documentation during curbside drop offs. The eligibility system has been updated as of November. Families can now apply for everything in one spot.

**Analuz – Oregon Health Authority (OHA)** - Update similar to DHS. Assisting community partners with barriers that they find with the new enrollment system.

**Jacqueline – Oregon Health Authority (OHA)** - There seems to be confusion with Oregon Health Plan (OHP) assisters and the different benefits and who can assist with each benefit. It's very important to collaborate with other outreach individuals and make referrals to the additional outreach providers such as Community UPLIFT for additional family needs outside of OHP.

**Crystal - North Douglas Relief Nursery** is offering respite one to three times per week for families and also providing home visits. There are a couple of positions currently open. North Douglas Relief Nursery is providing drop offs for families who have needs for supplies such as diapers, wipes, and other personal needs. They are also working with families to ensure the family has technology needs met.

**Cynthia – Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI)** – Early Learning Partners are coming together to create Early Learning Gatherings for the region including child care providers, relief nurseries, preschool professionals, and kindergarten teachers. There will be two sessions that will each provide one and a half hours towards Oregon Registry Online (ORO.) The first session will be around social emotional strategies and family engagement. The event will be informal and casual. Everyone who attends will receive an I Love You Ritual book or CD and a teddy bear. There are already 30 individuals registered out of 100 slots across the region.

**Heather - Care Connections and Education** – There is weekly training that is available for providers. The trainings cost \$10 but everyone who attends the webinar in full will be mailed a book and certificate. Around the Core Knowledge Categories (CKCs) is currently taking place to assist providers in increasing their ORO steps, as providers reach goals, the program provides incentives.

Vacancy checks are occurring every couple of weeks for child care slots and being reported to 211 so when parents call, they are provided with accurate information.

The Douglas County Child Care Coalition is holding a child care provider listening session to hear the barriers that providers are facing the listening session will include key partners.

**Kendra - Aviva** - Working on grant to help support mobile clinics. Aviva is hoping to use the mobile clinic to take vaccinations to the most isolated areas of the county.

**Susan - Take Root** – Take Root is in the third week of Parenting series workshops for the term. Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative (OPEC) is now covering families with children from zero to seventeen-years-old. Take Root provided a dad's workshop earlier this week that went really well. They are piloting Mighty Network trainings, a new education portal.

**Danielle - Community UPLIFT** – Connects resources to expecting families or families with children ages zero to five-years-old or up to 21 with special needs to resources in Douglas County. Online referrals can be completed at <http://www.community-uplift.com/> or via smart phone by texting the keyword “uplift2” to 484848. For more information on Community UPLIFT, contact Vanessa Pingleton or Danielle Walker. As of Dec 31, 2020, 625 referrals had been received across the region. In the last quarter of 2020, 81 total referrals were received with 53 of those in Douglas County. Last week, Dr. Amy Stoeber provided an ACES 201 training and we are hoping to bring her back throughout the year for additional workshops. Community UPLIFT is working to expand the database to include Family Care Plans.

**Athena** – Preschool Promise (PSP) slots are still open in each of our locations. Douglas County is filling up, but Klamath County still has a lot of open slots. COVID-19 has made it difficult to fill slots as many parents are not comfortable sending their children back to school at this time. If you have any suggestions for marketing, please let the Hub staff know.

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### Future Topics

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COVID-19 Updates with Dr. Dannenhoffer

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### Next Meeting Date

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Next meeting February 25, 2021 from 10:00am – 12:00pm.