

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

June 25, 2021 | 10:00 a.m.

In Attendance, Welcome, Approval of Minutes

Present: Abby Drummond, Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer, CeCe Lynn, Christin Rutledge, Heidi McGowan, Judi McNamee, Kendra Bickham, Lee Ann Grogan, Maureen Short, Shawn Lybarger, Stacy Powers

Staff Present: Gillian Wessenberg, Danielle Walker, Athena Wikstrom, Heather Freilinger, Vanessa Pingleton, Cynthia Hurkes, Ceresse Harris

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

COVID-19 Updates and Vaccine Roll Out

Dr. Bob shared a COVID-19 update. COVID-19 cases have decreased and are currently averaging ten to eleven cases per day in Douglas County. The COVID-19 vaccines in use in Oregon are approximately 95 percent effective in preventing individuals from contracting COVID-19. Currently, almost everyone who is getting COVID-19 in Oregon is unvaccinated. Most of the individuals who are hospitalized are young - in their 20s.

Douglas County recently saw some breakthrough cases, cases in which individuals who are vaccinated contract COVID-19, including some at a local care home. Most of the breakthrough cases are COVID-19 variants. Breakthrough cases have been pretty evenly distributed between all three of the vaccines in Oregon. For younger children, the cost to benefit ratio of getting the vaccine is different than it is for adults, especially older adults. Vaccinating younger people will assist with herd immunity, but many families will likely choose not to vaccinate younger children.

Variant analysis takes about three weeks to receive results. The two variants we are seeing in Oregon are the alpha and gamma (resistant) variants. The delta variant is more resistant to the vaccine with a higher spread rate than other strains. COVID-19 delta variant is currently spreading across India. Statistically, there have been more young people hospitalized with variants than the original strain of COVID-19. Humans began receiving the COVID-19 vaccine in November 2020 and individuals who received their vaccine in the beginning are still showing high antibody levels. It appears to be providing protection for over a year. If boosters are required, they will likely be for variants of the virus opposed to boosting antibodies.

Douglas County did not experience any COVID-19 infections in babies or children in the first six months of the pandemic, however they are now occurring on a weekly basis.

It is currently very unclear what schools will look like in the 2021-22 school year. It's likely there will be fewer restrictions than in 2020-21. Likely, school restrictions will be dependent upon the background COVID-19 rates within communities. There was very little transmission of COVID-19 in schools (including in busses) during the 2020-21 school year. Many of the outbreaks were school related outbreaks with spread being active in some sports or socialization outside of school, not spread in the schools.

When the state as a whole reaches 70 percent of individuals immunized, the whole state will open and will likely not restrict counties with lower vaccination rates.

Parent Focus Groups

Heidi shared an overview of the Parent Focus Groups she facilitated across the South-Central Early Learning Hub Region in partnership with the Hub. Heidi facilitated three Parent Focus Groups in English and Pacific Research and Evaluation facilitated two Parent Focus Groups in Spanish. The draft report that was sent to the Professional Advisory Committee provides an overview of the Parent Focus Groups which were held in English. Heidi will be adding the results from the groups held in Spanish for the final draft. The groups included 18 individuals who spoke English and ten individuals who spoke Spanish, with representation from across the region. Most participants were mothers, though there was one father who participated. Heidi reviewed the draft report highlights.

Participants were asked:

- What makes a community a good place to raise kids?
- What does it mean for your child to be ready to go to school?
- What trusted resources do you turn to in supporting getting your child ready for school?
- What support services have you utilized?
- What supports do these programs provide?

Consistent themes across the groups were:

- Families have a lot of gratitude for the resources available
- Many different programs are being utilized across the region including:
 - Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS)
 - Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
 - Healthy Families
 - Head Start
 - Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC)
 - Relief Nurseries
 - Medical Providers
 - Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI)
 - Take Root Parenting Connection
 - Preschool Promise
- Families would like to be able to tour early learning and k12 facilities
 - For families in the Spanish-speaking groups the desire to tour facilities was to ensure safe environments
- If families are not involved in services, many of them do not know what is available and how to engage in services.
- Families in the Spanish-speaking groups had a desire for their children to be able to learn both English and Spanish in learning environments
- There is desire for parent training including:
 - How to prepare children for kindergarten
 - Developmental milestones
 - How to advocate for children, especially those with special needs
 - Social-emotional readiness for kindergarten
 - Community resources
- Parents would like to have parent groups and child play groups
- Additional resources in Spanish were requested

Shawn observed there was a request for additional flexibility with sick policies. Heidi shared that this specific family had a child with special needs where the child vomits easily and is sent home due to sick policies even though it's a special need opposed to an illness. Shawn reflected that this is very likely not a concern of only this one family, and is likely something that should be explored further by programs.

Heidi shared there was a mixture of families who are connected with services and some who did not know about any services, indicating that the responses were fairly well balanced and that we were able to reach families who are currently underserved. The Focus Group held in Spanish had a list of how they are being reached and how they could be better reached.

The mobile food pantry goes to small communities including Tiller, Days Creek, Diamond Lake, and it will soon also go to Curtain. The mobile food pantry took Ready! for Kindergarten kits to the outlying areas that it serves. Maureen shared that it may be possible for the mobile food pantry to take additional items like brochures, kits, and resource guides to the outlying communities to assist families in connecting with additional resources. Other remote food banks may also be able and willing to include brochures and information in food boxes. Vanessa reflected that the Family Resource Facilitator has gone to remote food banks in the past to assist families with resources and to build connections. As we enter COVID-19 recovery, now may be a good time to re-engage this service.

Maureen has worked with Glide in their revitalization project. Glide Revitalization would like to open a community preschool, but Head Start may not be the best option for their community. Maureen observed that Preschool Promise may be a better option and she would be willing to assist in the grant writing process.

Early Learning Hub Director Update

The South-Central Early Learning Hub is working with Roseburg Public School and Portland State University (PSU) to continue the family and community engagement project. PSU and Roseburg Public School partners have interviewed school staff and families to determine what supports are needed, identifying family concerns, and recognizing the supports that are currently in place. Rick Burton has been the primary contact with Roseburg Public Schools and he is returning to work for the South Umpqua School District.

Preschool Promise Coordinated Enrollment just received the go ahead to enroll students for the summer programming. The Hub has not been given the go ahead to enroll students yet for the 2021-22 school year. Applications are available, and we will get families enrolled as soon as we are able. There are currently 124 Preschool Promise applications for the 2021-22 school year year.

As part of Coordinated Enrollment, the Hub received marketing funding. One marketing project we undertook was creating marketing videos for each Preschool Promise site which share a virtual tour and unique characteristics of each site. The videographer we contracted with is finishing the videos that will be shared on provider websites, the Hub website Facebook and other media opportunities.

House Bill (HB) 3073-B-B5 creates a new department changing the Early Learning Division (ELD) to its own division to be called the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC). The department will be created and operating by July 1, 2023 and will employ 235 individuals. As of now, it appears that this bill will pass the legislature. The bill includes updates to the state interagency council and their responsibilities. Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) will be moved to the DELC from ODHS, with a seven percent copay cap, and citizenship will not dictate eligibility for ERDC.

Children's Institute and other groups are working to advocate for additional funds for early childhood. The legislature has approved \$75 million in additional funding. Advocates were hoping for an additional \$100+ million. Approved funds include additional slot funding for various early learning programs such as Head Start, Early Head Start, Healthy Families, relief nurseries, the Equity Fund, and Preschool Promise. A lot of the funds will be saved for the second year of the biennium. The approved budget includes \$1.5 million for North Baker School property upgrades for an early learning facility, a family resource center, and additional resources. Maureen observed it would be great if we can advocate for facility funding in Glide like the funding that was passed for North Baker School.

The Early Learning Funding is included in Senate Bill (SB) 5513.

The renters bill did not pass during this session.

The suspension and expulsion bill is expected to pass this legislative session with a potential implementation date of 2026. Additionally, the suspension and expulsion Senate bill requires the ELD to report by 2024 on efforts to reduce suspension and expulsion in early learning settings. Preschool Promise and Head Start are currently not able to expel students.

This legislative session ends in June and nothing is guaranteed until the session closes.

Lakeshore Infant Kits

The Regional Governance Steering Committee, using the Hub's Regional Equity Lens, determined that additional resources were needed for infants which are one of the Early Care and Education (ECE) Sector Plan's priority populations. To reach this group, Lakeshore kits were purchased for zero to 36-month-old children. Kits include stacking/sorting containers, rattles, books, shape sorters, balls, and a manual for parents that walk through how to use

the materials and engage the infants in play. Manuals are available in English and Spanish. Kits are being distributed by partners to additional ECE Sector Plan populations including Tribal families, children in foster care, children with disabilities, families in poverty, and families who are geographically isolated. Families who are not currently engaged in services are receiving priority. Partners in Douglas County who are distributing kits include ODHS, Aviva, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Early Head Start waitlist, and United Community Action Network (UCAN) mobile food bank. If your organization serves the priority populations and have families who are currently underserved or on waitlists, please reach out so they can receive kits.

Abby shared that ODHS Family Coaches are excited to share the kits with the families they visit at home and the kits are really high quality with bright colors and beautiful packaging.

Hub and Partner Updates

Abby – ODHS – ODHS is still navigating the new ONE system. With the reduced COVID-19 regulations, ODHS is transitioning back to providing in-person services beginning July 1. Options for virtual and hybrid services will likely remain available as it was seen to be effective for many families. Summer EBT for school aged children will be available for the summer. Families should contact ODHS if they do not begin receiving services by the end of July. Emergency allotments will be ending at the end of the month. ODHS is receiving a lot of requests for summer activities/camps for youth. If anyone has information that can be shared, please email Abby at amber.n.drummond@dhsoha.state.or.us. There have also been requests for summer parenting classes - if anyone knows of classes or resources, please send them as well.

Athena - Preschool Promise applications are now available at SouthCentralHubEnrollment.com. We are taking applications for Fall classes as summer programs in Douglas County are currently full.

Ceresse – We have Preschool Promise yard signs available. If anyone would like them, please let Ceresse or Athena know.

Cynthia – KPI – Based on input from the region, KPI purchased Ready! For Kindergarten for partners such as Take Root, using the April through June summer funding. There is a mini grant out for early learning funds, applications are due July 12. This is a quick turn-around and will utilize July through September summer funding. Partners who can apply include medical, health, schools, early learning, child care, behavioral health or anyone that can address system goals and requirements, especially those who serve the South-Central Early Learning Hub's priority populations. KPI is also purchasing slots for Opening Doors to be provided across the region. An additional 168 more Teach My kits are being purchased for Toddlers. KPI will be hiring Kathleen Walker-Henderson to record instruction videos for parents similar to the previous videos.

KPI is partnering with Care Connections and Education (CCR&R) to provide Conscious Discipline resources and trainings for early learning programs. Cynthia and Heather are working on a preliminary plan, that will be shared with partners before implementation.

Heather Freilinger – Care Connections and Education / Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) – Care Connections and Education developed a promotional advertisement to play in movie theaters in Douglas and Klamath Counties as a recruitment strategy for early care and education professionals. The advertisement started playing last week in both counties - the link was sent via email to Professional Advisory Committees (PACs). The advertisement will also be posted to the Douglas Education Service District (ESD) web page. This ad will play for over a year, resulting in the advertisement playing over 200,000 times in Douglas County.

Care Connections and Education also developed rack cards for Preschool Promise that can be given to families interested in programs. They have Hub contact information to begin enrollment and site information.

Judi Mahoney – Healthy Families – Healthy Families is fully staffed for the first time in about a year and a half. They are grateful for funds provided by a Community Advisory Council (CAC) grant, enabling them to purchase activities to promote positive parent-child interactions. Families are also benefitting from and enjoying the use of the Teach My Kits.

Maureen Short – UCAN – Mobile Outpost Pantry sites, dates, and times can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/OutpostMobileFoodCenter/photos/a.284892015787364/816168762659684/>

UCAN FOOD BANK SERVING DOUGLAS COUNTY - OUTPOST MOBILE FOOD CENTER							June 2021 Outpost Mobile Food Center
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8 Elkton, 1-3 pm	9 Days Creek, 1-3 pm	10 Camas Valley, 1-3 pm	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18 Diamond Lake, 1-3 pm	19	
20	21	22 Elkton, 1-3 pm	23 Days Creek, 1-3 pm Tiller, 4-6pm	24 Camas Valley, 1-3 pm	25	26	
27	28	29	30				

Vaccinated nurses are now doing home visits. Unvaccinated nurses are still required to do outside visits or virtual visits. WIC is still doing virtual meetings, but expect to open back up when the state opens. The food bank will have a month-long campaign (Feeding Umpqua) that works with wineries, when individuals purchase a glass of wine, the winery will donate \$1 to the food bank.

Kendra Bickham – Aviva – Aviva welcomed their second cohort of Family Medicine Residents. It is really exciting to see this program blossom and grow. The benefits will last for years to come. The new building will enable Aviva to serve an additional 3,300 patients with 10,000 more patient visits!

Shawn Lybarger – UCAN – Moratorium for housing ends June 30 unless a hardship letter has been filed with by a family's landlord. UCAN has funds to assist with rental costs.

Head Start classes are closed for the summer. Early Head Start students attend classes year-round. Head Start is hiring for many positions, visit the UCAN website to apply for open employment positions. Head Start is taking applications for the 2021-22 school year; classes are already 70% full.

Emergency child care regulations are ending. If a provider would have to shut down with the end of the emergency services, there are pathways to keep them open. Anyone that has a license that is not providing emergency services can begin providing care again.

Vanessa - Community UPLIFT – Since the pilot of Community UPLIFT, there have been 721 referrals regionally. In the last quarter, 51 referrals have been submitted with 35 of those in Douglas County. Ceresse is now handling Community

UPLIFT referrals. They are excited to be expanding the data portal. The expansion includes adding an option for partners who send referrals to log in and view the status of the referrals they have sent. Community partners will be able to pull their own reports, as well. Family and child care plans can now be uploaded into the database. Hopefully the expansion will be ready for presentation at the next PAC meeting.

Community UPLIFT is working with Portland State University (PSU) to complete family Journey Mapping. Seven families have completed interviews with PSU, and were provided with \$50 Visa gift cards for their time. The Family Journey Mapping consists of a family's journey, before engaging with Community UPLIFT, during the process, and after.

Community UPLIFT is partnering with Take Root to have families complete surveys on the Community UPLIFT process and on Community UPLIFT materials (marketing, flyers, brochures, etc.). There have been 39 respondents to date, Community UPLIFT will continue surveying families until 50 responses have been received. Families who complete either survey receive a \$10 Walmart gift card. So far, surveys are showing an 87 percent satisfaction rate.

Dr. Amy Stoeber is providing trainings around trauma. The final training will be held September 22 from 6 to 7:30 pm and will consist of a panel with representation from Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties. If you are interested, you can sign up at: <https://www.smore.com/1sz5a>.

There is Facilitation Attuned Interactions (FAN) Training in September for providers. FAN Supervisor training was held last week and was well attended. Supervisor training includes six months of continued mentorship. Level one and level two training will be available during the September sessions. Vanessa will share when FAN Training registration opens.

Future Topics

COVID-19 Updates with Dr. Dannenhoffer

Next Meeting Date

Next meeting potentially August 26 from 10:00am – 12:00pm. September 23 from 10:00am – 12:00pm has been confirmed.