

Sept. 28, 2022 | 10:00 AM – Noon

Attendance

Rhonda Janecke	Jessica McAuliffe	Melissa Dorsey
Crystal Lemus	Jill O'Donnell	Charlene Shaw
Alana Strickland	Kathleen Walker-Henderson	Vanessa Pingleton
David Elliott	Kay Ortega	Cynthia Hurkes
Dena Haudenschild	Sylvia Cox	Athena Wikstrom
Bethany Holmes	Maurita Johnson	Danielle Walker
Amber Singh	Melanie Mobley	
Gillian Wesenberg	Melinda Collier	
Heather Freilinger	Melinda Gomez	

Please note: The Klamath Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) was held virtually due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) concerns.

Welcome and Introduction

The PAC reviewed and approved the June minutes. Charlene Shaw made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Jill O'Donnell and Kathleen Walker-Henderson seconded the motion. No further discussion.

Cascade Health Alliance (CHA)

David Elliott with Cascade Health Alliance (CHA), Klamath County's Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) joined the Klamath Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) to discuss the upcoming Oregon Health Authority (OHA) CCO Social Emotional Health Metric. The upcoming metric will measure the prevalence of behavioral health assessments and services for children under the age of five. The vision is for children from birth to age five, and their families, to have equitable access to services that support their social-emotional health and are the best match for their needs. CCOs will address factors that impact children and families and find ways to overcome barriers. One of the ways CHA will support the metric is by building capacity through recruiting additional mental and behavioral health professionals, cross-sector collaboration, and utilizing child-level data to guide and inform efforts. David reviewed high-level 2021 Oregon Health Authority (OHA) metric data with the group.

CHA has selected "Language" as the area of focus for their chosen population with historical inequitable outcomes. The largest non-English speaking population in the Klamath Basin speaks Spanish. CHA will engage Spanish-speaking communities to discuss data and receive feedback on how services can be improved for children under the age of five, particularly behavioral health services. CHA is creating an action plan that will outline areas for improvements and suggested tasks or projects based on internal analysis and feedback received from members, providers, and community partners.

David requested feedback on the metric, he asked the group to provide feedback through the Microsoft Form below. "Based on what you have seen in the community, what are some things you think that can be done to help drive improvements in behavioral health services for young children?"

The following Microsoft Form can be utilized to provide feedback:

https://forms.microsoft.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ldZfuZ82LOCK7xzaC_SZEzyWrdRqDgxPsEF9IqoXWORUQzhIVUM1Mkw3RktIQ0sxWjREQzdOTkM1Mi4u

David Elliott can be reached via email at davide@cascadecomp.com.

Regional System Assessment Carousel

Gillian introduced the Early Learning Division (ELD) Regional System Assessment which will focus on Raise Up Oregon Objective 2: Families have access to high-quality (culturally responsive, inclusive, developmentally appropriate) affordable early care and education that meets their needs.

Erin Watson with Weaving Change, a contractor with the Early Learning Division, developed the Regional System Assessment including the template being completed by the Hubs and the carousel that was completed at the Klamath County Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting. The Regional System Assessment is designed to determine what is helping and hindering access to high-quality early care and education.

The Klamath Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) walked through the eight ecosystem conditions that affect access to early care and education (ECE) services. If the region can target efforts around these ecosystem conditions, it will give us the "biggest bang for our buck." Ecosystem conditions include:

- Shared Mindsets
- Goals
- Decision-Making
- Policies and Practices
- Connections
- Program Opportunity Components
- Human Resources Financial Resources
- Financial Resources

Athena shared the process for small break-out groups. The committee broke into four small break-out groups that each discussed four of the eight ecosystem conditions. Each group took ten minutes to review the condition and examples, then took notes in the Google Doc below on what is helping and hindering access to ECE. Groups were asked to note any questions that the region may still need to ask to have a full picture of the ecosystem condition.

Klamath Professional Advisory Committee members are encouraged to reflect about the ecosystem conditions discussed today. If members have any additional feedback to include, please add this information to the Google Doc shared below. Input could include information that was not captured or information about categories members did not have a chance to review during the meeting.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZDjZTRXITEMmnv1jvrtBUDTdYcre3Aji/edit?usp=sharing&oid=117133922751196478353&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Reflection

The large group reconvened and reflected on the carousel process. Members thought that the small groups allowed for each individual to have a voice and share their perspectives. Others would like to begin meeting in-person again so that conversations are more in depth. For members that were less familiar with the topic, 10 minutes might be too short to dive into each of the topics and would suggest 20-30 minute discussions per ecosystem condition.

Next Steps

The South-Central Early Learning Hub staff will review the document with Erin Watson, develop common themes, pull out root cause questions, and "clean-up" the Ecosystems document. If members have questions or comments but are unsure of how to include them in the document, please reach out to Gillian or Athena and they will ensure that the information is included.

The Regional Governance Council and Lake County Professional Advisory Committee/Governance Council have completed the carousel process. The Douglas PAC and Douglas Governance Council will complete the carousel process during their September and October meetings. The final document will be shared once all feedback is received and reviewed by Hub staff. The Regional System Assessment is due in April 2023 and will be a high priority for the South-Central Early Learning Hub over the next few months.

Equity Lens Application

The Klamath PAC discussed how members are using the Equity Lens in their everyday work.

This year for Preschool Promise, the South-Central Early Learning Hub is using the regionally identified priority populations to help in determining placement into classrooms. The more priority populations a child/family fits into, the more likely they are to be placed into a classroom. The region utilized the South-Central Early Learning Hub Equity Lens to determine the priority populations and put families who are most vulnerable at the center of the work. There was an option from the Early Learning Division to continue using the lottery system to place students in Preschool Promise classrooms, however the Regional Governance Council decided that was not the best way to enroll students and chose to put equity at the forefront of Preschool Promise enrollment.

Another program shared that they will be using the equity lens, reviewing the Crown Act, and identifying individual unconscious biases.

Partner Updates

A Family Gathering Place Relief Nursery – The new relief nursery facility received certification on September 27th and will be opening classrooms on October 3rd. There will be preschool classes offered on Mondays & Wednesdays and infant/toddler classes on Tuesdays & Thursdays. All classes will run from 9:30am – 12:30pm. No referral is needed, families can be connected through Community UPLIFT or by calling the main Lutheran Community Services (LCS) phone number at (541) 883-3471.

Community UPLIFT – Community UPLIFT connects expectant families, families with children zero to five-years-old or up to 21 with special needs, to resources in Klamath 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 about Community UPLIFT, contact Danielle at Danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us or by phone (541) 880-4655. While Danielle is on maternity leave, contact Connie Rosas at Connie.Rosas@douglasesd.k12.or.us or (541) 957-4809.

The Klamath Community UPLIFT and Partner Lunch and Learn will be held on October 6th at the WaFed Conference Center, 5215 S 6th St. from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. Register at <https://www.smcore.com/9hc6x>.

Care Connections & Education - Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) – CCRR has been working with Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) on a cohort opportunity for a Conscious Discipline series in Spanish; there have been 19 participants across the region. CCRR will be hiring two additional Preschool Promise Coaches with the recently released intent to award for Preschool Promise expansion.

Klamath Chapter of the Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children (ORAEYC) – Will be hosting the Early Care and Education Conference in-person on October 29, 2022 at Klamath Community College (KCC). This year’s keynote will be on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) learning and will have several workshops for attendees.

Preschool Promise – The South-Central Early Learning Hub is accepting Preschool Promise applications for the 2022-2023 school year. Eligible students turn three or four by September 1, 2022, are residents of Oregon, and have a family income of up to 200% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Apply at: <http://www.southcentralhubenrollment.com/> or contact us by phone at (541) 957-4809.

The South-Central Early Learning Hub is still encouraging families who believe they are over income to also apply for Preschool Promise as they may still fall into the income guidelines. Applications will be accepted all year and a wait pool will be maintained for locations which are fully enrolled.

The Early Learning Division recently released information on the Preschool Promise expansion across the region, so there will be some additional Preschool Promise slots available in Klamath County.

Klamath Community Baby Shower – The Klamath Community Baby Shower will be hosted on October 8th from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Klamath Early Childhood Development Center, 2450 Summers Ln., Klamath Falls. Donations of new or gently used baby items can be delivered Monday through Friday from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. There is setup time available on October 7th between the hours of 1:30 pm and 4:30 pm. Vendors are asked to bring their own tables and chairs. Safe Families for Children would like to host a booth at the event.

Next Meeting:

October 26, 2022 from 10 am to noon.