

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

March 18, 2021 | 10:00 a.m.

In Attendance, Welcome, Approval of Minutes

Present: Abby Drummond, Analuz Torres, Heidi McGowan, Jaqueline McCall, Judi Mahoney, KC Bolton, LeeAnn Grogan, Mary King, Maureen Short, Shawn Lybarger

Staff Present: Gillian Wesenberg, Cynthia Hurkes, Ceresse Harris, Danielle Walker, Susan Stiles-Sumstine, Athena Wikstrom, Alisa McDonald

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

COVID-19 Updates and Vaccine Roll Out

KC Bolton from Aviva Health shared a COVID-19 update with the group.

COVID-19 cases are on a downward trend across the world. There are concerning outbreaks in Africa and Brazil due to the strain, level of illness, and infection rate. In the US, we are seeing the same general downward trend. Texas and Mississippi lifted their mask requirements, so professionals are watching them to determine spread rate. The most important factor in death rates is age, opposed to underlying medical conditions. COVID-19 does not spread significantly outdoors or through surface contact. Schools have not had much spread and even one case at a school is considered an "outbreak." We are not seeing outbreaks in bars, restaurants, and other businesses because of the larger number required to consider it an "outbreak."

Douglas County has done a great job in not wasting any vaccine doses. We are getting a lot of vaccines and may not be able to get all of them to the community, due to not having enough staff and personnel resources to get them to patients before the vaccines expire. The next vaccination phase begins March 29. This phase is for unhoused, so Aviva will be working with Umpqua Health Alliance to go to camps and contact unhoused individuals.

Maureen shared the Johnson and Johnson vaccine is a great one-time vaccine and will be what we will likely be receiving in the future according to recent reports.

KC advised that we are not able to choose a vaccine type yet because we don't have enough vaccines in the community at this time. Douglas Public Health Network (DHPN) does not have a clinical staff, therefore, they contract with Aviva for clinical staff. If you do want to have a specific vaccine, it's best to go to a pharmacy or private group instead of a mass event.

Lee Ann asked KC how to support positive vaccine messaging and if there is anything local individuals or groups can do to get involved.

KC informed the group that the state withheld a lot of the money for marketing about COVID-19 at the state level. He is not aware of local funding for marketing, however DHPN would have more information.

We don't have a date yet when additional groups will be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, though it will be awhile until we have enough vaccines and staffing capacity to open it up to everyone in Douglas County.

if you have other questions regarding COVID-19, email KC at kbolton@aviva.health

Early Learning Division Update

Carmen Ellis and Denise Swanson from the Early Learning Division (ELD) and Sue Miller and Anne Kubisch from the Early Learning Council (ELC) joined the Regional Governance Council meeting in March and outlined the Theory of Change and the Scope of Work. Anne Kubisch shares that she brings representation of rural areas to the Early Learning Council. She is working to be sure that we and other rural areas have a voice. The Theory of Change is the ELD's new working theory of the work that will make Hubs the most effective. The Scope of Work outlines the tasks that are required to reach the goals outlined in the Theory of Change. Currently, both of these documents are still in draft form and awaiting revision to be submitted to the legislature for approval.

The proposed budget in front of the legislature includes an expansion for Preschool Promise and summer programming for all ages.

House Bill 3073, if passed through the legislature, would move the ELD away from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and make it an authority of its own, tentatively to be titled the Early Learning Authority.

Maureen shared a legislative representative stated they were concerned with early learning breaking off from ODE as it will be easier to cut funding from smaller groups than from the larger ODE entity. EI/ECSE will remain under ODE and there is concern that this may cause further fractures if they do not move to the new authority from ODE.

We hope the governor's office and the legislature understand what geographic isolation is as many don't seem to understand the full impact those areas which are geographically isolated are referred to as rural or frontier. Rural to Washington County is different than what it means to Douglas, Klamath, or Lake Counties. Gillian provided an example from Lake County of geographic isolation as there it means there isn't access to pharmacies, doctors, or basic services. Lake County has one pharmacy in Lakeview for the entire county.

Gillian shared the new funding formula for Hubs which has the South-Central Early Learning Hub looking at about a \$200,000 cut. The new data points in the formula are poverty, children of color, and families with a non-English speaker in the household. Geography and social determinants of health were left out of the equation. KPI is part of the Hub and will be the funding stream that is still able to provide community money through the Hub.

Teach My Kits

Cynthia provided her last update for Teach My kits. By the middle of next week, we will have given all 1274 kits to partners to distribute to families. Partners who are storing and distributing kits are:

- The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
- UCAN
- Healthy Families
- Head Start
- Food Bank
- 2 faith-based communities
- libraries,
- ODHS,
- FDC,
- Compass,
- 2 schools for McKinney-Vento population,
- Early Works,
- North Douglas Relief Nursery,
- Aviva for rural clinics

The Douglas County fairgrounds stored the kits until they were able to be distributed to partners. They provided the space until April which helped us as we're well on track.

The Early Learning Gathering was held and had 38 attendees. Attendees include preschool providers, child care providers, kindergarten teachers, kindergarten aids, and administrators. There will be another virtual gathering in April that will be focusing on the Social Emotional Early Learning Kindergarten Guidelines from the state.

The Dare to Lead series facilitated by Heidi McGowan ended yesterday.

Design Thinking for Leaders Virtual Sessions will be held on April 14, May 19, and June 16, 2021.

Hub and Partner Updates

Gillian – House Bill 2054, if passed will align Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) across the state so grants are distributed through Early Learning Hubs. The current guidance shows that KPI's focus will be on Kindergarten transition and family engagement. Sue Miller and Anne Kubisch shared at the Regional Governance Council meeting that they want to help with resources and support Hubs the best they can.

Alisa - Care Connections and Education / Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) – The Douglas County Child Care Coalition provided supplies for child care providers on March 4 through a drive-through pick up. The CCR is getting ready for Spring Fling, on May 15, Heidi McGowan will be the key note speaker discussing Brené Brown.

Judi – Healthy Family – Healthy Families is hiring a Family Support Specialist. Anyone interested in this position can apply at:
https://www.ucanap.org/application/files/2716/0736/1081/Healthy_Families_Do_Co_Family_Support_Specialist_12-7-20.pdf

Lee Ann – Health Care Coalition of Southern Oregon (HCCSO) / Perinatal Task Force – There is a Parent Leadership Cohort through the Perinatal Task Force to coordinate community members to pursue certification and training in a variety of areas relating to perinatal health. Parents can sign up for Parent Leadership Opportunities in Douglas County at: <https://hccso.org/hccso-is-seeking-parent-leaders/> The Task Force can fund about 15 individuals this year as a pilot project. There have been two applicants so far. If you know any families who may be interested in participating in the cohort, there is a short two-page application that is mostly information about who we are. There is a post on the HCCSO site with more information. <https://www.facebook.com/hccso>

Maureen – UCAN - Spring Break will be next week for Head Start. Programs across UCAN are all running virtually except Head Start and they will remain that way until we reach herd immunity.

Susan – Take Root Parenting Connection – Will be sending out spring term classes today or tomorrow. The Stephens Douglas ESD site is being renovated and will be the Early Learning and Parenting Resource Center (ELPRC). There will be an area for parents to come in and find resources and join parenting groups once it is complete. The Early Learning Hub, Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) and Take Root will still be at the ELPRC.

Shawn – Head Start – After Spring Break, Head Start will phase back in to having full classrooms of 20 students so students will be able to come back four to five days a week. Head Start is hiring teachers, assistants, subs, and bus drivers. Applications for next year are open.

Future Topics

COVID-19 Updates with Dr. Dannenhoffer

Next Meeting Date

Next meeting April 22, 2021 from 10:00am – 12:00pm.