

# PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

May 27, 2021 | 10:00 a.m.

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## In Attendance, Welcome, Approval of Minutes

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**Present:** Abby Drummond, Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer, Cesia Ayala, Christin Rutledge, Colleen May, Crystal Morrison, Dani McKiddy, Judi Moore, KC Bolton, Kendra Bickham, Lee Ann Grogan, Maureen Short, Rob McAdam, Shawn Lybarger

**Staff Present:** Gillian Wesenberg, Danielle Walker, Susan Stiles-Sumstine, Athena Wikstrom, Heather Freilinger, Vanessa Pingleton, Cynthia Hurkes, Ceresse Harris

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

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## COVID-19 Updates and Vaccine Roll Out

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Dr. Bob shared a COVID-19 update. Last week had one of the highest case counts Douglas County has seen in a week. Most of the individuals who are currently very sick are from the younger population. Almost all of the recent cases (200 consecutive cases) are unvaccinated individuals. Douglas County is about 50% vaccinated. In most of the country and world the cases are coming down. We are hoping that the case counts in Douglas County come down and we will have a pretty mild summer and fall.

The variants are the most difficult, as there are four countries that are more vaccinated than the United States with a really high case rate right now. B117 and P1 variants affect all ages while the original variants were affecting mostly seniors.

The vaccines have been incredibly effective. Douglas County has had many COVID-19 cases in schools from mostly unvaccinated school staff / educators bringing the virus to school. There is an outbreak at United Community Action Network (UCAN) with young babies. We are seeing that almost everyone who is getting the virus is unvaccinated and many are not cooperating with Public Health. There is good data around individuals getting vaccinated while pregnant with no negative effects on the pregnancy or infant. If pregnant women get COVID-19 they are more likely to have preterm labor, respiratory failure, and be more sick than individuals who are not pregnant.

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## Input for Regional Governance

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Gillian shared that Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) has always been a part of the South-Central Early Learning Hub as we were one of the first Hubs. Many Early Learning Hubs were formed after a region received their KPI grant, so the grant went through other agencies. New legislation has passed to combine KPI with the Early Learning Hubs in all areas and to put it all into one grant.

Cynthia advised that KPI has always been in the South-Central Early Learning Hub's strategic plan. In the last biennium, KPI was part of goal one and two in the Hub's strategic plan. KPI, in the past, has had an independent grant and had its own workplan. Additionally, KPI has always gathered information through its own planning groups. The focus of KPI has been kindergarten readiness, community engagement and professional development. Ready! For Kindergarten was originally offered through KPI and is now primarily offered through Take Root through a partnership with KPI.

KPI has summer programming funds to be used from June through September. Cynthia created a list of potential spending for the Regional Governance Council to approve and provide feedback on. It would be ideal to offer activities with the funding, but it is not required by the state as long as we have any materials that we choose to purchase by the end of September. Cynthia requested feedback from the group to share with the Regional Governance Council and asked, "Is there community need that KPI can assist with?"

Feedback from the group included:

- Shawn is teaching a Ready! For K class for Take Root and it was full before Head Start even received the link to sign up. The community could use additional Ready! For K classes.
  - Susan agreed that additional Ready! For K would be great!

- Abby shared that Ready! For K would be beneficial for many Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) clients.
- Heather advised that Conscious Discipline with individual coaching sessions will be offered through Care Connections and Education, the local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR), so leveraging funds would be really helpful for our region. We have some trainers in the community, but the CCRR could use a trainer as well.
  - Additional members agreed that Conscious Discipline, especially with teacher coaching would be really beneficial in our community.
  - Cynthia advised that funding could go towards training individuals, purchasing Conscious Discipline materials, and forming a Conscious Discipline Cohort.
  - Shawn shared that a Conscious Discipline regional, in person training would be beneficial.
- Judi requested that there should be consideration for the Latinx community including a trainer who is a native Spanish speaker in any programming that KPI funds.
- Gillian shared there is a state-wide reading program for medical providers to give out books to families and encourage literacy called Reach Out and Read.
  - Dr. Bob advised the group that Aviva is participating in Reach Out and Read beginning at the child's six month well child checks.

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## Regional Parent Focus Group in May and June

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Regional Parent Focus Groups have begun and will continue into June. The Early Learning Division (ELD) is requiring Hubs to have a parent council as part of the governance council. Feedback received during the Parent Focus Groups will inform outreach for parent council recruitment and updates to the Early Care and Education (ECE) Sector Plan. Heidi McGowan is facilitating the groups in English and is going to ask parents engagement questions and questions around what they need to prepare their children for kindergarten. There is a stipend for parents who participate (one per household). We want to be sure we are getting parents from all walks of life to get a clear picture. This feedback will be used in conjunction with Roseburg Public School's feedback, though have a different target audience. Based on feedback from the group, two feedback sessions were added in Spanish that will ask the same questions as the English-speaking sessions. The first session did not have any participants. Athena asked the group to refer any families that they work with who speak Spanish to the second session.

Athena attended the Douglas County UCAN Head Start Policy Council to recruit someone from that group.

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## Hub Director Update

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Miriam Calderon is moving to the Biden / Harris administration and Alyssa Chatterjee is going to be the interim director of the Early Learning Division (ELD) that will become the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC). Sarah Michaelson is also leaving the ELD as of June 1. The name change was prompted by the passing of House Bill (HB) 3073-B that moves the Early Learning Division to its own entity. With this change, Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) will move to the DELIC and there will be updates made to how the Early Learning Council will govern.

There is a legislative summary that was put together by the staff to provide an outline of what is covered in each bill.

It is expected that the suspension and expulsion bills will take effect in 2026. When they are implemented, programs will no longer be allowed to ask children to leave programs. There is a need for additional behavioral supports in classrooms so the behaviors prompting suspension and expulsion can be addressed. Heather shared that Preschool Promise does not currently provide funding for the additional supports that are needed in classrooms, including behavioral support staff, additional aids, and specialized professionals. Gillian observed that if a Preschool Promise site is located in a school and a child is asked to leave, the school will face the same troubling behavior when the child enters Kindergarten, and the child will be less prepared for the school environment. In Heather's experience, Conscious Discipline has been an effective tool in assisting with troubling behaviors. Maureen shared that Head Start does not allow expulsion and suspension is only used in extreme cases as a last resort. Head Start currently has three to four children per classroom who are on a behavior plan. Alison Hinson is available as a behavioral support, but she is not enough for all of the need around the county.

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## Hub and Partner Updates

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**Gillian** – The ELD is releasing a Scope of Work that will lead the Hub’s work as well as the shared work between the CCRR and the Hub. There will be a collaborative meeting in August with CCRRs and Hubs that will help in defining roles around how the groups will work together toward our shared goals.

**Rob McAdam - Umpqua Health** - There are two care coordinators who will provide behavioral support consultations to Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members. He is trying to bring Oregon Partnership Support Network into the community as additional supports are needed. Compass has a Parent Child Interactive Therapy (PCIT) contract with Umpqua Health, but they do not currently have a provider as the provider moved to Juniper Tree. If Compass is not able to hire a new PCIT provider, they will need to provide another similar therapy method. Umpqua Health currently has a survey out to determine community need, called the Douglas County Behavioral Health Environmental Scan, it can be found online, and Rob encouraged professionals across the community to fill it out at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ComprehensiveBehavioralHealthPlan>.

Umpqua Health’s System of Care is open to everyone who works with children, families, and community members. There will be funds available for programs that need additional funding for community supports (i.e. groups giving out back to school backpacks). Rob is hoping to have long-term on-going funding that will be part of the system of care to support programs who are seeing success. Umpqua Health is doing a lot of work around eating disorders including creating an expertise building cohort of up to seven providers who will receive in depth training on how to address eating disorders. There will be three intense trainings: Eating Disorder 101 will be open to anyone in the community.

**Lee Ann – Creating Community Resilience** – Building training team bring awareness to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) through ACE Interface. ACE Interface is a program that is being used in Southern Oregon and Washington State. The training is in partnership with ACE Success in Southern Oregon. Creating Community Resilience is covering training costs and supports as the team gets trained.

**Heather – Care Connections and Education / Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)** –The CCRR had their Spring Fling, on May 15, and it was a fantastic success. Heidi McGowan was the key note speaker discussing Brené Brown’s Dare to Lead. There was great engagement from providers. One provider shared that in her 20 years as a provider, this is the first time she has seen herself as a professional leader.

A second step cohort will be available in Klamath Falls over the summer and will work on Conscious Discipline as well.

There is currently a small business cohort taking place for child care providers so they can receive their business certificate.

There are new materials that are being given to providers during Provider Appreciation Month. Pickups were drive through events to reduce contact. The business coalition has been really supportive of our providers and has helped providers feel supported and seen.

**Vanessa - Community UPLiFT** – Since the pilot of Community UPLiFT there have been 704 referrals regionally. There have been 462 referrals in Douglas County to date and 13 in May. Ceresse is now handling Community UPLiFT referrals. We are expanding the data portal. The expansion includes adding a section for groups 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.

Dr. Amy Stoeber is providing trainings around trauma. There are still additional dates that can be signed up for. If you are interested, you can sign up at: <https://www.smores.com/1sz5a..> There is Facilitation Attuned Interactions (FAN) Training in September for providers with level one and level two available. Vanessa will share when FAN Training registration opens.

**Ceresse – Preschool Promise** – The Hub is accepting applications for the 2021-22 school year.

**Colleen - Healthy Families** – There are openings for families in Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties. Let Healthy Families know if you know of any families prenatal to age two weeks. Healthy Families received Student Success Act (SSA) funds to increase staffing, and will be fully staffed as of June 1.

**Shawn – UCAN Head Start** – Part-day preschool classes are finished for the school year and full day classes will end on June 9 and 10. Early Head Start students goes 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.

**Maureen – UCAN** – There is a home visiting group outside of Head Start that has available spots for additional families. Maureen also oversees the Food Bank and is looking for ways to streamline Head Start, the Food Bank, and WIC. If anyone has ideas on how to encourage healthy nutrition, please let Maureen know.

**Susan – Take Root Parenting Connection** – There are a couple of workshops left in Spring Term. There will not be classes held this summer term.

**Dani – Family Development Center (FDC)** – Charlene is retiring, and Marcia is now the Executive Director. Kamas will move into Marcia’s old role. Sutherlin’s new site is fully staffed and fully enrolled. They will begin regular classes June 7<sup>th</sup>. FDC is transitioning to become a year-round program and will close for two weeks in the summer instead of four.

**Cynthia – KPI** – Teach My Kits now have a YouTube video that was created by Kathleen Walker-Henderson. The videos walk families through using the kits. Videos are available in Spanish and English to supplement the manual that came with the kits.

**Abby – ODHS** – Emergency allotment SNAP benefits are projected to end after July’s allotments with the end of the state of emergency in Oregon. There is an expected additional need that will arise from families as benefits are reduced.

**Dr. Bob – Aviva** – There is plenty of vaccine across the county. This has been the most extensively studied pharmaceutical ever.

**Christin Rutledge - Aviva** – There is a dedicated vaccine clinic open Monday through Friday that takes walk-ins for anyone 12-years-old and up. Aviva is rolling out a social determinants of health program. When patients fill out needs they will have access to a family resource facilitator to get connected with resources. If your agency has a referral form, please send it to Christin (crutledge@aviva.health) so Scott will have it available.

**Crystal - North Douglas Relief Nursery** – Purchasing the church where the relief nursery has been located. Classes and outreach has resumed. They are hoping to have parent training available this summer.

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## Future Topics

COVID-19 Updates with Dr. Dannenhoffer

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## Next Meeting Date

Next meeting June 24 from 10:00am – 12:00pm.