

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

October 22, 2020 | 10:00 a.m.

In Attendance, Welcome, Approval of Minutes

Present: Alexis Millett, Bob Dannenhoffer, Carrie Lamberson, Cecelia Lynn, Cesia Duclose-Ayala, Elisabeth Stanphill, Heidi McGowan, Judi Mahoney, KC Bolton, Kendra Bickham, Michelle Bassett, Rob McAdam, Shawn Lybarger,

Staff Present: Gillian Wesenberg, Cynthia Hurkes, Danielle Walker, Athena Wikstrom, Vanessa Pingleton

Introductions

Gillian shared about the loss of Cory Ortega, and the group shared fond memories of working with her.

Strategies for Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation (KPI)

Heidi and Cynthia recapped discussions from PAC meetings over the past couple of months about how Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation (KPI) dollars can support families of three to five-year-olds during COVID-19. Currently, KPI is partnering with Take Root to provide Ready! For Kindergarten virtually. Two of the Ready! For Kindergarten sessions have taken place and an additional two will be provided before June 2021. Each session includes a private Facebook group as well as manipulatives and supplies for the program.

Heidi shared that a superintendent in Lake County provided information on educational kits for three to five-year-old children called Teach My Kits. These kits are designed to assist families to interact with their children in 20-minute increments and has a focus on math and literacy. The kits can be found at <http://teachmy.com/teach-my-preschooler-learning-kit.php>. Kit materials are available in English and Spanish Guides are also available with an intent to teach families and children English. The group agreed that this would be a beneficial product to purchase, and shared excitement about providing physical materials opposed to additional virtual experiences.

Cynthia asked the group how we could get these kits into family's hands. Suggestions included:

- Libraries
- Mail to families
- Home Visitors
- DHS Coaches
- CCO Case Managers
- Community Health Workers
- Aviva Healthy Start Worker
- Healthy Start
- Head Start Waitlists
- Early Childhood Special Education Waitlists
- Preschool Promise Waitlists.

Heidi suggested that kits could include additional resources for families such as:

- "101 Books to Read with Your Children"
- Community UPLIFT Brochure
- Take Root class schedule.

Cynthia shared that KPI has funding for about 1280 kits for Douglas County. Families who are part of the Early Care and Education Sector Plan's priority groups should be prioritized as they are groups who are historically underserved. The priority groups are:

- Children/families living in areas of geographic isolation including experiencing poverty
- Children who are experiencing displacement
- Children who are experiencing physical or developmental disabilities or delays, including those with mental health concerns and/or trauma

- Children from Hispanic/Latinx families
- Children from Tribal / Native American families

Cynthia will send a survey to the South-Central Early Learning Hub's community partner organizations to determine if they would be able to assist with distribution to children who are not currently being served, how many kits they could distribute, and the best way for them to receive kits.

COVID-19 Update with Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer

Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer shared that the number of COVID-19 cases are getting worse. COVID cases peaked in March/April and again in June/July. We are seeing another rise in cases and a third, higher peak. At the end of August, Douglas County was having ten cases in a week, now there are that many positives in a day. It is predicted that the next six to twelve weeks will be the darkest of the pandemic.

Two outbreaks in schools occurred today. Additional outbreaks have been in hospitals, child care settings, care facilities, etc. There was one outbreak in a restaurant that has now spread to two schools and a child care. This stemmed from a party where no masks were worn, people from out of the area, and a troubadour band from outside of the state. When an individual from the party tested positive, they visited with friends in-person to share the news of the positive result.

So far, each of the school outbreaks have been cases that were transmitted from the family to the student and stopped at the student without further infection.

Dr. Bob encouraged the group to get flu shots. There are four, free, drive through flu shot clinics for anyone aged six months and up. If we have an outbreak of flu, it will be impossible to tell if it is a flu or COVID until testing comes back for each person.

Supporting Children and Families with an Equity Lens

Alexis began to facilitate the Equity Lens discussion and requested input from those who had used the Equity Lens. Kendra shared the Equity Lens with Aviva staff so they could utilize the questions to ensure policy changes are equitable. Aviva is currently utilizing the Equity Lens to evaluate the equity of mandating their patients wear masks while in their office. While the agency will adhere to state guidelines, they are working on procedures to be sensitive to patient populations, especially around people with past trauma. Kendra shared that it has been helpful to have the questions available and to utilize them during meetings. The questions have aided expanding conversations around equity.

Alexis shared that groups can use different pieces of the Equity Lens to develop capacity and analysis as an additional tool to center equity. It would be helpful for us all to practice and build capacity to answer the questions in the Equity Lens.

Alexis had people break out into small groups to discuss:

Where are there capacity needs to help this group move into using the Lens?

What can make this more accessible to you?

Top 3 things you would like to explore more?

What capacity (skills, tools, concepts) do you want to build in order to use the equity lens and/or advance equity?

The groups shared back:

Where are the capacity needs to help this group move into using the Lens?

- Moving towards a commitment to be intentional about the use of the Equity Lens.
- Need to have a varied group to be sure different perspectives are being heard. This includes stakeholders because our assumptions or biases may not be the same as the stakeholder.

What can make this more accessible to you?

- Print the graphic Equity Lens and post in meeting rooms so that people are using it in every day work.
 - If we are only using it in big decisions or new programs, we're missing the boat.

- Practice
- Bring a dilemma or challenge to each meeting and dedicate time to work through it using the equity lens and peer learning.
- Short (1-1.5 hour) equity trainings/workshops/learning.
- Small Cohort working on equity with Cliff/Alexis and bring information back to the group; peer to peer teaching.

Top 3 things you would like to explore more?

- During COVID, additional inequities have been created and it's more difficult to pull stakeholders into the conversations.
- It would be beneficial to explore different types of inequities, not just race, economic, etc.

What capacity (skills, tools, concepts) do you want to build in order to use the equity lens and/or advance equity?

- UCAN will review the equity lens to potentially use this one so equity is more forefront and visible
- Would like to know more about the different areas of equity; feels defaulted to racial inequities.
 - Geographic/Poverty/etc. to broaden our viewpoints
 - “Oppression Olympics” How do we actually look at equity as a “constellation” of issues?
 - Lots of different inequities
 - In rural communities, economics – class/economics is a major factor
 - Power dynamics can enhance inequity also

Hub and Partner Updates

Gillian - Vanessa is currently processing the Douglas County Community UPLIFT referrals and is doing a great job. Athena and Danielle are busy processing the Coordinated Enrollment applications and are doing a great job. Head Start and Preschool Promise are both having challenges around COVID impacting enrollment numbers. The Oregon Early Learning Council will have a retreat coming up and will share the progress of Raise Up Oregon.

KPI – The Professional Learning Team has been in place for four years, and consists of 13 Early Learning and School District individuals. KPI is putting together professional development for additional groups that will take place over the next six months and will pay for costs of the trainings.

Community UPLIFT – Vanessa shared that there have been 528 regional referrals from inception to now. In the last quarter there were 86 referrals, with 57 of them being in Douglas County. Douglas County has had a total of 340 referrals to date, while Klamath County has had 172 referrals to date and Lake County has had 14 referrals to date. Two referrals for other counties have been processed through the data base, and have connected additional families to services in other areas without using official referrals.

Community Uplift is sponsoring a training opportunity. On December 3 from 1:30 to 4:00 pm, Dr. Amy Stoeber will present a live, virtual training about connecting with families during COVID and managing stress. In January, Dr. Amy will present another live virtual training entitled - ACES 201.

Head Start / Early Head Start – There are two new Early Head Start classrooms open in their center that can serve 36 infants and toddlers. Head Start classrooms have openings across the county. Due to new guidelines around required space per child, children are coming two to three days per week, which does not work for all families.

Head Start is currently hiring additional teaching staff.

Healthy Families is currently hiring in Douglas and Klamath Counties.

Care Connections and Education - Fall Conference is occurring Wednesday through Saturday of this week (October 21 through 24). The contributing organizations are Douglas ESD, UCAN, the South-Central Early Learning Hub, and Umpqua Community College. This is the first attempt at a virtual conference. The planning group decided that eight hours on a Saturday would be too much for a virtual training. STEAM presented the initial training on Wednesday night. There were 62 registrants, and a 95% turn out to the Wednesday training. Dr. Sally Guyon will be the presenter tonight, she will be sharing about supporting young children’s social and emotional development. Friday there will be a showing of

the film *No Small Matter*, which shares information about why childcare is important. The conference will conclude on Saturday with a presentation by Dr. Johnny Lake about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

The Childcare Coalition of Douglas County had providers pick up technology supplies, PPE, paper products, and school supplies that were provided by Douglas County and other Coalition partners. Seventeen centers and 37 family providers received supplies.

Evergreen Family Medicine shared that their Baby Beginnings Program is expanding with an OB/GYN office that will be connecting patients and families to nurses and clinical staff providing an opportunity to keep up with appointments, developmental needs, etc. There will be a Lamaze class occurring in the fall, more information will be provided once details are solidified.

Aviva - Brought on registered dietitians to integrate life style into overall care. Aviva currently has eight medical residents and will be adding 24 more medical residents over the next few years. They will be able to serve an additional 3300 patients once the new residents are on staff. The groundbreaking of the Aviva expansion in Roseburg is close. The new expansion will include a meeting space that will be available to community partners and a community kitchen.

Future Topics

None recommended

Next Meeting Date

November 19, 2020 – 10 am to noon

This meeting will be held virtually, one week early due to Thanksgiving.