

South-Central Oregon Early Learning Hub Douglas County Community Governance Council

*October 27, 2020
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm*

Minutes

Council Members:

- | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Barbara Johnson, <i>Business (Chair)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Heather Murphy, <i>Non-Profit Director</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Diane Dunas, <i>Private School Representative</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Schenewerk, <i>Faith Representative (Vice Chair)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Marta Queant, <i>Language Specialist</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Dannenhoffer, <i>Medical Representative</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dave Gianotti, <i>School Superintendent</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan Zurate, <i>School Superintendent</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Betty Wagner, <i>Social Worker, Therapist</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tammie Hunt, <i>Cow Creek Representative</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Christine Seals, <i>CCO Representative</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Bryan Trenkle, <i>Non-Profit Director</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tim Freeman, <i>Business</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maureen Short, <i>Non-Profit Director</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Debra Thatcher, <i>UCC President</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michael Lasher, <i>ESD Superintendent</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Charlene Stutes, <i>Non-Profit Director</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Desta Welsh, <i>DHS Representative</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shawn Lybarger, <i>Professional Advisory Chair</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Sherri Vogt, <i>Parent Representative</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Staff Present: Gillian Wesenberg, Analicia Nicholson, Cynthia Hurkes, Julie Hurley, Vanessa Pingleton

Others Present: Christin Rutledge, Heidi McGowan, Mandy Rigsby, Marsha LaVerne, Rick Burton

Topic	Discussion	Decisions/Action/Next Steps
Welcome/Introductions	This Governance Council meeting was held virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions.	
Approve February 18, 2020 minutes	February, 2020 minutes were approved with no revisions through consensus.	

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<i>COVID-19 Update</i>	<p>Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer provided a COVID-19 update. This is active pandemic all around the world, especially in the United States. We have reached our third wave with more cases, deaths, and hospitalizations than the first two waves. Douglas County is reaching the COVID-19 case count that the rest of the state has been seeing at about 30 cases per 100,000 people per week. Most of the rest of the US is experiencing cases at a rate of 50 cases per 100,000 individuals. We are seeing people traveling and bringing COVID-19 back with them. Douglas County experienced three deaths in one day in Douglas County this week.</p> <p>Douglas County has had six positive COVID-19 cases in schools, however the virus has not been transmitted to others at the school. TriCity had 67 contacts from one infected student today, schools have a huge amount of contacts per infected individual while most other areas of transmittance have around five contacts per person. It is important to have schools open, and we are trying to keep schools open and have them fully open and serving students in person.</p> <p>Douglas Public Health Network is comparing Douglas County to other similar sized counties around the US. Other counties are really struggling with cases, and are experiencing hospitals being over taxed during this wave.</p> <p>Dr. Bob recommends that everyone get their flu shots so that influenza doesn't compound the problem. Flu shots are available at the drive thru shot clinic Friday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and Veteran's Day from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Douglas County Fairgrounds.</p>	
<i>Director's Report</i>	<p>Gillian shared that Cory passed on October 16.</p> <p>Coordinated Enrollment is now enrolling Preschool Promise students through the South-Central Early Learning Hub. We are doing alright with enrolling in Douglas County, but are filling fewer slots in Klamath County.</p>	

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	<p>We are currently running radio advertisements for Preschool Promise in Klamath County. When families reach out about Preschool Promise, we are also advising them of all of the publicly funded programs in the region and encouraging family choice.</p> <p>The South-Central Early Learning Hub is working closely with the Care Connections and Education, the regional Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) as the CCRR is providing technical assistance for Preschool Promise. We are still waiting for some of the Hub contracts and are providing the services until we have an active contract in place. The Early Learning Division (ELD), in response to questions from the legislature, is going to be completing a Budget Note to differentiate between the Early Learning Hubs and the CCRRs. During this process, the ELD is talking with families, community partners, providers, the Hubs and CCRRs to determine the differences between the Hub's roll and the CCRR's roll. We welcome opportunities to work with the legislature and provide additional information to them.</p>	
<p>Early Learning Hub Actions to Date</p>	<p>Steve reviewed the Annual Report highlighting the large amount of families that we serve across the region and the vast amount of work happening in the last few months. We live in a high poverty area and that is not going to improve with COVID-19. Douglas County will be slow to recover due to our dependence on natural resources. The South-Central Early Learning Hub is really working to serve the families in need through Coordinated Enrollment and with different Hub projects. Steve encouraged everyone to read the success stories included in the Annual Report as they provide a clear picture on how we are helping families.</p> <p>Through the Meyer Memorial Grant, the South-Central Early Learning Hub worked with Capacity Building Partnerships to create an Equity Lens. In Steve's opinion, this is the most exciting piece of work the Hub has done recently. All of us want to help create equity, but we may not be asking the right questions, the Equity Lens leads us down the right</p>	

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	<p>path. The Lens is like a telescope where you're always having to adjust a little bit. Gillian shared that we have been asked to change 4B to "interventions" instead of "interventions and solutions" as the interventions lead to solutions. Steve would like to have the Equity Lens lead us into the future by asking these questions and walking through this process.</p>	
<p>Douglas County Child Care</p>	<p>Steve observed that when we started seeing that schools weren't going to open it was largely realized that school aged child care was emergent. Child care providers have been providing emergency child care, but trying to figure out what that looks like as expectations, needs, and rules change has been difficult. The need for child care has become a bigger crisis than it was even before this. Julie Hurley and Heather Freilinger have been co-leading the Douglas County Child Care Coalition. Leaders through Lone Rock contacted Julie due to work with Business Champions for Kids and discuss how to get employees' children cared for so they could work while children were unable to attend school. A group of multi-sector partners came together to discuss and work through solutions for child care. Julie and Heather have provided education around requirements for opening child cares and have led the Coalition in how to leverage, expand, and support existing programs. The coalition received city and county funds to support existing child care providers.</p> <p>The Douglas County Child Care Coalition held two distribution nights where the coalition was able to provide paper products, cleaning supplies, school supplies, and distance learning supplies to child care providers. The county provided all of the items that were given to providers. The coalition is still looking into what providers need to continue operating or to reopen. There is an effort to allow for reimbursements to providers on approved expenses that will be paid for by the City of Roseburg. The coalition is working with the Boys and Girls</p>	

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	<p>Club to help them open full days, supplemental staff may be provided by Douglas Education Service District.</p> <p>Abby's Pizza delivers to areas across the county, so they have volunteered to transport items to locations further outside of Roseburg. Lone Rock is assisting with distribution to Reedsport through their company trucks. Individuals who assisted with getting the items out to providers put faces to the problem instead of it being a nebulous faceless need.</p> <p>The coalition is showing No Small Matter to bring more awareness around the child care crisis. They are also bringing in individuals from other counties that can provide further information on what has and has not worked to add child care availability across the state.</p> <p>There is a need to retain staff as that is always a difficulty that is being perpetuated by COVID-19.</p> <p>All of the dollars being received from the City of Roseburg and Douglas County are directly related to COVID-19, so in the long-term, additional revenues will be required to assist with child care staff retention.</p> <p>Heidi asked the group, "What do we need, what can we do to support, how can we partner?"</p> <p>Maureen shared that Healthy Start's funds are currently funneled into WIC, but there is more funding than is needed for the staff to support the community need. United Community Action Network (UCAN) is in the very beginning stages of planning, but there is enough money to open a diaper distribution center through WIC. It would be helpful if they could have a relationship with the providers so providers can distribute diapers, provide family information to UCAN, or connect families to resources through Community UPLIFT. UCAN is planning to</p>	

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	<p>spend \$21,000 per year on diapers, safe sleep (pack and plays, etc.), and other items. Sleep in Heavenly Peace does not provide beds to children under three, currently, so UCAN will be partnering with them to provide beds to younger children.</p> <p>Steve shared that the faith-based groups are reluctant to engage in child care due to the regulations around the state. Many of the workers in churches are also older which drives up a concern in children's programs due to the vulnerability of the older population to COVID-19. Providers' being underpaid makes it difficult to retain or recruit additional providers. It would be beneficial for the state to explore tax cuts and other options for providers.</p> <p>Heather shared that Head Start received a large increase in funding to pay teachers more across the state, but there are not qualified professionals. We need help from the legislature to encourage teachers and to empower providers as a profession. Relief Nurseries are asking for equity in pay also. Home Visitors are not receiving the pay of educators as they should, and are seeking equity of pay as well. Maureen shared concern regarding wages collapsing if the economy does not recover. There are concerns about private providers going to Head Start and publicly funded programs and leaving a gap in the private provider sector.</p> <p>Heather shared that the more equity in pay that we have, the more chances of individuals following their dreams and entering the child care profession.</p>	
<p>Community UPLiFT, KPI, Take Root, and Partner Updates</p>	<p>Vanessa - Community UPLiFT – To date, this year, Community UPLiFT has received 528 referrals with 86 in the last quarter. 340 of those have been in Douglas County.</p> <p>Dr. Amy Stoeber is going to be providing a three-hour training December 3 called "Helping the Helpers." Then, she will provide another training</p>	

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	<p>on Trauma and Resilience 201, the date for this training has not yet been set. Hopefully, with a partnership with the Health Care Coalition of Southern Oregon (HCCSO) and Alison Hinson, there will be a year of mental health training. Last month, there was a training around using humor as a tool in helping during a stressful time. Over 300 individuals from across the state attending the training.</p> <p>Cynthia – Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) – KPI is working with Take Root to provide Ready! For Kindergarten virtually, across the region. KPI will provide nine, one-hour trainings around the different Growing Early Mindset (GEM) labs. There will be slots for 30 attendees to participate in a Dare to Lead training series with Heidi, currently, there are 13 that are signed up. KPI will provide the training and accompanying books. Cynthia brought the need for school readiness activities for three to five-year-olds to the Professional Advisory Committees (PACs) across the region. It was determined that Teach My Preschool Kits will be provided to the priority populations across the region. Lake County created a plan to get the kits out to children today. Teach My is providing a discount so the kits will be \$19.99 instead of \$29.99. In January, there will be virtual Early Learning Community meetings.</p> <p>Heather Freilinger - Care Connections and Education – CCRR – Heather shared that the first virtual conference provided by Care Connections and Education took place over the last week, with three evening classes and a Saturday class. Most everyone who signed up attended the conference and it was, overall, a great success. The CCRR gave out around \$2000 in prizes to attendees. The CCRR has hired a Preschool Promise coach, and is excited to provide that support to the Preschool Promise startup programs. Charlene Shaw will be working with Preschool Promise providers and Alisa will be assisting with setting up classrooms and providing supports. The CCRR is</p>	

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	<p>still waiting for their contract, but we are making sure everyone is receiving what they need. The Hub is a convener and bringing everyone to the table and the CCRR is working towards capacity building for early learning, so we work closely while providing different services.</p> <p>Maureen - Head Start - Early Head Start opened two more center-based classrooms, so there are 16 more child slots in Roseburg. All of the Early Head Start programs are open and running well. Head Start is still hiring teachers and support staff as well as taking applications for students.</p> <p>Julie – Take Root - Parenting classes have been moved to virtual programming. There are three, ten-week series going on now: Incredible Infants (expecting parents or families with infants), Make Parenting a Pleasure (families with zero to eight-year-olds), Nurturing Parenting for Adolescents.</p> <p>Take Root is also providing their standard workshops and doing Facebooks live presentations.</p>	
Wrap-up	Tammie is retiring, please thank her for her work with the Hub and the Tribe.	
Next meeting	April 20, 2021	