

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

October 24, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.

In Attendance, Welcome, Approval of Minutes

Present: Shawn Massingale, Madison Bright, Krystal Sanchez, Katrina Basso, Colleen May-Weir, Aurora Ropp, Cady Lyon

Staff Present: Athena Wikstrom, Danielle Walker, Charlee Scheer, Susan Stiles, Ronda Osborn, Vanessa Pingleton, Heather Sewall, Michelle Bassett

Introduction and approval of September minutes. Cady Lyon made a motion to approve the September minutes as submitted. Susan Stiles seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion Passed.

Hub Update

Athena Wikstrom, Early Learning Hub – Douglas Educational Service District (ESD) received a grant from the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) for Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Suspension and Expulsion Planning and Implementation. Douglas ESD is contracting with the South-Central Early Learning Hub to complete the planning portion of the Suspension and Expulsion Planning Grant. As of July 1, 2026, children will no longer be able to be suspended or expelled from any childcare facility no matter where the funding comes from. Implementing these changes is a learning process for all involved and there are changes happening all the time which makes it difficult when creating a new system and process. There will be focus groups with Behavioral Health Specialists, Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE), childcare providers, and other community members. Hub staff will bring questions back to the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) for input. Heidi East McGowan, who will be assisting with the project, will facilitate a Steering Committee, that will also include Dr. Amy King, an international Early Childhood Behavioral Health Consultant.

Gillian and Athena recently attended a community meeting in Klamath Falls with the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) Director, to discuss what is working well, where barriers exist, the need for family coaches statewide and the great work that is being done.

The Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) and the South-Central Early Learning Hub (SCELH) are planning on re-releasing the Preschool Promise Request for Application (RFA) for our region to reallocate 18 Preschool Promise slots. The RFA will only be going to our region because the Department of Early Learning and Care did not receive any applications that would qualify in the priority areas with the greatest need for free preschool.

Preschool Promise (PSP) continues to accept applications year-round. Douglas County is mostly full, Head Start has some openings for PSP in Glide. The South-Central Early Learning Hub and Head Start are working on a virtual tour for the Glide Preschool Promise program.

Ronda Osborn, Early Learning Hub – Community UPLiFT staff are meeting with local partners to share information and raise awareness about the program, ensuring organizations are informed about the resource. The goal is to maximize assistance to families with children prenatal to five or up to twenty-one if the child has disabilities or special needs. The Preschool Promise application form now has a section that asks families if there is an interest in being connected to resources in the community. Adding this question to the Preschool Promise applications has increased the number of referrals to Community UPLiFT. Many families are enthusiastic about receiving the opportunity to be connected to resources in the community.

Athena Wikstrom, Early Learning Hub – Community UPLiFT received over 90 referrals for the region last quarter, keeping both Ronda and Danielle busy calling families and connecting families to local resources. The commitment is to reach out to the families within 48 business hours.

Vanessa Pingleton – There was a State led Home Visiting Summit that took place in Salem, OR with approximately 50 people in attendance. There was representation from Umpqua Health Alliance [a

Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) in Douglas County], and the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELCE). The purpose of the meeting was to bring together different committees who have never met in person before [which includes the Center for Coordinating Oregon Home Visiting Systems (CCOHVS), the state Home Visiting Steering Committee, the Home Visiting Collaborative, and the Home Visiting System Coordinators that are grantees with The Ford Family Foundation], to discuss Early Childhood Home Visiting. This summit was an opportunity to discuss funding for CCOHVS, how to bring equitable pay and benefits to Early Childhood Home Visitors and why it is important for programs to have pay equity. There was also discussion on how to get the word out about the benefits of Early Childhood Home Visiting because there is such a huge benefit for families and communities when a family is enrolled in Early Childhood Home Visiting.

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Update

Michelle Bassett, Childcare Resource and Referral (CCR&R)- Care Connections & Education, the Regional Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) had 29 hours of virtual training in September with 57 participants, which is lower than normal.

In November, there will be a virtual workshop put on by Southern Oregon University (SOU) that Early Learning Professionals can get college credit for attending. Michelle shared that an Early Care and Education (ECE) Conference was held at Umpqua Community College (UCC) which had approximately 120 participants (close to double the prior year's attendance). Rusty Keeler was the keynote speaker and has a book titled "Adventures in Risky Play," as well as online courses covering the topic. Training topics included inclusive risky play, risky movement, creative movement, and indoor and outdoor creative play. Rusty also went over how to determine your "Yes's and No's," how to work with licensing, and how risky play can support your program.

CCR&R is in the process of hiring another Quality Improvement Specialist (QIS) in the Douglas County office. The Klamath Falls office has a full team with four team members: two Preschool Promise coaches, and a Regional Inclusive Facilitator. The Inclusive Facilitator is working with inclusive partners and will be going out to sites in all three counties. This position will help child care providers increase their tools to manage child behavior and will also help connect children to EI/ECSE services, when needed.

There are currently 31 registered childcare providers in Douglas County, nine of which are certified family childcare providers, and 24 childcare centers.

The Spring Fling for Douglas County is coming up on May 17, 2025. Lisa Murphy, the Ooey Gooey Lady, will be there. March 15, 2025, Sharon Crawl will be at the Klamath County Spring Fling.

Partner Updates

Shawn Masingale, Early Head Start/ Head Start- Head Start has all classrooms open and has asked the state to reallocate some Oregon Prekindergarten (OPK) slots to bring back the half day classrooms in Winston and South Umpqua that were relinquished last year. Preschool Promise in Glide is doing well, there are currently three openings.

Head Start is in the process of hiring a Health Services Program Manager. Head Start continues to take applications year-round for preschool.

Heather Sewall, Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) - There are currently 104 students in the Early Intervention (EI) birth to three program, and 249 in the Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) three to five program. There are currently seven Early Learning Center specialized classrooms with 105 students attending. Additionally, 24 students are in ECSE speech classrooms and 120 students have been placed in community child care settings. This is the first year that there are more students receiving special education services out in the community than in specialized classrooms, it is exciting to be moving toward more community inclusion with support.

An instructional assistant has been hired and will be starting next week.

Krystal Sanchez, Early Childhood Specialist for Migrant Education – Every year the Migrant Education Program must make sure families the program is aware of are still in the service areas of Lane and Douglas Counties. There are almost 600 students in Douglas and Lane Counties from age three to twenty-one that are supported by this program which requires a mass enrollment every year. Most of the focus for enrollment has been on Lane County in the past because that is where the larger populations of known migrant families are located. There is hope that more time will be spent in Douglas County engaging migrant families this year. The

statewide service plan was just completed which determines how services are provided. The Migrant Education Program is not Hispanic or Latino based, it is purely for families who work in agriculture, forestry, or fisheries which tend to be seasonal jobs that lead to families moving around or migrating. Migrant Education is a federal program for migrant families who lose a lot of education due to moving around so much. Each program looks different depending on the region and who the migrant workers are.

Susan Stiles, Take Root Parenting Connection – Take Root Parenting Connection has several workshops coming up. Some of the workshops coming up are:

- November 14, 2024, at 5:30 pm - there will be an event for all educators and health care providers. The presentation will be given by a physician and clinical psychologist from the Bay Area of California, who wrote the book *Smart Parents*. This workshop will be held at the Douglas ESD building at 1871 NE Stephens, Roseburg, OR.
- November 20, 2024, at 5:30 pm - Rogue Credit Union will present All About Your Finances workshop. The workshop will be about credit score improvement, paying down debt, and budgeting. It will be held at the Douglas ESD building at 1871 NE Stephens, Roseburg, OR.
- November 21, 2024 - Les Rogers is going to present Strengths Planning for Your Child at 6:00 pm at the Douglas ESD building at 1871 NE Stephens, Roseburg, OR.
- December 5, 2024, at 5:30 pm - there will be an online workshop for parents called Understanding Developmental Milestones.

Colleen May-Weir, United Community Action Network (UCAN) – Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides food vouchers, resources, and education for families who are pregnant or have children under the age of five and meet income requirements.

Farm Direct vouchers need to be used by November 30, 2024. These vouchers turn into real money for the local farmers, so this program helps both the farmers and the families receiving the vouchers.

Healthy Families is now fully staffed with a new bilingual staff member. Having a Spanish bilingual staff member has helped to increase the enrollment of Spanish speaking families.

UCAN is taking referrals for home visiting nurses. Interested parties can apply through the United Community Action Network (UCAN) website, UCANCap.org.

Feeding Umpqua has just finished the Empty Bowls event. Moving into winter, the need for food within the community has increased far more than in the past. If anyone's place of work would like to do a food drive over the holiday season, please get in touch with Feeding Umpqua for support with that endeavor. Folks who do not qualify for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) can often qualify at local pantries and the Mobile Outpost Food Pantry.

Athena Wikstrom, Early Learning Hub – The negative impacts on families that go from having multiple service supports to having none with a minimal income increase or when they get a paying job creates substantial barriers for families and was discussed at the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) meeting. This has led to many families opting not to work because families often receive more benefits when on assistance than through a private job. The hope was to bring awareness to the state level of the difficulties families currently face.

Colleen May-Weir, United Community Action Network (UCAN) – If a family must pay for medical insurance, it can be up to \$200 a month for one child which completely outweighs any raise the family may get from the current occupation they are in and could put the family in further deficit.

Shawn Masingale, Early Head Start/ Head start- Christmas for Kids is happening right now. Please share out any other Christmas programs that may be happening this year.

United Community Action Network (UCAN) put in for a grant for Head Start to partner with the Mobile Food Pantry and are hoping to send a bilingual representative to talk to migrant families about signing children up for Head Start. Krystal Sanchez agreed to aid with the enrollment of any migrant family's children into Head Start.

Athena Wikstrom, Early Learning Hub – Even though there is a large population of Spanish speaking migrants in Lake County, there isn't anyone in Migrant Education covering Lake County which could be because it is such

a small county. There is also hesitancy to report across the whole region because of concerns of retribution for being Hispanic or Latino.

Krystal Sanchez offered to share the information about Lake County at the migrant meetings to hopefully remedy the lack of support there.

Danielle Walker, South-Central Early Learning Hub – Community UPLiFT has had an increasing number of referrals coming in. As of September 30, 2024, there has been a total of 1528 referrals. Douglas County has had 898 referrals, Klamath County has had 603 referrals, Lake County has had 23 referrals, and there have been three referrals from other counties. The total number of referrals for the first quarter, July through September 2024 was 93, with 48 in Douglas County, 44 in Klamath County and one in Lake County, up a total of 19 referrals from this same quarter last year. Since October 1, 2024, there have been 13 referrals in Douglas County, and 11 referrals in Klamath County for a total of 24 referrals. The increase is partially due to a Community UPLiFT question that was added to the Preschool Promise applications.

Ronda has been attending many of the Douglas County community events and reaching out to local partners to raise awareness of Community Uplift. Ronda is also checking with partners about whether referrals are coming through smoothly and encouraging those partners to complete the referral review forms to help make sure there are no gaps in the closed loop referral system.

Community Presentation and Discussion: Roseburg Public Library

Aurora Ropp, Roseburg Public Library – Aurora shared that the Roseburg Public Library provides many activities throughout the year. Some of the activities provided by the Roseburg Public Library are:

- Story times for toddlers and preschoolers on Wednesdays and Thursdays,
- Finger rhymes and practicing colors with children and the caregivers, which will run during fall 2024.
- A new story time for ages six to eighteen months for newer parents which encourages talking, singing, and playing every day to help develop their child's early literacy skills.
- The Roseburg Public Library is an affiliate of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library which covers most zip codes in Douglas County. A group called Friends of the Roseburg Public Library (FOTL) helps pay for the shipping of books to the homes of kids zero to five-years old once a month.
- The library has board books, picture books, and easy readers available to children just learning to read.
- There are opportunities for children from birth to high school graduation to get library cards for free if the child attends a school in the Roseburg School District but lives outside the Roseburg city limits.
- During the summer there are reading programs and more activities available for younger children to do.
- Library staff also do school outreach visits.
- Preschools can schedule private story time.
- Tours are given to kindergarten, first grade, and second grade classes.

Field trips can be scheduled by contacting library staff over the phone at 541-492-7050, in person, or by sending an email to library@roseburgor.gov.

Beginning next week there will be a Halloween themed craft time.

- Every Thursday there are different children's activities.
- There is an artist specific program.
- There is a Lego program.
- Also included is a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program.
- There are Teen craft activities twice a month.

These children's programs are planned for all ages from preschool to grade 5. All activities are listed on the library website at roseburgpubliclibrary.org. Teens can also volunteer to earn volunteer hours for high school or for college applications. Currently, there are no sensory based story times.

Next Meeting Date

November 21, 2024, from 10:00 am-12:00pm