

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

September 24, 2020 | 10:00 a.m.

In Attendance, Welcome, Approval of Minutes

Present: Alisa McDonald, Alexis Millett, Bob Dannenhoffer, Carrie Lamberson, Cesia Duclose-Ayala, Cliff Jones, Danielle McKiddy, Elisabeth Stanphill, Heidi McGowan, Judi Mahoney, Kendra Bickham, LeeAnn Grogan, Lisa Ketchum, Shawn Lybarger, Tatum Stedman, Theresa Songer-Tuckey

Staff Present: Gillian Wesenberg, Athena Wikstrom, Cory Ortega, Cynthia Hurkes, Danielle Walker, Susan Stiles-Sumstine

Early Learning Hub Collective Action During COVID-19

Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer discussed the current COVID-19 situation in Douglas County. He advised that COVID-19 is still very active with seven million cases in the United States and 200,000 deaths. Oregon has had the lowest infection rate of any large state. Other counties the size of Douglas County have seen 60 to 70 deaths, while Douglas County has experienced four. COVID-19 is infecting ages one to 88-years. Dr. Bob was hoping that by September the cases would be lulling, however, now he is expecting to see active cases through the fall and likely through the school year.

Heidi posed the question, "What are you seeing families need?"

Dr. Bob responded that, in his observations, families are exhausted by one thing after another (COVID-19, fires, etc.), they are starting to lose confidence, and appearing more bedraggled. After this length of time, chronic fatigue and stress is really setting in. Resilient families are continuing to be resilient, but families who are less resilient do not have effective coping strategies to continue to succeed. COVID-19 has really separated the "haves" and the "have nots."

Dani from the Family Development Center shared that they are seeing families needing respite care, especially for single parent homes. School and over-nights with friends and families used to relieve some of the burden, however those are not possibilities right now. Family, Faith, and Relationship Advocates (FARA) is starting a Safe Families program that will provide respite care.

Dr. Bob observed that historically, families would receive respite from grandparents, and they are specifically the ones who shouldn't provide care during this time.

Tatum shared that she is seeing parents asking for a support group for how to help their child navigate through this isolation. She provided the following video that shows the isolation felt by students.

[numb - a short film // liv mcneil](#)



Dr. Bob advised that Halloween is safe if you do not go in groups, observe social distancing, and do not spend extended periods of time with any other individuals. There will be a drive through at the Douglas County Fairgrounds, and a Veteran's Day stationary, reverse parade where participants will set up along a parade route and families will be able to drive through. Douglas Public Health Network (DPHN) will be providing information and a video on how we can safely trick-or-treat.

Cynthia asked the group if KPI funds could be utilized in an event that is already planned such as the Veteran's Day or Halloween reverse parades that would help parents? Suggestions were a gift for parents, educational kits, etc.

LeeAnn shared that there will not be an in-person event for the Douglas County Baby Shower this year. They are looking at a virtual event and having informational online events throughout the year.

Early Learning Hub Collective Action as a Result of Fires

LeeAnn Grogan asked if the group was aware of the long-term impact of exposure for pregnant women, infants, and children. Dr. Bob shared that Oregon usually has some of the best air quality in the world, but had a week of catastrophic air quality. The air quality we had is the kind of air that mild smokers have going into their lungs regularly. He was not able to find studies about long-term effects of a week of bad air on any groups. There was not an uptick in Emergency Department visits in Douglas County during the poor air quality. Almost all recent COVID-19 cases are from non-fire affected families.

There are local families needing clothes, food, diapers, wipes, COVID-19 cleaning supplies, etc. after being affected by the fires.

Douglas County Child Care

Theresa from Care Connections and Education, the regional Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) provided an update on the current child care needs and status. The CCRR is calling providers frequently to determine vacancies, last month, there were very few vacancies. They are seeing more vacancies and child care come available this month. Douglas County has a new center that is open, but they are having a hard time finding teachers. Head Start and a couple of other centers are also having a hard time finding qualified staffing. Some centers have opened their age range to include school-aged children and are providing tablets to assist with schooling during the day.

With the reduced overhead due to an increased cost for cleaning and COVID-19 precautions, some providers have been struggling. To ease the burden on providers, the Early Learning Division (ELD) is providing supplies for providers.

Gillian provided a Preschool Promise updated. We are excited to be able to start qualifying families for Preschool Promise. Requirements for eligibility include:

- The child must be three or four-years-old by September 1,
- The family must be at 200% of the federal poverty level, and
- The family must be Oregon residents.

The Hub is acting as a liaison between the ELD and providers for enrollment questions.

If you know families who are interested, please send them our way so we can get as many eligible children enrolled as possible. The Douglas County Preschool Promise sites are in Yoncalla, Elkton, Drain, Sutherlin, Winston, and two in Myrtle Creek including an in-home provider.

Supporting Children and Families with an Equity Lens

Alexis and Cliff from Capacity Building Partnerships reviewed the region's previous work on equity. They reminded the group that an Equity Lens is a living document that can be refined, updated, and grow as we needed and as our goals change and evolve. A small group from all three counties come together to refine the document to include the questions as they were discussed by the individual groups.

Gillian communicated her excitement to have a working Equity Lens, and that members of the groups have shared that they would like to use this Lens outside of the Hub. This has taken a couple of years to come together.

Cliff reviewed the visual Equity Lens.

Heidi shared that she has worked on a lot of Equity Lenses and this is the best visual she has seen.

The group split into small groups to discuss the following questions and reported back on question one:

1. What are your questions and or reflections about the Equity Lens?

Answers:

Members from United Community Action Network (UCAN) shared:

Our group is using these same types of questions when making decisions, but has put a hold on creating a formal Equity Lens during COVID-19. When providing modified services, we are trying to ask questions to determine if the services are being equitable. There are multiple ways that families can participate in Head Start right now that focus on equitable practices.

Cliff shared that if you are making decisions, this is relevant as you may be following patterns that are or are not equitable. While responding to disasters is the most important time to be conscious of equity.

Kendra is working on a federal report for a major funding source, and as they are going through data these questions will be helpful when considering how COVID-19 and related stressors has impacted the ability to provide continuity and reach patients.

2. Where might you use this Equity Lens to promote equity in a decision or program in your organization?

Cliff shared that a quote he uses around equity is, "Do it how you can do it, not how you can't. He also advised the group that they could pull out four or five questions and send to colleagues to bring focus to a meeting or decision, and that the Equity Lens helps with unconscious bias

3. Is someone interested in using this Equity Lens before our October meeting and willing to report back about what you learn?

LeeAnn with Health Care Coalition would like to use it in the task force and coalition.

Early Learning Hub, Community UPLiFT, KPI, TakeRoot Updates

Vanessa provided an update on Community UPLiFT. To date, Community UPLiFT has received 522 referrals since 2017. Douglas County has received 336 of them, Klamath County has received 167, Lake County has received 15, and four referrals have been for counties outside of our region, that we connected to the Home Visiting Coordinator in the appropriate counties. We have continued to build our relationship with Evergreen and are now their go-to referral source. Expectant parents and families with children zero to five continue to be our main referral source. Hope Pregnancy Clinic utilized Community UPLiFT as their main referral source.

Yesterday Leigh Anne Jasheway, who is a comic put on a training titled, "Using your Sense of Humor during a Pandemic." The training was recorded and will be shared out to the group. 348 signed up for the training, 303 attended including Home Visitors, Mercy Staff, Community Care Organizations, DHS (Child Welfare, Self Sufficiency), FDC, and UCAN. The training was shared with the whole state, but mostly regional partners attended. 301 were still on at the end of the training. Vanessa is working hard to bring Dr. Amy Stoeber for virtual trainings. The first training is expected to be, "Helping the Helpers" in November and the second will be "Trauma and Resilience 201" in December.

Vanessa is hoping to put out family surveys to get family perspective on materials and services that are currently available. She partnered with Take Root to include information from them on the survey also. The surveys are launching later than anticipated due to survey fatigue around COVID-19, however they are expected to launch in November. Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) is going to provide gift cards to families who complete the survey.

Cynthia shared that KPI is continuing to invest in the work performed last year. Ready! For Kindergarten is being provided virtually through Facebook by Take Root. They are hoping to have three sessions offered regionally between now and June 2021. Growing Early Mindsets (GEM) is continuing virtually with nine sessions exploring the nine labs. Cynthia hopes to continue early learning gatherings regionally, before COVID-19 it was very successful. There will be two regional gatherings virtually after the beginning of the year. KPI will also participate in the Umpqua Community College Early Childhood conference and the Klamath Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children conference.

The South-Central Early Learning Hub still has COVID-19 relief supply available from their Umpqua Health grant. If you know of a family needing supplies, please let Athena know.

Partner Update

Take Root – Susan is putting together the Fall schedule, to be released at the end of this week.

Head Start is still enrolling. Students are coming two to three days a week right now which has been difficult for some families. Winchester and Green locations are having virtual preschool as those schools haven't opened yet. A lot of children have left the program due to COVID-19 concerns, changes in schedules, and other factors. There are two new Early Head Start classrooms that are slated to open in early October, they are both filled,

Health Care Coalition of Southern Oregon (HCCSO) - LeeAnn shared that they still have diapers, wipes, and thermometers, and they are adding pull ups. HCCSO may be adding safe sleep environments like pack and plays as well. There is a current focus on LGBTQ health and reproduction including in October there will be a self-paced training for families who identify as transgender around navigating pregnancy. Teen reproductive health will be upcoming as a training focus. Welcome Baby as a social media experience is going to be launched soon. There will be weekly giveaways and information sessions. HCCSO will need help accessing families who do not have access to the virtual platforms.

Healthy Families - Colleen advised that they had received funds through the Student Success Act (SSA) to expand from 2.6 to five home visitors. They are currently hiring in Douglas County.

- Seeing and screening families

- Transition period, a home visitor went to head start

- New home visitor started today

- Klamath - we are seeing families, supervisor in KC, just opened office, started moving in on Monday, home visitor started Monday and is doing drive by visits today

Aviva Health is recruiting a social determinants of health coordinator. The coordinator will provide social determinants of health information from families to the doctors.

Evergreen Family Medicine is reaching out to schools to see if providers can go out for sports physicals.

Family Development Center (FDC) is opening a satellite site in Sutherlin. Once they have a physical location, classes will be in person. Currently classes are being conducted virtually.

Future Topics

Next meeting - will work on putting together strategies from the Hub

Next Meeting Date

October 22, 2020