

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

September 23, 2021 | 10:00 a.m.

In Attendance, Welcome, Approval of Minutes

Present: Abby Drummond, Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer, CeCe Lynn, Christin Rutledge, Heidi McGowan, Judi ~~Moore~~, Kendra Bickham, Lee Ann Grogan, Maureen Short, Shawn Lybarger, Stacy Powers

Staff Present: Gillian Wesenberg, Danielle Walker, Athena Wikstrom, Heather Freiling, Vanessa Pingleton, Cynthia Hurkes, Ceresse Harris

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

COVID-19 Updates and Vaccine Roll Out

Dr. Bob provided an update on COVID-19. He shared in Douglas County, we have experienced the worst case numbers of the pandemic since our last meeting. There have been a lot of people with positive test results, hospitalizations, and deaths - especially in young people. Patients in their 20's have died from COVID-19 recently, many parents have died and left children. Almost all COVID-19 related deaths have been in unvaccinated patients. Patients are ten times more likely to die if they are not vaccinated. Vaccinated individuals are about 70% protected from contracting COVID-19. Children five to eleven-years-old may be able to be vaccinated soon, the approvals are currently with the FDA. Most of the COVID-19 outbreaks in Douglas County are from people going out when they're sick. Dr. Bob encourages everyone to get a vaccine if they haven't yet. Masking in schools has been very effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19. There has been no proven spread within a school where a student passed it to another student.

The United Kingdom COVID-19 case counts peak about six weeks before the United States peaks. The United Kingdom did have another spike after the initial Delta spike, so there is a chance for another second spike as it has done in the past.

Rapid tests are frequently negative on the first day an individual experiences symptoms, test on the second day of feeling ill. If you get a negative COVID-19 test result, stay home until you don't have symptoms. Do not go to school or work when feeling sick at all. If you're still symptomatic two days past the first negative rapid COVID-19 test, test again. Typically, individuals are the most contagious two days before and two days after experiencing symptoms. The chance of spreading COVID-19 is significantly lower five days after experiencing symptoms. A quarter to one-third of people who get COVID-19 will not be completely well a month later (long-haulers). Symptoms which are present a month after first experiencing symptoms include brain fog, tightness of chest, reduced exercise tolerance, and prolonged loss of sense of smell and taste. People who are getting taste back often state everything tastes bad. There are not treatments for long-haulers, though some people have experienced a reduction of symptoms if they were unvaccinated and got vaccinated. There is nothing to indicate that fertility will at all be affected by the COVID-19 vaccine. Heart inflammation from the COVID-19 vaccine is rare (1 in 100000), almost everyone recovers with ibuprofen, only three individuals in the country have had it create a larger impact. Heart inflammation is about ten times more likely from getting COVID-19 than from getting the vaccine. Blood clots are 20 times more likely from getting the virus than getting the vaccine. All three vaccines available in the United States are effective with Moderna most effect, then Pfizer with Johnson & Johnson the least effective. The Pfizer vaccine has less genetic material than Moderna which is why Pfizer is potentially going to be approved for younger ages sooner. The Delta variant is far more contagious than any of the other variants. The Mu variant is a bit vaccine resistant, but the chances of it spreading wide are pretty low.

Flu could have a resurgence this year as people are interacting more than last year. With a minimal flu season last year, there is a concern with this year's season being really bad.

Early Learning Hub Director Update

Gillian shared Alyssa Chatterjee is the new director of the Early Learning Division (ELD). House Bill 3073 creates the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) which will be its own department and no longer under Oregon Department of Education (ODE) beginning in 2023. Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) will be shifted from the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to the DELIC. Care Connections & Education, the regional Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) is also under the ELD (DELIC in the future) and is now housed at Douglas ESD.

The new Systems Director at the ELD is Carmen Ellis who is taking Joan Blough's former position. During the last legislative session, additional funding was allocated for Preschool Promise, however some of it was held back for the next legislative session so that Preschool Promise could be further evaluated by the legislature. There will be a mini update to the Early Learning Hubs' Early Care and Education (ECE) Sector Plan with a full update in October 2022. Stewardship Committee meetings will be held to update the one-page summary document the ELD put together for the Hubs which were condensed from our original ECE Sector Plans. The Stewardship Committee will include the Regional Governance Council, Head Start, and families. The brief update will be used by the ELD to share the priority groups and needs of the region for Preschool Promise grant applicants during the Request for Application (RFA) that is set to be released in November. The South-Central Early Learning Hub completes Coordinated Enrollment for all Preschool Promise sites across the region. Coordinated Enrollment is qualifying applicant families who are under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), Oregon residents, and have children who are three-or-four-years-old by September 1 of the current school year.

Athena reviewed the priority populations from the ECE Sector Plan. The priority populations are:

- Children and families living in areas of geographic isolation including families experiencing poverty
- Children who are experiencing displacement including families experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and children in kinship care.
- Children from Hispanic / Latinx families
- Children from Native American / Tribal Families
- Children who are experiencing physical or developmental disabilities or delays, including those with mental health concerns and / or trauma
- Infants and children aged 0-3.

Windy shared Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) is working with the CCRR to ensure teachers and classrooms are not overwhelmed as supports for children with Individualized Family Support Plans (IFSPs) come into the classrooms. ECSE wants to support the whole class not just the individual child on the IFSP.

Gillian shared the Hub will work with community partners to assure areas that would like to add a Preschool Promise site are included in the plan and to ensure that the area needs additional care options. There was a requirement in the Preschool Promise RFA application to refer families to community resources. Community UPLiFT provides a means to refer families to services.

Vanessa shared that Community UPLiFT asks basic determinants of health questions and connects families to services they may qualify for and which are the family's choice of services. Referrals could be entered through the data portal or by providing the family with information about the programs they requested. Family and Child Care Plans can now be housed on the Community UPLiFT database for partners to share with the family's permission.

Gillian asked if there is anyone who is applying for Preschool Promise that has not applied before or that may want to expand their slots?

Glide Revitalization is moving forward with remodeling the old Junior High and one of the rooms is expected to hold a preschool. Maureen and Glide Revitalization are talking with one of the local child care providers about assisting. The YMCA is expanding and may be interested in Preschool Promise.

Kindergarten Readiness Innovation and Partnership (KPI) Updates

Cynthia reviewed KPI's summer early learning funding was received by the Hub and was to be expended between April and September. Funding plans were suggested by KPI and community partners, then approved by Professional Advisory Councils (PACs) and Governance Councils. KPI, in partnership with CCRR, is offering 100 participants the Conscious Discipline Building Resilient Classrooms training January through June 2022. The training will include ten videos and five, virtual, facilitated conversations with participants and a Conscious Discipline trainer. Every two videos, there will be a live virtual facilitated conversation. Facilitation will be held from 4:00 to 6:00pm and from 6:00 to 8:00pm to ensure

providers can attend. Participants will receive incentives for the trainings they attend. KPI is also purchasing books for participants.

Mini-grants were allotted to four different organizations. One of the groups that received a mini-grant was the North Douglas Relief Nursery. The Relief Nursery used funds to host events which celebrated the purchase of their property. They recruited new families through these events. The events were held outside and provided community education about the program. Funds were also provided to the STEAM Hub to assist with STEAM kits.

KPI purchased eight slots for the Spanish program called Opening Doors. KPI Will allocate slots based on the percentage of Spanish speaking families served in each county. Two slots will be allocated in Douglas County, two in Lake County, and four in Klamath County.

Three hundred thirty-six Teach My kits were purchased by KPI, Take Root will provide these kits to families by request. Kathleen will provide training about how to use the kits, then families will receive a kit at the end of their training. Additionally, KPI purchased 240 Ready for Kindergarten kits. Take Root will provide Ready for Kindergarten sessions for families.

Hub and Partner Updates

Judi Mahoney – Healthy Families – Healthy Family’s current model for Douglas, Klamath, and Lake County is a hybrid of outdoor and virtual visits. Parents are weary of this model and Judi anticipates a return to in-person visits. Healthy Families is fully staffed!

Athena – The Hub still has infant Lakeshore kits for children who are six-month-olds to 36-month-olds and the kits are available for families who are part of our priority populations. Preschool Promise is still accepting applications, please encourage families to apply.

Gillian – If partners have families attending their programs and the parents would like to share preferences for our ECE Sector Plan update, please send them our way.

Michelle – Family Development Center – There are two and three-year-old slots available in Roseburg.

Vanessa - Community UPLiFT – Family and Child Care Plans are now in the database with the family’s permission and release of information. Community UPLiFT has expanded the portal so agencies can see who receives the referrals they send in and agencies can run reports for sent and received referrals. The next database expansion will include a report which will provide information to the referring agency about where the family is at any point in time within the referral process. Community UPLiFT now has a webpage attached to the South-Central Early Learning Hub’s page. There are over 50 community agencies using Community UPLiFT, either accepting or sending referrals. Three additional agencies became part of Community UPLiFT in the last week. One of the new agencies is Help Me Grow in Siskiyou which connects families who come to Klamath County to receive medical services. Juniper Tree in Douglas County now accepts referrals. Gathering Place and Klamath Open Door are currently accepting referrals in Klamath County. A pilot project in Douglas County is taking place with the McKinney Vento liaison in Sutherlin to send unaccompanied minor referrals to ODHS for services. We have received five referrals through the pilot project.

Douglas County received ten referrals in August. And, in September, Douglas County has received 16 referrals so far. Last night was the final training with Dr. Amy Stoeber about Trauma. If you registered for the training, you will receive a recording that can be shared with anyone. The recording does expire after 30 days.

Community UPLiFT completed family mapping with Portland State University (PSU). A parent attended the family mapping meetings and provided information about what her life was like before Community UPLiFT, what the Community UPLiFT process was like, and an update of what her life is like now.

Windy - Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) – ECSE is working on inclusion for children to be able to interact with typical peers as much as possible. Their department provides as much support as is needed for a child to succeed. ECSE classes started this week.

Crystal – North Douglas Relief Nursery – The Relief Nursery has openings in South Lane County, but slots are currently full in North Douglas County. The program is fully staffed for the first time.

Susan – Take Root – Take Root is starting a fall parenting series. All classes are held virtually so they are available to everyone across our region. Shawn will be teaching Ready for K. The link to Take Root’s fall flyer of parenting series/workshops is located here: <https://douglassesd.k12.or.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Current-Flyer-Fall-21.pdf>

Kendra – Aviva Health - There is drive through COVID-19 testing and a vaccine clinic with respiratory support as well.

Shawn – UCAN – Head Start and Early Head Start classes are all open. UCAN is still short staffed. Head Start needs teachers and assistants. UCAN has a few openings for students, and is still taking applications from pregnant moms through five-year-olds. Home visits are being held outside right now. Play groups are being held at parks. The new kitchen facility is about ready to open. Head Start is updating licensing, in preparation for federal review.

Umpqua Community College (UCC) fall term starts next week. The Early Childhood Education program has twenty new students enrolled this year. Students can still enroll for UCC.

Annette Liebe – The ELD has childcare reopening grants available on their website. Childcare stabilization grants will also be available, the state received \$240M for stabilization grants. Business coaches from the small business training center in Central Oregon are assisting providers in filling out the most grants that they may qualify for. Douglas County is served by the small business development center at UCC, Alex can assist childcare providers to help with the grants.

Future Topics

COVID-19 Updates with Dr. Dannenhoffer

Next Meeting Date

Next meeting October 28 from 10:00am – 12:00pm.