

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

May 25, 2023 | 10:00 a.m.

In Attendance, Welcome, Approval of Minutes

Present: Erin Ritchie, Madison Holmes, DeeJay Juarez, Abby Drummond, Colleen May

Staff Present: Gillian Wesenberg, Heather Freilingner, Ronda Osborn, Windy Digby, Susan Stiles-Sumstine, Cynthia Hurkes, Vanessa Pingleton, Danielle Walker

This meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

Douglas County Professional Advisory Committee members reviewed the April Minutes. Abby Drummond made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Susan Stiles seconded the motion. No further discussion.

Early Learning Hub Update

Gillian Wesenberg - Legislatively, there is an extra \$2.3 billion in revenue for the years 2023-2025. In lottery and lottery bonds, there is \$17 million more than anticipated. Republican Senators have not been meeting and policy bills have not been voted on. If the Legislature does not meet to vote on policy bills, those bills disappear.

House Bill 5013, the budget bill for the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC), was heard this morning. There is some disappointment around the budget as some items were not included. For example, a needed database for Healthy Families, the restoration of Healthy Families services in Lincoln County, the Early Childhood Equity Fund \$7.5 million expansion, and the Relief Nursery Expansion were not included in the current bill.

At the end of the Legislative Session, there will be a Reconciliation Bill (Christmas Tree bill) where there is a possibility for extra funding to be put into departments. The Governor signed an extension for departments to receive funding at their current service level until September 15. This gives the Legislature time to meet again in a Special Session.

Summer Programming for Families

Parent Resource Center at Douglas ESD – Vanessa Pingleton – The Parent Resource Center will be having free Play Dates for families. Families with barriers to transportation will be provided with an all-day bus pass. Yesterday was the first Play Date, and there were 33 attendees.

The next Play Date will be June 14, hosted by Early Head Start. Families will plant sunflower seeds in a terracotta pot, and paint together. Families will receive gloves, a shovel, and more sunflower seeds.

The Play Date Schedule is the second Wednesday of every month and the third Thursday of the month (summer) or the third Friday of the month in the fall.

Take Root Parenting Connection – Susan Stiles – Take Root is finishing the spring schedule with Child Birth Education 101, and a workshop titled All Around the IEP Process with Les Rodgers. The summer schedule has a Cook Together workshop in partnership with Mandy at OSU Extension Office. And, a Make Parenting a Pleasure series in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club.

Family Development Center (FDC) -- Maddie Holmes – FDC is having a Safety Event in June for all current families.

FDC is now enrolling families! Classes are for children ages two to five. There are currently openings in both the Toddler and Preschool class. Openings are always available for the Outreach program. This summer, there will be renovations to the Drain building that will enable FDC to open two new classrooms.

Staff will be starting parenting classes in the fall. Parenting classes will be open to the entire community and will include dinner and childcare. Families will also receive food for themselves to make meals at home.

Peace at Home Presentation

Erin Ritchie joined the Douglas Professional Advisory Committee to present about Peace at Home, formerly known as Battered Persons' Advocacy. Peace at Home is a private, non-profit agency focused on creating a community free of

family violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. This is done through empowerment, support, and education. Peace at Home has been serving the community since 1978.

Peace at Home Advocacy Center has an array of services that it provides to those who have witnessed or are survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. Services include

- 24-hour crisis line and on-site support for victims in need
- Sexual assault and domestic violence peer-to-peer counseling services
- Support groups – Starting in August
- Community education and training
- Direct assistance – fuel, hotels, sometimes financial
- Legal advocacy – help with applying for restraining orders
- Student outreach and advocacy – dating violence awareness and healthy relationships
- Emergency shelter and transitional housing
- CONFIDENTIAL space alongside services
- Referral and support services

The Youth Outreach Program is a newer program that provides prevention education for youth in the community, particularly in K-12 schools. The outreach program can provide resources, support, and direct services for youth ages 13-24. Youth Outreach collaborates and builds partnerships with youth-oriented organizations and programs, K-12, and UCC to create a safer community for Douglas County's Youth. The Youth Outreach also organizes educational and awareness months around domestic and sexual violence, teen dating violence, child abuse, stalking, and human trafficking. Douglas CARES serves children under the age of 13.

The Youth Outreach Program provides services for Douglas County youth, including:

- Emotional Support
- Crisis Intervention
- Safety Planning
- A list of youth-oriented resources
- Referrals to community partners
- Title IX Support
- Age-appropriate prevention education and Erin's Law support (consent, healthy relationships, boundaries, dynamics of interpersonal violence)
- Restraining order (SAPO)
- Sexual assault response
- Support Groups

Programs should make a referral to Peace at Home when a youth/student has disclosed or eluded that they are experiencing:

- Dating violence/intimate partner violence
- Sexual assault, abuse or harm/harassment
- Reproductive coercion or control
- Stalking by an intimate partner or someone else
- Human trafficking (sex or labor)
- Any struggles relating to the listed forms of violence (like witnessing DV between parents; child abuse)

How to make a referral:

- Call the crisis line and ask to speak to an advocate regarding a youth experiencing violence. An advocate can:
 - Respond in-person immediately
 - Speak with the youth over the phone immediately
- Ask the youth if it is ok to share their contact information and have an advocate reach out at a later time
- Provide the youth with the advocate's information and 24-hour crisis line so they can reach out on their own.
- Do whatever is most comfortable for the youth.

Peace at Home Crisis Line: 541-673-7867 or 800-464-6543

Peace at Home Office Line: 541-957-0288

Peace at Home Address: 1202 SE Douglas Ave., Roseburg, OR 97470

Website: peaceathome.com

Erin Ritchie – Student Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator

Email: erin@peaceathome.com

Phone: 541-530-4741

Hub and Partner Updates

Danielle Walker -- Community UPLiFT— Community UPLiFT connects families with children 0-5, and up to the age of 21 with special needs, to resources in the community. Community UPLiFT was built with a no-wrong-door approach, meaning that there is no wrong way for a family to be referred to Community UPLiFT. Families can self-refer themselves to Community UPLiFT through our website at www.community-uplift.com, by scanning the QR code on our brochure, texting the keyword “uplift1” to 484848, by mail or fax, or by reaching out to Community UPLiFT. Programs are encouraged to refer families to Community UPLiFT, but the family should be aware of the referral.

Community UPLiFT has received a total of 1,131 referrals across the region since inception. As of April 1, Community UPLiFT has received 27 referrals for Douglas County and 10 referrals for Klamath County.

If anyone is interested in a Community UPLiFT presentation, contact Danielle by phone at (541) 880-4655 or by email at Danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us or Ronda Osborn at ronda.osborn@douglasesd.k12.or.us.

Danielle Walker – Preschool Promise – The South-Central Early Learning Hub has opened applications for the 2023-2024 Preschool Promise school year beginning in September. Eligible students turn 3 or 4 by Sept. 1, 2023, are residents of Oregon, and have a family income of up to 200% of Federal Poverty. We encourage families who think they might be over income to apply. Apply at: <http://www.southcentralhubenrollment.com/> or contact us by phone at (541) 957-4809.

Heather Freiling – Care Connections and Education, Child Care Resource & Referral (CCRR) – Douglas County has 136 childcare providers, which is up three from April. There are 29 individuals working to become childcare providers.

A new capital improvement grant for private childcare providers has become available in our region. The grant is offered through The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF). For more information, visit <https://oregonspark.org/early-educators/grants/>.

Oregon Center for Career Development (OCCD) has scholarships available to people interested in receiving an early childhood Associate, Bachelor, or Master’s Degree. OCCD Scholarship information can be found at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1F0lJPw8DayeR0QLM1B-pD-TVjuAdGGtM/view>.

Vanessa Pingleton – Douglas ESD Parent Resource Center – The Home Visiting and Family Support Gathering was hosted early this week. The gathering focused on the restructuring of the Home Visiting Systems Coordination meetings. The next meeting will be on June 26. The new structure will include Take Root Leadership, Home Visiting Systems Coordination, and breakout workgroups focusing on the Home Visiting Systems Coordination buckets of work.

Windy Digby – Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) – EI/ECSE started the initial inclusion summit with community partners, and there will be inclusion focus groups in the 2023-2024 year. The Inclusion Specialist from the Oregon Department of Education shared information about the importance of inclusion and working with community partners from the top down to gain feedback and buy-in relating to inclusion. Inclusion means all children, and all families being part of a community. Inclusion becomes difficult for students with delays or disabilities that are not immediately apparent. Inclusion means that every child has access to their education like their peers. Sometimes, there are a lot of extra supports that need to be in place to make a child successful. The goal of inclusion is not to make a child stand out but rather to support them to make them feel like part of the community. Inclusion also means making sure parents feel like they are a part of the community and accepted, welcomed, and part of the culture.

ECSE, ages three to five, is wrapping-up for summer break. Some at-risk children will receive services once or twice a week for two hours over the summer. EI/ECSE is starting a new summer camp for Autism to maintain progress in their levels of service.

Future Topics

Health Updates with Dr. Dannenhoffer

Next Meeting Date

Next meeting June 22, 2023 from 10:00am – 12:00pm.