

# PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

October 26, 2023 | 10:00 a.m.

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## In Attendance, Welcome, Approval of Minutes

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**Present:** Cady Lyon, CeCe Lynn, Colleen May, Kyle Riege, Maddie Bright

**Staff Present:** Gillian Wesenberg, Athena Wikstrom, Danielle Walker, Cherry Camonayan, Heather Freiling, Ronda Osborn, Susan Stiles, Windy Digby

This meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

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## Early Learning Hub Update

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The transition from the Early Learning Division to the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) has been completed as of July 2023. Early Learning Hubs are working with DELIC to develop the expectations for the new Hub Strategic Plans to ensure the Strategic Plans are a useful tool for everyone. During the transition process, there has been staff turnover, and new hires. There are currently several positions open with the state.

Hub staff are excited about the new Family Advisory Governance Committee and their accomplishments as a cohesive group that has been meeting for over a year. Tuesday, the Family Advisory Governance Committee met with Mitten Mamas out of Michigan. Mitten Mamas will be helping develop group norms, while providing support and guidance. If anyone knows of parents who might be interested in joining the Family Advisory Governance Committee, please let the Hub know.

Tuesday night was also the Preschool Promise grantee meeting which included Preschool Promise grantees, the Hub, and the Child Care Resource and Referral (Care Connections & Education). Preschool Promise and other publicly funded preschools tend to serve a mobile population, causing turnover within the student population, even at the beginning of the school year. DELIC has granted Preschool Promise grantees a two-year contract for the 2023-2025 biennium, which will allow the Hub and the grantees to begin the enrollment process in the spring. The Hub will be able to coordinate enrollment activities with other publicly funded programs including Head Start and school districts. Preschool Promise slots for the 2023-2024 school year filled up more quickly this year than they have in the past. Sites are excited that students were able to start at the beginning of the year and did not have to wait for late contracting from the state to begin providing services to children. The South-Central Early Learning Hub region has 311 Preschool Promise seats, and currently has six vacant seats in Douglas County.

Department of Early Learning and Care began oversight of Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) in July. When DELIC took over ERDC, it was expanded to include additional services and extend qualification to a full twelve months regardless of whether the family found care. As of 11:59 pm November 3, there will now be a waitlist for ERDC, though there are a few populations that will still be able to be approved for ERDC after November 3. All families who may qualify and who may use the service within the next twelve months are encouraged to apply as soon as possible so they are not placed on the waitlist.

Cady's daughter applied for ERDC and was approved in less than a week.

Heather conveyed, the state is encouraging employers not to make assumptions about whether their employees will qualify. Some individuals make assumptions about income and qualifications that may not be accurate.

Gillian and Heather attended a state Learning Collaborative at Western Oregon University with DELIC staff, early learning hub directors, and child care resource and referral (CCRR) directors. During the collaborative, the group reviewed Raise Up Oregon 2.0 and worked towards regional hub and CCRR memorandums of understanding (MOUs).

Heather shared, while Raise Up Oregon 2.0 calls out work of the CCRRs, it does not name them.

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## Early Care and Education Cohort

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Cherry, from Care Connections & Education, the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR), shared about the Early Care and Education Cohort in Douglas County. Cherry coordinates trainings and is the Umpqua Community College (UCC) Navigator. As the navigator, Cherry assists Early Care and Education (ECE) students with which classes they should take,

how to apply for scholarships and grants, and assistance with fees, books, tuition, and supplies from the Cohort. Students involved in the ECE Cohort do have to apply for scholarships every term. The only cost for education for cohort members is transportation to the college. All the books required for all four pathways are available to be checked out from the library, reducing fees for students. The ECE Cohort at UCC began with 13 students, there are 45 students beginning this school year, with membership continuing to grow. Cherry has a meeting with someone next week who is interested in joining beginning the winter term.

There are four pathways for ECE students, two certificates and two associate's programs. Members of the cohort range in experience from just beginning in the ECE field to individuals with over 20 years of experience. The president of UCC shared at a board meeting that the ECE program is showing the most growth of any program at the college.

All students involved in the ECE Cohort at UCC receive information regarding the apprenticeship program that is led by the Southern Oregon Workforce Investment Board (SOWIB). The apprenticeship program allows students to receive their practicum hours while being paid by employers involved in the program which are United Community Action Network (UCAN) Head Start and Family Relief Nursery, in Douglas County.

Care Connections & Education has a navigator housed at Klamath Community College in Klamath Falls. There is a similar ECE Cohort program at Southern Oregon University (SOU) to the one Care Connections & Education is leading. The program at SOU does have some virtual classes, Cherry is unsure if the entire program is virtual.

One provider involved in the ECE Cohort at UCC that has been in the field for a long time shared she could likely teach the class she was beginning and was hesitant about continuing her education. After the class, the provider stated she learned a lot and found value in the material.

There are scholarships through Oregon Center for Career Development (OCCD) that individuals in the ECE program at UCC can apply for to pay for their bachelor's and master's degrees. The scholarship covers tuition and fees.

As of winter term, UCC's ECE program will be completely virtual for individuals who prefer that method of learning. Classes are still available in person, as well.

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## Child Care Resource and Referral Update

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Heather Freilinger shared the Early Care and Education (ECE) conference will be held this weekend at Umpqua Community College (UCC). The conference will offer Set 2 trainings. The keynote will be a collaborative presentation by Erin Helgren, Megan Barber, and parent leaders from Yoncalla Early Works detailing what parent engagement is and can look like. Saturday will be a full day of classes. The theme of this year's conference is parent engagement.

Douglas had 131 early care and education providers as of January 2023. As of the beginning of October, there are 142 providers in Douglas County. There are an additional 40 individuals who have expressed interest in the process of becoming a provider.

Oregon Registry Online (ORO) houses training documentation for providers. Based on the trainings a provider has completed, they receive a step level. ORO provides awards when providers reach step 3 and step 7. Heather is working with the Douglas County Child Care Coalition to provide awards for reaching step 5 as well.

In January, Self-Paced to Step 7 is launching. CCRR is mapping out classes needed to receive step 7. Providers in the program will receive support from the CCRR through the process. There are fees involved in the program. If the step 5 award is approved, the three awards will pay for the program.

Strong Start for new providers is starting in January to help new providers learn more about high quality care. Strong Start requires network participation. Participants of Strong Start will attend two one-hour classes a month that are free. The classes will focus on a wide variety of comprehensive topics including quality, business components, supporting behaviors, inclusion training, SPARK, Conscious Discipline, and more. There will be a lot of outreach to fill the program.

CCRR has an advisory board. There are a lot of providers with high step levels on the advisory board and within the region. The CCRR wants to support providers with a high step level, while also being able to recreate the process and support new providers.

Conscious Discipline and Pyramid Model are two different tools. Conscious Discipline is an approach centered on how the teacher focuses on themselves to be a role model for children. Pyramid Model is strategies for teachers to use with children. Pyramid Model is a tiered approach framework to assess, align, and implement strategies to support children's social-emotional well-being. Conscious Discipline and Pyramid Model came out of the same research. Conscious Discipline can, at times, have a more trauma informed lens.

Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) uses the Pyramid Model and encourages community partners to use it. EI/ECSE provides trainings for Pyramid Model. There is a virtual training coming up and there are modules that can be watched online. Behavior consultants and school psychologists continually work on the Pyramid Model and staff receive continuous training to build concrete skills.

CCRR Preschool Promise Facilitators' practice-based coaching is heavily geared towards Pyramid Model which is the direction the state is moving in. The bottom tier of the Pyramid Model is having an effective workforce. The expansion our region wants to see cannot happen without growth of the workforce.

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## Holiday Resources

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EI/ECSE will have a Parade of Cuteness for children to trick-or-treat on Halloween at the Stephens Douglas ESD site.

The Jerry Bruce Community Campus will be hosting a trunk-or-treat Saturday from 12:00 to 3:00pm in the Aviva parking lot.

St. Paul Lutheran Church is hosting a trunk-or-treat tonight.

Garden Valley Church is hosting a trunk-or-treat on Halloween from 4:00 to 6:00pm. There will be fire trucks and fun activities.

North Douglas Family Relief Nursery is hosting a drive-through Halloween event for families. Children will receive an activity bag with a craft project. The Relief Nursery classrooms are under renovation, so classes are being held throughout the community.

Christmas for Kids of Douglas County has their registration live on their website.

Salvation Army is hosting a coat drive.

Angel Tree registration is live online.

Neewollah will be hosted downtown where families can parade down Jackson Street to trick-or-treat on Halloween. As part of Neewollah, First Christian Church, across from the courthouse will have a carnival event for families.

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## Hub and Partner Updates

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**Windy – Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE)** – As of today, there 367 children receiving services from birth through five years old. ECSE is for children three to five years old and has 256 children receiving special education. One hundred twenty-eight children are receiving services in community sites. Community sites are any programs not run by ECSE. There are Early Learning Centers in South Umpqua, Green Campus at Kelly's Corner, Sunnyslope Elementary, and Yoncalla Elementary. EI/ECSE covers all of Douglas County except Reedsport. If sites need support, contact the office.

ECSE is partnering with Glendale to support opening a new preschool classroom. There are four highly impacted children attending the new classroom. The hope is to get children on the waitlist into the new afternoon class.

**Colleen – Healthy Families** – Healthy Families is advocating through legislature for additional funding at the state level. Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties all have openings. Families and providers can use Community UPLIFT to refer to Healthy Families.

**Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)** – Children on Oregon Health Plan (OHP) can receive WIC until they are five years old.

**Kyle Riege – Family Relief Nursery** – Have open spaces in classrooms right now. It is a bit difficult to have children in the class as the site is under renovation. Currently, Family Relief Nursery in North Douglas is signing families up for the outreach program during renovations.

**Susan Stiles – Take Root Parenting Connection** – Had a parent gathering last Tuesday, co-facilitated by Cynthia Hurkes and Susan Stiles focusing on parent feedback. Parents expressed interest in continuing the conversation.

Take Root partnered with First Interstate Bank who provided a training on Budgeting 101. Individuals who participated received a budgeting workbook.

Ryan Z is facilitating “Overflowing Your Cup, Because You Can’t Give from an Empty One.”

Les Rodgers is providing a training on creating a one-page profile on children with special needs.

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## Future Topics

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Health Updates with Dr. Dannenhoffer

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## Next Meeting Date

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Next meeting November 16, 2023 from 10:00am – 12:00pm.