

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

February 27, 2020 | 10:00 a.m.

In Attendance, Welcome, Approval of Minutes

Present: Heather Freilinger, Judi Mahoney, Shawn Lybarger, KC Bolton, Tatum Stedman, Marsha LaVern, Colleen May, Taliah Perez, Lisa Ketchum, Elisabeth Stanphill

Staff Present: Gillian Wesenberg, Analicia Nicholson, Cynthia Hurkes, Cory Ortega, Athena Wikstrom, Darrell Green, Andree Sizemore

Hub Update

Gillian discussed the Preschool Promise Request for Application (RFA). The Early Learning Division (ELD) is holding Road Show stops around the state focusing on areas off the I-5 Corridor. They will be making a stop in Klamath Falls on Friday, February 28 at 6:00 pm. The Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) has information to call in if you are not able to make the event in person and it will be recorded. As a reminder to providers, Community UPLIFT counts as a referral system in the RFA process.

The second phase of the Early Care and Education (ECE) sector planning is Coordinated Enrollment. The Hub will determine eligibility and place all students for Preschool Promise except those who apply to Head Start. The ELD will create selection criteria for eligibility into Preschool Promise and the Hub, with partners, will conduct eligibility screening, placements into programs, and maintain a wait pool.

Heather advised that the CCRR is providing technical assistance for the RFA process that includes connecting applicants to resources, providing information on Oregon Registry Online (ORO) and SPARK, but is not able to assist in filling out the RFAs. Small Business Centers can provide additional support for pieces of the application. Once programs are selected to join Preschool Promise by the ELD, the CCRR will provide technical assistance for quality improvement of the programs. The ELD expects each CCRR to have a coach and a Quality Improvement Specialist.

The South-Central Early Learning Hub region was selected as a Rural Registered Care pilot area. This means registered family care providers can apply for Preschool Promise in our region. These providers will maintain the same Preschool Promise standards as larger programs including ratios and high-quality settings.

Equity Training

Cliff and Alexis from Capacity Building Partnerships have been working with Douglas ESD around equity and inclusion. Cliff and Alexis are working with committees in each county in the region to support equity outcomes. Alexis lead a conversation around barriers and outcomes throughout the community with the goal of determining how Capacity Building Partnerships can support the Hub in this work. A lot of their work is in rural areas of Oregon and provides solutions that are responsive to specific communities. Alexis asked everyone to go around and introduce themselves and what they love about the Hub and what challenges they see. Items that were mentioned as to what members enjoy about the Hub and our work included that the Hub: Brings together a diverse group of people who work toward a common goal.

Is not in my sector (Health Care) so it forces me and my organization to think outside the box to effectively collaborate with the group.

Allows me to see how different groups affect the clients and how our organization can assist.

Provides collaboration and regular connection to outside groups.

Provides networking opportunities.

Encourages shared resources.

Shares information regarding resources, different groups, and initiatives.

Provides an insight into the progress made throughout the ECE sector and a pulse on what is needed / where we are.

Brings together who have a heart for the work.

Challenges that the group identified:

The large amount of turnover in partner organizations.

How can you measure the progress of the work?

Having a full picture of what partner organizations and other groups are doing to reduce / eliminate duplicate efforts.

Some organizations cater to all groups / ages while the Hub has a primary focus on children zero to five-years-old and those furthest from opportunity.

There are a lot of partner meetings and it is difficult to get to them all.

Converting great ideas into actionable items without adhoc committees and meetings.

The sector is growing fast and needs grace throughout the process.

To know if everyone necessary is at the table.

Patience as the work is done in priority order.

Ensuring work is equitable and is keeping the families experiencing hardship as a guiding light.

Identifying problems of practice and approaching them differently.

Alexis provided a handout from King County identifying the barriers to families living their best lives. The group broke out into small groups to discuss why Early Childhood Development is important to equity and what two to three social determinants are relevant in the work we do. Items shared out from the small groups were:

Why Early Childhood Development is important to equity:

If children don't receive early childhood development, it puts them behind for life.

Getting early childhood development can assist families moving out of generational cycles.

ECE provides a foundation, children are not able to capitalize on opportunities or create opportunities when not receiving an ECE foundation. We don't know what we don't know, we can't generalize what is needed until we hear from families. We have to train new providers on how to effectively prescribe medication to reach families where they are, including generic medications, and alternatives based on insurance acceptance.

Keeping children in the forefront of decision making in communities prepares child to be stable as an adult.

What two to three social determinants are relevant in the work we do:

Housing, safety, food, extended family/network for child care, access to health care, and family wage jobs / job training. Special needs children would have different equity needs like access and ease of public spaces. If there is a shift in the population there would be different factors.

Family wage jobs created by economic development, affordable housing shortage, transportation, safe neighborhoods.

Community and public safety, foundation of a caring, attached parent and parent advocates.

Access to health and human services, quality education / early childhood development, affordable / safe housing, family wage jobs / job training, access to healthy / local food.

If we are teaching parents to advocate but services won't listen to them due to "isms" it won't perpetuate change. How do we navigate bringing voices in of those who need the most support so we can advocate with them and for them?

Alexis asked how Capacity Building Partnerships can support our equity work. Responses included:

Strategize how to bring in parent voice including how to meet them where they are and compensating them for their time.

Input into how to reframe concerns to prevent blaming the victims and marginalized groups.

Training around intrinsic bias.

Training around empathy thinking.

Strategies for bringing together systems that have frequent contact with marginalized groups.

Assist with how other groups are already doing this work.

Assist with training other sectors in knowing the long-term effects of determinants of health including housing and transportation.

Assist with marketing to marginalized groups.

Assist with how to mitigate obstacles that create fear of marginalized groups.

Assist with how to normalize healthy behaviors.

Building a system to assist people as a whole opposed to segregating needs.

Strategize how to form relationships with marginalized individuals.

Partner Update

Umpqua Health Alliance – Flex spending is available for items that are needed by individuals. UHA has an individual who advocates for families at appointments and who is a non-imposing person that is outside of the systems.

Family Development Center (FDC) – FDC is currently undergoing certification for Infant Toddler Mental Health. They are looking to open a new site potentially in Sutherlin. There is currently a 3-year-old opening at FDC.

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) - May 15 and 16 is the Spring Fling at Umpqua Community College. May 15th, No Small Matters, a documentary about Early Childhood is showing. Registration for Spring Fling is coming at the end of March.

Aviva – Working with Loggers Restaurant to help families with food insecurity by providing integrity in dining using food vouchers. Diners can pay for vouchers, they are \$3 for an individual, \$5 for two and \$10 for family of four. Aviva, Food Pantry, and others will have vouchers to hand out. The program is expected to roll out by April 1st.

Dental has been added to Aviva in Myrtle Creek starting March 9th and an open house will be held March 5th at 5:30 pm.

Early Intervention – Flapjack fundraiser is on Saturday, March 7th from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. Tickets are available for purchase through Early Intervention.

Healthy Families – A position is open that will be full time, it can be applied for at UCAN and requires an Associate's Degree.

Future Topics

Next Meeting

March 19, 2020 at 10:00 am. This meeting is a week early due to Spring Break.