# KLAMATH PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

November 20, 2024 | 10:00 AM – Noon

## Attendance

Rhonda Janecke
Sylvia Cox
Colleen May-Weir
David Elliott
David Lev
Holly Mancebo
Jane Nicholson
Julie Matthews
Kathleen Walker-Henderson
Krystal Sanchez
Legna Robles
Maurita Johnson
Melinda Gomez
Patricia Ortega
Tara Webster
Vanessa Pingleton
Jessica McAuliffe
Jessie McClung
Gillian Wesenberg
Heather Freilinger
Amber Singh
Athena Wikstrom
Danielle Walker

Please note: For ease of member access, South-Central Early Learning Hub – Klamath Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings will be held virtually unless otherwise notified.

## Welcome and Introduction

The Klamath PAC reviewed and approved the October 2024 minutes. Kathleen Walker-Henderson made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Tara Webster seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion passed.

## South-Central Early Learning Hub Update

Danielle Walker shared that the newly passed legislation prohibiting children in early care and education settings, regardless of funding, from being suspended or expelled will begin July 1, 2026. In preparation, the state released suspension and expulsion planning grants to help support the implementation of the legislation. Douglas ESD applied for the planning grant and has created an interagency agreement with the South-Central Early Learning Hub to facilitate the planning process from now until June 2025.

The South-Central Early Learning Hub has been working closely with Child Care Resource and Referral to develop focus groups of parents, behavioral health providers, in-home child care providers, center-based child care providers, and community partners to determine needs and capacity when it comes to supporting childcare providers in the upcoming legislation. The Hub is contracting with Heidi McGowan to facilitate the focus groups, and with Dr. Amy King to assist with developing the implementation plan. Athena will contact individuals and organizations to be invited to focus groups or the steering committee. Heather encouraged everyone to participate in the focus groups and planning process.

Gillian added that the state is developing a warmline or warm form for child care providers to reach out when they experience children in their programs who may have challenging behaviors. The warmline / warm form process is still under development.

Danielle also shared that the Family Governance Advisory Committee is still working on the Little Free Libraries. They would appreciate suggestions for easily accessible locations for families with limited access to public libraries. The Family Governance Advisory Committee will stock the Little Free Libraries with books focusing on the Hub's priority populations, and include books that are diverse and inclusive, in both English and Spanish.

Community UPLiFT has had over 1,500 regional referrals since launching in 2017. The region has received 35 referrals since October 1, with 17 in Douglas County, 18 in Klamath County, and none in Lake County. There has been a decline in incoming referrals. One of the reasons for this is the correlation between decreasing mid-year Preschool Promise applications. Preschool Promise applications ask families if they are interested in additional information about community resources, and other publicly funded preschools, or if they are interested in Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE). These options all have the possibility of generating a Community UPLiFT referral.

Community UPLiFT is always looking to expand through adding providers who are interested in accepting Community UPLiFT referrals, and ways to spread the word about Community UPLiFT. If you know of any programs that might be interested in a Community UPLiFT presentation, contact Danielle.

Excitingly, Cascade Health Alliance provided funding to Community UPLiFT to provide car seats to families who need a car seat that meets child and vehicle safety standards. Referrals can be sent through Community UPLiFT at www.community-uplift.com. Since funding is limited, the Hub is asking programs to do their best to verify a family's need before submitting a Community UPLiFT referral for a car seat. For information about Community UPLiFT, contact Danielle at Danielle.walker@douglasesd.k12.or.us or (541) 880-4655.

Preschool Promise was mostly full throughout the South-Central Early Learning Hub region. There are two openings at the YMCA of Klamath Falls and one at Gilchrist Elementary. The Hub accepts Preschool Promise applications year-round and maintains a waitpool of eligible students so positions can be filled quickly if there is an opening. Preschool Promise qualifications are that a child is three or four years old before Sept. 1 of the beginning of the school year, the family resides in Oregon and has a household income of up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). All families are encouraged to apply for Preschool Promise, even if they believe they may be over-income.

Gillian Wesenberg shared that all 16 Early Learning Hubs across the state are still working on a year-long process with the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC), the Early Learning Council (ELC), and the national research organization Build, to develop definitions that clearly express the work and role of Early Learning Hubs and backbone organizations.

## Community Presentation - Migrant Education Program

Krystal Sanchez, Legna Robles, and Patricia Ortega joined the Klamath Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) to present about the Migrant Education Program (MEP) that serves parts of the South-Central Early Learning Hub region.

Krystal Sanches – Lane and Douglas Counties. Patricia Ortega – Klamath County. Legna Robles – Jackson & Josephine Counties.

The Migrant Education Program is a federal program that provides supplemental services to migrant students to ensure their academic success from preschool through high school graduation.

Students qualify for the MEP if a family member has worked in agriculture, forestry, or fishing, or if they have moved in the past three years. Program eligibility is not based on race or ethnicity. The best way to determine eligibility for the MEP is to schedule an appointment with a recruiter to fill out a Certificate of Eligibility. In Klamath County, the Recruiter is Desiree Meza and can be reached by phone at (541) 331-0478.

MEP qualified families and students receive:

- Graduation support
    - Tutoring
    - Transcript review
    - College and career information
    - Connection with out-of-school youth
    - Leadership opportunities
- Overall support
    - Understanding of the local school system
    - Mental health support
    - Summer school opportunities
- Family support
    - Resources and referrals to basic needs
    - Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)
    - Collaborations with schools

MEP supports a continuum of preschool through graduation. Early childhood services are available for students who are ages three to five years old. Families receive direct student services through home visits, monthly in-person

preschool classes, virtual preschool classes through Zoom, and learning packets with videos. Summer programming is also available for students. Caregivers receive preschool and kindergarten information, referrals to Early Intervention for their children, if needed, and caregiver workshops. The information provided to families is in their native language. In Klamath County, most of the material is distributed in Spanish and parent workshops are offered in Spanish.

## Partner Updates

**Take Root Parenting Connection – Vanessa Pingleton –** Take Root is offering a Literacy event at the Klamath County Library, which will include story time and gingerbread house making. There will be a workshop in January called Your Cup Overflowing about how caregivers can take care of themselves. Take Root is currently planning the winter schedule, one of the series will be Make Parenting a Pleasure. Due to the winter weather, the winter schedule will include more online opportunities instead of in-person or outdoor activities.

**Home Visiting Systems Coordination (HVSC) –** Vanessa Pingleton – The Home Visiting Systems Coordination (HVSC) Leadership meeting was held last Monday. There are no other updates at this time.

**Care Connections and Education / Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) –** Heather Freilinger – Heather shared that there are currently 108 child care providers in Klamath County. There are ten additional individuals in the process of becoming child care providers. Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) supports prospective child care providers through an intake and follow-up process that helps them create goals and work towards meeting them. CCRR offers professional development opportunities to all child care providers. The winter professional development schedule will be released in January.

Award announcements for a large child care infrastructure grant were extended from November 22, 2024, to December 2, 2024, due to technical delays. There is an additional Rural Early Learning Facility grant available through The Ford Family Foundation (TFFF) with a total of $409,000 to be awarded. Applications are only available to prior applicants and by invitation only.

CCRR hired Jaelyn Luna as the new Regional Inclusion Specialist. Amber Singh, a Quality Improvement Specialist and Klamath Community College (KCC) navigator will be providing CCRR updates at the Klamath Professional Advisory Committee meetings moving forward.

Amber shared that there are 50 students in the Early Care and Education (ECE) program at KCC; 14 students are in the Spanish-speaking cohort.

**Central Oregon Disability Support Network (CODSN) – Jane Nicholson –** Central Oregon Disability Support Network (CODSN) is hosting a sensory-friendly visit with Santa for children with sensory differences. Children will be able to have either one-on-one time with Santa or meet with him in a small-group setting. The event will be on December 21, 2024, from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm at Shasta Way Christian Church. Interpretation will be available if requested before December 18, 2024. To request a time slot, visit codsn.org/events-and-calendar. For questions, email info@codsn.org or call (541) 548-8559.

**Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) – Maurita Johnson –** Chaplin Hall, the research arm for the Dorris Duke Foundation Opt-In Initiative, will be hosting two community cafes (one for families and one for providers) in December to look at prevention services from the lens of both providers and families. Maurita will share the flyer once it is ready for distribution.

**UCAN Healthy Families – Colleen May-Weir –** Healthy Families is looking for individuals interested in being part of the regional Advisory Committee for Healthy Families. The group meets for one hour every other month on the third Friday. If you are interested in being part of the Regional Healthy Families Advisory Committee, contact Colleen at colleen.may@ucancap.org or Brayanna at bryanna.paradice@ucancap.org.

## Next Meeting:

January 22, 2025, from 10 am to noon.

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